

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10th November 2010

Present: Cllrs S Jefferson (Vice Chairman in the Chair), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, M Jackson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh and D Wingrove

2010/129 Update from Wiltshire Constabulary

The Chairman said neither PC Simon Akers nor PCSO Sam Walsh could attend this month, due to other policing matters arising.

The Clerk read out a summary of a report that PCSO Sam Walsh had e-mailed to him. She had said that there was not much to report apart from the continued thefts from farms of scrap and machinery. The Police are urging any Farmers that haven't already done so, to join up to Farm Watch, which operates a free Text alert system should there be reports of suspicious vehicles or criminal activity in the area.

Sam said it had been a very successful bonfire night and Halloween with not one report of anti social behaviour in the Malmesbury, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett area. PCSO Walsh confirmed what County Cllr C Soden has said about the Police presence outside the Post Office on 15th September. PcsO Walsh concluded her report by saying that either she or PC Akers would be pleased to discuss the incident of the damage to a Councilor's wall, if he made contact with either of them.

2010/130 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr I Woods and County Cllr C Soden.

2010/131 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2010/132 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th October 2010

The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman. The difference of perception of the Police presence outside the Post Office, reported at Minute Item **2010/113**, is recorded under Matters Arising below.

2010/133 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said he had received an e-mail from County Cllr Soden that said she was concerned about the October Minutes. Cllr Soden said that she had attended the surgery at the Post Office with the Police on 15th September and only one person turned up. She said they had talked to everyone who happened to come to the Post Office and Shop, and they were clearly not aware that the Police were going to be there. County Cllr Soden did not recall anyone bringing up the subject of anti-social behaviour.

The Clerk said the only other matter arising was to do with the Planning Application for four of the Parish Council trees in the woodland at the end of Four Acre Close that were to be given tree surgery. Cllr I Woods has suggested that another meeting take place to consider the tree situation, which would include himself, David Clover and the Parishioners affected by the trees.

2010/134 Recommendations from Grants and Finance Working Group

The Clerk explained the recommendations from the Minutes of the Grants & Finance Working Group (GFWG) Meeting and answered a number of questions. Although the figures recommended by the GFWG were not altered, the Clerk said that the members had the December Parish Council in which to make their last judgement, before the figures are finalised. The GFWG were particularly pleased to reduce the Precept by £215 on the figures for the last three years.

2010/135 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying that he had issued an e-mail about replacing David Moss as the Representative on the School Board of Governors. To date, only Cllr A Stefanovic has expressed an interest, and the Clerk asked if any other member was interested in the position. There were no other volunteers, so the Clerk said he would pursue the replacement process with the School.
Action: The Clerk
- He said that a meeting would take place on Thursday 18th November at the Millennium Green to discuss the project work to be done on the hedge, to make it an environmentally friendly area for Butterflies and other creatures. The object of the meeting will be to convince the Wiltshire Council Technical Officer that Wiltshire Council should agree to spend some of our Section 106 money in support of the project.
- The Clerk said he attended the Local Transport Plan 2011 to 2026 Consultation meeting the previous evening in Chippenham Town Hall, along with about 40 others from Parish and Town Councils in North Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council Highways Officers gave an overview of what they were attempting to achieve and then everyone was split onto a number of workshops, to discuss various aspects of the draft Transport Plan. The output of the meeting will be amendments to the Plan, as Wiltshire Council take into consideration all that was said.
- He had informed the Council of the proposition that the village should be added to those in Wiltshire to trial a 20 mph speed limit; the trial would last for approximately one year. The object would be to reduce the speed of vehicles in the village and thereby improve safety for the Parishioners. No member expressed disagreement to the proposition and he said it should now proceed to a Public Meeting.
- On the subject of speeding, the Clerk said that Martin Rose of Wiltshire Council Highways Department had informed him that the installation of the Metracount, mentioned previously, will be carried out shortly; he said he will inform the Clerk when it will happen. The object of installing the Metracount for a week will be to determine the volume and average speed of vehicles travelling along the High Road. It is hoped that the outcome will be the installation of the pavement between the White Hart and Church Walk. It could also influence Wiltshire Council's decision whether or not to replace the "Give Way" sign by the White Hart with a "Stop" sign.
- He informed the members that he would be attending the SLCC one day South West Conference in the Four Pillars Hotel on 2nd December. He said that if any member would care to accompany him, it would cost £55 plus VAT per head.
- 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 no items reported to him.

2010/136 Financial Transactions

a. **Payments Made (by Cheque):**

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

▪ Aeshton Services (Grasscutting & Hedge Cutting)	£ 870.00
▪ AK Village Hall (Room Rental)	£ 17.00
▪ Website (Renewal Village Website Hosting)	£ 235.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (October)	£ 599.24
▪ Clerk's Expenses (October)	£ 78.26

b. **Payment Made (by Debit Card):**

The Council noted that the following payment had been made by debit card:

▪ One Software Download for PC Website	£ 17.36
---	----------------

c. **Accounts for Payment**

The Council approved the following item for payment

▪ SLCC (Purchase of Two Books)	£ 43.15
---------------------------------------	----------------

The Clerk was asked to request a breakdown of the £235 bill from Matthew Milnes. A list of other questions to be put to Matthew will be proposed by Cllrs M Carter and S Jefferson.

Action: Cllrs Carter and Jefferson and the Clerk

2010/137 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

Cllr M Jackson said that the last meeting of the Greener Village Working Group had closed down any future meetings of the Group. Cllr Jackson said he had discussed the use of the Thermal Imaging Camera with Cllr M Carter and he would be showing him how to use it. Cllr Jackson also said he would hand over the Camera to him as he no longer wished to be part of a reformed Greener Village Working Group.

Cllr M Seymour reported that there would be a meeting of the Footpaths and Roads Working Group on 17th November at which, among other things, he would report that the Thames Path Society have paid him to install two kissing gates.

Cllr M Carter said that he would still like to go live with the Parish Council Website on the 1st December; he asked that the Chairman and the Clerk look again at the Website and confirm the content is ready to go live on 1st December or consider a fall-back date. Cllr Carter asked that the Chairman and Clerk send him an e-mail after 24th November and let him know that they are happy with the Website. The Clerk was asked to place an item in the Parish Newsletter advertising when the Website would go live and how to access it.

Action: The Clerk

Cllr A Stefanovic handed out two documents on the Cotswold Water Park Society, including an article from the 'Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard' on the Watermark termination of their lease. The other document was a Consultation paper on the proposed restructuring of the Cotswold Water Park Society et al. Cllr Stefanovic reported that the next meeting of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee would take place on 10th December.

2010/138 Delegation of Services from Wiltshire Council

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail recently from Bob Chequer of Wiltshire Council to say that the Cabinet had approved the funding arrangements on the 19th October for Parish Councils undertaking the maintenance of highway verges.

Parish Councils will receive the equivalent of the full direct costs incurred by Wiltshire Council on an annual basis. Bob Chequer said he would confirm the amount Wiltshire Council will offer for the grass verges to be cut in Ashton Keynes by the Village Handyman when he has all the information together.

2010/139 Path from Church Walk to the Churchyard

The Clerk said that the Chairman had completed a Parish Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) Application Form, to which the Clerk had appended a covering letter and four letters of support from the Church Priest, the Playing Fields Committee Chairman, the Pre-School Chairman and the WI Vice President. The PIGS Application has gone to Wiltshire Council requesting a Grant for £4,000, to which match funding will be required to be provided. It is hoped that financial support will be forthcoming from Section 106 funding, in order to reduce the cost to the Parish Council.

2010/140 Street Lighting

The Clerk reported that he had received inputs from four Councillors with suggestions of which Street Lights could be switched off between midnight and 5.30am. After a short discussion, Cllr M Carter said he would assist the Clerk in extrapolating the information into one document that could then be put before the Parishioners for agreement at a Public Meeting in February 2011.

Action: Cllr M Carter and the Clerk

2010/141 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said that the Village Shop sales for October were up 20% on those in September and, as a consequence, the trading profit for the month was also up. He said the Planning Application for the new shop extension on the Village Hall was with Wiltshire Council. Cllr Hughes was asked who the Planning Applicant was for the new shop and who will Wiltshire Council register as the Applicant? Cllr Hughes said he would find out the answers and invite him or her to the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Cllr J Hughes

The Chairman agreed to the following subjects being raised:

Cllr R Thomas welcomed the new Councillor, Dave Wingrove, and hoped he would have a long and meaningful time with the Parish Council. Cllr D Wingrove thanked him and said he would volunteer for one or more of the Working Groups or Committee once he had settled into the new post.

Cllr M Seymour asked when the next Minerals Meetings were due to take place and the Clerk said he would provide him with the dates.

Action: The Clerk

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.57pm.

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