

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Present: Cllrs G Bridge (Chairman), M Carter, Y Jordan, R Thomas and I Woods  
County Cllr C Soden  
Mrs A Stefanovic

## **2010/15 To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from and Cllrs J Freeth, M Jackson, S Jefferson, M Seymour and E Tidmarsh.

## **2010/16 Vacancy on the Parish Council**

The Chairman informed the members that Mrs Angela Stefanovic was the only person who had applied to fill the vacant position of Councillor. He proposed, therefore, that Mrs Stefanovic be co-opted onto the Council with immediate effect. The proposition was seconded by Cllr R Thomas and was unanimously agreed by the members. Mrs Stefanovic signed the "Declaration of Acceptance of Office", which was countersigned by the Proper Officer of the Council.

## **2010/17 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2010/18 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

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

## **2010/19 Matters arising from the Minutes**

On the subject of the damage to the grass verge in Church Walk, the Clerk said he had received an e-mail last week from Stephen Matthews, the Waste Officer for Wiltshire Council, to say he had spoken to Highways and was awaiting their response on the way forward. He expects to hear from Stephen shortly. Regarding the damage to the grass verge at the top of Cox's Hill, he had discovered the Company whose lorry was responsible for it was "A B Gerrish" of Melksham. They refused to repair the damage, so Highways directed the Parish Steward to do the work.

Regarding the questionnaire from Wiltshire Council about the feasibility of transferring assets and delegating services to Town and Parish Councils, the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk completed the document and sent a copy of it to all the members. Bob Chequer, who is now dealing with this subject in Wiltshire Council, sent the Clerk an e-mail in reply on Monday, which he read out.

The Waste Consultation, on which the Clerk was asked to forward an Option 4, has been postponed until after the General Election.

The Clerk said he had spoken to the PA to Wiltshire Council's new Chief Executive Officer and invited him to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. The PA said she would telephone the Clerk on Friday to confirm whether or not he would attend.

The Clerk asked the members to place the sheet of paper headed "Use of Debit Card" in their Standing Orders next to Page 19. The rules on the use of the debit card will be included in the Financial Regulations at the appropriate place at the next amendment to the Standing Orders booklet.

## **2010/20 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave the following report:

- The Parish Steward reported that he was progressing the filling-in of pot holes in the village as quickly as he could. He is getting the drains people from Highways to clean the offending village drains with their machine and he is dealing with the railings problem at Waterhay.
- On the subject of Section 106 money, he said that Cllr I Woods and he would be meeting two Wiltshire Council representatives in the village on 19<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the spending of the funds.
- CPRE contacted him to invite Ashton Keynes to enter the "Best Kept Village Competition - 2010". Cllr R Thomas took the paperwork and agreed to submit the Ashton Keynes entry and the Clerk offered to provide assistance to him.
- He asked that the members let him know when they are going to be absent from the village for more than a day or so; knowing that he can or cannot contact a member on any given day can often save him a lot of time. He also said that sending their apologies if they will not be attending a Parish Council meeting would help him keep the record straight.
- Wiltshire Council Development Services would be hosting a series of planning seminars for Parish Councils, starting in May in Salisbury. He said he would be receiving an invitation shortly for one of the members of the Council to attend the seminar in the North hub area.
- 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 two items reported, namely a drain problem near Bridge Cottage, Kent End, and a footpath problem.

## **2010/21 Financial Transactions**

### **Payments Made:**

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

|                                                  |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ <b>Village Hall (February Room Rental)</b>     | <b>£ 17.00</b>  |
| ▪ <b>Clerk's Salary (February 2010)</b>          | <b>£ 585.40</b> |
| ▪ <b>Clerk's Expenses (February 2010)</b>        | <b>£ 103.92</b> |
| ▪ <b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs (Tax &amp; NI)</b> | <b>£ 685.16</b> |
| ▪ <b>Rural Insurance (Tractor Insurance)</b>     | <b>£ 131.25</b> |

## **2010/22 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports**

County Cllr C Soden reported that the Wiltshire Council Waste Consultation had been stopped for the time being because of conflicting messages from the three main political parties on what their strategy would be after the General Election. She said she hoped there would be greater communications between Wiltshire Council and Parish Councils in the future. Finally, she said that the work on Planning Applications is slow due to the large incidence of Planning Officers leaving the Council and joining the private sector.

Cllr Y Jordan said that she would be attending a meeting of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010. She also said that she and Cllr M Carter would be attending an open pre-meeting of several Parishes on 26<sup>th</sup> March to discuss a meeting to be held with the Cotswold Water Park Society Ltd; the object of the meeting will be to get certain aspects of their business out in the open. Cllr Jordan said the meeting will be chaired by Mr Clifton-Brown MP and although James Gray MP cannot attend, he too is supportive of their actions.

Cllr I Woods reported that the Playbuilder equipment would be installed between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March, with the assistance of local residents deciding on the exact positioning of the equipment on the High Road Playing Field. The other subject he wanted to bring up was that of the cutting of the Millennium Green hedge along Rixon Gate. When agreeing to pay for the hedge to be cut from the Playing Field Committee funds, he had not realised that the hedge also needed a great deal of work to be done on the undergrowth and ditch. He said there were two quotes of £750 from David Clover and £500 from Steve White to do the work. Cllr Woods said he would apply for the work to be paid for through Section 106 funds, but proposed the Parish Council fund the £500 to pay for the work, which was seconded by the Chairman and agreed by five of the members. As he was a member of the Millennium Green Trust, the sixth member suggested he should abstain. The Chairman suggested that the Millennium Green Trust should pay £500 for the work to be done quickly, to which Cllr Woods said he would pass on the message to John Grearson.

#### **2010/23 Draft Waste Site Allocation Plan**

Cllr R Thomas said he was against both site allocations, namely Barnground at Ashton Down and that at the Cotswold Community site, because the Barnground site was complete and the close proximity of the Cotswold Community to the other site. The Chairman said that the Cotswold Community organisation should send their complaint direct to the Wiltshire and Swindon Consultation. Cllr I Woods said we would suffer with the weight of increased traffic in the area, for which we should seek to get some compensation. The Chairman said he would speak to David Rose of Wiltshire Council about the subject. The Clerk said he would reply to the Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council letter on the subject

**Action The Clerk**

#### **2010/24 Communications Working Group Progress Report**

Cllr M Carter handed out a three page document that gave a clear and concise progress report on the results of the Communications Working Group work on how to improve the Parish Council's communications with the community. Cllr Carter read out much of the report, expanding on certain points where required. He suggested that the Website <http://council.ashtonkeynes.net> should be looked at as a prototype Website.

The Chairman said he would prefer more members to be involved before any decisions were taken. He went on to say that he would bring in his Laptop at the next Parish Council meeting and use the Village Hall Wireless connection to look more closely at the Website. The Chairman asked the Communications Working Group to look at non-computer communications with the community.

#### **2010/25 Flooding**

The Chairman said that Wiltshire Council had set up a Flooding Working Group and, in the absence of a volunteer from the members, agreed to be a representative on the Group.

#### **2010/26 Community Payback Scheme**

The Chairman said the scheme was essentially offering free labour to assist with community projects. So far, only Sherston Parish Council had made use of the scheme and highly recommended it. Facilities, such as portable toilets, snack vans etc., are being provided in order that the scheme can be used in more rural locations. The Chairman asked the members to think of ways in which Ashton Keynes could use the scheme, and to let him know, bearing in mind that it takes between 3 and 4 months to get a team in place to do the work.

#### **2010/27 Parish Council Dinner**

The Chairman said that he still needed to hear from four more members on their choices of menu for the Parish Council Dinner, before making the necessary decision on the venue. The members concerned were encouraged to return their menu choices as soon as possible.

Cllr R Thomas asked whether the young people in the village had put in for a grant for their Skate Park facility. Cllr I Woods said the "Fields in Trust" had given their blessing to the facility being positioned on Bradstone Sports Field and the Chairman said the Police had given their blessing to the project. The Chairman also said that the youngsters were progressing with their fund-raising and he would check whether a grant had been applied for.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.26pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 7.45pm**