

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th July 2010

Present: Cllrs G Bridge (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, M Jackson, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stephanovic, R Thomas and I Woods

County Cllr C Soden

The Chairman welcomed the newly co-opted Councillor, Jon Hughes, and hoped he would enjoy many years as a Parish Councillor.

2010/75 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Tidmarsh.

2010/76 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

The Declarations of Interest book was signed by the Chairman in respect of Agenda Item 5, the subject of the Formal Complaint (Minute **2010/79**).

2010/77 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th June 2010

The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2010/78 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said the following matters were arising:

- He had spoken to a member of the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) concerning the use of the Electoral Register to communicate Parish Council matters to the community. She said that they would be assigning one of their casework teams to answer our question and would then allocate a case officer. He was told this could still take a few weeks, because the ICO is inundated with work at the moment.
- Cllr Malcolm Carter and he had attended the first of two "Tea and Talk" discussion periods in Malmesbury Town Hall on 28th June. Miranda Gilmour, the Malmesbury Community Area Manager, led the discussions on the needs of Parishes and, most importantly, any issues we had about the Area Board. Both Cllr Carter and he spoke about communications and the progress on issues brought up with the Board.
- As requested in the Minutes of the June Parish Council meeting, he contacted Matthew Millett of the CWPS Ltd and asked him if he would give an update on the Cleveland Lakes project to the Parish Council. Matthew agreed and kindly offered to give a presentation on the project at the September Parish Council meeting.
- He confirmed that Mr Keith Bowley owned the parcel of land between Church Walk and the Churchyard, through which the footpath runs that is in need of repair.

2010/79 Formal Complaint

Cllr I Woods explained that he had been invited by the Chairman to investigate a formal complaint submitted by Mr R Lewis against two of the Parish Councillors. He said he did a thorough investigation, which culminated in an e-mail with the result being sent to Mr

Lewis on the 28th June. Cllr Woods said no reply had since been received from Mr Lewis and he proposed that the matter be closed, but remain on record. Cllr M Carter seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed.

2010/80 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he would like to begin by giving his report on the current financial position of the Parish Council; the figures had been rounded to the nearest pound. At the beginning of the financial year, there was £23,461 in the Bank Accounts and in April we received half our Precept allocation of £16,342, giving us a total of £39,803. This financial year, the Parish Council has received a further £16,154, which includes £5,070 Section 106 money for the installation of the Playbuilder equipment, and spent £23,778. As of 30th June 2010, therefore, there was £32,179 in the three Bank Accounts.
- He directed their attention to the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011 – 2026 Consultation, which he had distributed to the members at the end of June. The deadline for completion of the survey is 20th August. He said he was happy to collate their individual comments and write to the Wiltshire Assembly on their behalf, or they were encouraged to write to the Assembly themselves, but to do so before 20th August.
- He reported that he had ordered the Clerk's Guide 3rd Edition, replacing the 2nd Edition published 6 years ago. He said it would be available for him to purchase in August for £13-95 including postage and packaging.
- He said he had received a request from the Bobby Van Trust asking for a donation. He said the Council had paid them £50 for a number of years now and asked whether they were prepared to send them usual sum again this year. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr R Thomas that a similar sum be sent again and each year for the life of the Council, if requested.

Action: The Clerk

- He said his last item was, as usual, to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month, which would be recorded and passed on to Wiltshire Highways Partnership. There were four items reported to him, which he would forward to Highways for action.

2010/81 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Received

The Council noted that the following payment had been received:

▪ Scottish and Southern Energy (Wayleave)	£	2.30
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b. Payments Made (by Cheque):

The Council noted that the following payments had been made by cheque:

▪ Aeshton Services (Grasscutting)	£	800.00
▪ Village Hall (Room Rental)	£	17.00
▪ Viking Direct (Stationery)	£	55.75
▪ Wiltshire Council (Overpayment)	£	9,930.00
▪ Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal (Wreath)	£	16.50
▪ Millennium Green Trust (Hedge Cutting)	£	500.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (June)	£	599.24
▪ Clerk's Expenses (June)	£	61.33

c. Payments Made (by Debit Card):

The Council noted that the following payment had been made using the Debit Card:

▪ Dell Printer (Ink Cartridges)	£ 91.99
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2010/82 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

Cllr R Thomas reported that a Planning Application had been submitted for six dwellings to be built at Northend Farm. The members considered that this represented a reduction in open space and Section 106 money should be requested to replace that which was being lost. The Chairman asked the members to let the Clerk know where they suggested the Section 106 money would best be spent and he would send a letter to Wiltshire Council in support. County Cllr C Soden agreed that 30 to 40% of open space had been lost due to infill, but footpaths were not considered to be open spaces.

Cllr M Carter set-up a laptop and screen to demonstrate the proposed Parish Council website that he had developed thus far. He carefully explained each of the pages and how they could be used and interacted. His suggestion was that if he gave each of the members a user name and password they could explore the website themselves and he would be grateful for any comments they might have. He said he had not yet asked for someone to volunteer to be the moderator for the comments.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Carter for all his efforts and agreed that a user name and password should be given to each Councillor who had IT equipment and to ask for their comments.

County Cllr C Soden said that a Wiltshire Council Youth Worker, who has been involved with the provision of a Skate Park in Malmesbury, should be asked to survey the options for siting a similar facility in Ashton Keynes.

County Cllr Soden went on to mention the appalling state of the properties at the Cotswold Community; she said they were unfit to live in and questioned what would happen to the families if they are demolished. One woman had sent an S.O.S. to Cllr Soden because she was being thrown out of her property by 'Action For Children' due to asbestos and was being offered a smaller house. County Cllr Soden said that Wiltshire Council are keeping part of the farm, but selling some of the farmland that is being made redundant. She said that the Parish Council should keep an eye on the situation.

County Cllr C Soden then reported on the Wiltshire Council financial situation and said it would be suffering a loss of a third of its base budget. She said this would clearly have a knock-on effect on all areas of the Council's activities and a considerable amount of streamlining would be necessary. She mentioned, in particular, the fact that the Council would be fighting to keep Neighbourhood Policing, but Wiltshire Constabulary would be expected to supply some of their Police Force for the 2012 Olympic sailing races in Weymouth. The event would be one of the biggest security operations since World War 2, and is estimated to cost £600M.

As far as the Travellers were concerned, County Cllr C Soden said that Wiltshire Council was awaiting the Government directive on them.

Cllr I Woods reported that he had obtained two quotes for the work to keep the rabbit and mole numbers down on the Bradstone Sports Field. The sums involved were £1,344 by JLL, or £1,200/pa if an annual contract is agreed, and £1,950 by Phil John. Cllr Woods proposed the Parish Council provide financial support of £300/pa towards the cost, which was seconded by Cllr A Stefanovic. The proposal was declined on a vote of two in favour and eight against.

The Clerk said he had received an e-mail at 1800 that day from the Ashton Keynes Young Football Committee (AKYFC) asking for financial support in relation to a recent formal complaint about the shed on the High Road Playing Field. The AKYFC said it would cost £400 to provide plants around the shed, about which Cllr I Woods said he would look at it with David Clover. In relation to work on the pavilion guttering, Cllr Woods said the Playing Fields Committee would deal with the problem. Lastly, the AKYFC asked if they could put up a sponsors sign and logo at the entrance to the Playing Field, which was declined. The Clerk said he would pass the decisions to the AKYFC.

Action: The Clerk

2010/83 Footpath from Church Walk to Churchyard

Cllr R Thomas suggested that Elm Trees should be planted alongside the footpath. Cllr M Seymour said the Horse Chestnut Trees were dangerous and their conkers were lethal. Cllr J Hughes said the conkers could be used for a 'Conker Festival', which he would be prepared to organise and make it a big occasion. The Chairman said that in order to attract Section 106 money, someone needed to make a plan to change the space into something new. County Cllr C Soden suggested the School should be approached to ascertain their ideas; the Chairman agreed that the School should be contacted.

2010/84 Village Shop

The Chairman reported that a Steering Group had been formed to look at the options of what to do when the shop closes at the end of August. He said Graham would provide a few basic items in the Post Office. He stated that putting the shop in a pub was a non-starter, but that using the front section of the Village Hall might be an option. A letter to the Chairman from the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee said that the majority of the Trustees were in favour of converting the front end of the Village Hall for use as a village shop.

The Chairman said the current village shop would close first and it may be necessary to purchase a small Portacabin to use as a shop before permanent accommodation could be provided. However, the Portacabin could be sold when it was no longer required. He concluded by saying that he might have to call an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting before September to discuss and agree spending the money on the project.

The Chairman agreed to the following subjects being raised:

Cllr R Thomas reported that there had been another theft of tiles from the Church roof. He said he had been told that four people had been arrested in Gloucester in connection with the crime. The minimum cost to the Church for providing some security would be £2,000 and the cost to repair the Church roof has been estimated to be about £150K.

County Cllr C Soden asked the members to provide comments on the Waste Consultation to Wiltshire Council by the 20th August; otherwise the Government might tell us what the policy should be.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.45pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th September 2010 at 7.45pm