

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th October 2010

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Hughes, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas
One member of the public

2010/113 Update from Wiltshire Constabulary

The Chairman said neither PC Simon Akers nor PCSO Sam Walsh could attend this month, but hopefully would do so in November. In the meantime, he asked if the members had any pressing problems for the Police. Cllr R Thomas said the Police had not attended a community surgery recently outside the Post Office, to enable residents to report anti-social behaviour complaints. Cllr S Jefferson said there had been no response similarly to his problem with vandals damaging his newly built wall. The Chairman said he would take up the matter of responses with the Police.

2010/114 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Freeth, M Jackson, E Tidmarsh and County Cllr C Soden.

2010/115 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2010/116 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th September 2010

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

2010/117 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said the only matter arising from September's Parish Council Meeting was to report the outcome of the meeting held with two Wiltshire Council representatives to discuss the delegation of Services to the Parish Council. He said he would leave the report on the meeting until it was reviewed under Agenda item 11.

2010/118 Elect Representatives to Fill Gaps

The Chairman read out the gaps on the list of "Appointments for 2010 – 2011", created by the resignation of Guy Bridge. Volunteers were forthcoming for each of the positions; the Clerk said he would issue an updated list of Appointments with the Minutes.

2010/119 Future of Greener Village Working Group

The Chairman said that following the collapse of the Greener Village Working Group there was still a need for the Parish Council to take a lead on green issues. The two main concerns were a) Recycling and Waste management and b) the use of the Thermal Imaging Camera equipment, which included the laptop. He went on to say that the Council needed someone to monitor the situation with a) and to take charge of the equipment at b). Cllr M Carter said he would be happy to take on both elements and Cllr S Jefferson said he would assist as necessary. The subject of training on the Camera equipment would need to be discussed.

2010/120 Vacancy on the Parish Council

The Clerk said that he had received the letter from Wiltshire Council giving approval for the vacancy to be filled by co-option. He said there was only one applicant for the vacancy, Mr David Wingrove, who was present and whose CV the Clerk had distributed to the members previously. Cllr J Hughes proposed that Mr David Wingrove be co-opted onto the Council, which was seconded by Cllr M Carter and agreed unanimously. The Chairman congratulated Dave Wingrove and said he looked forward to welcoming him in the Council in November.

2010/121 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he would like to begin by giving his quarterly report on the financial position of the Parish Council; the figures have been rounded to the nearest pound. At the beginning of the financial year, there was £23,461 in the Bank Accounts and we have now received our 2010/2011 Precept allocation of £32,685, giving us a total of £56,146. This financial year, the Parish Council has received a further £18,132, which includes £5,070 Section 106 money for the installation of the Playbuilder equipment. So far, this year, we have spent £37,946, which includes providing a £6,000 loan to the Village Shop.. As of 30th September 2010, therefore, there was £36,332 in the three Bank Accounts. He had also carried out a reconciliation to the end of the financial year, based on the estimated spend, the contents of which he read out.
- He said the members were interested to know how much remained in the Section 106 funds held by Wiltshire Council. He reported the figure of £22,221, and we have until 2013 to use it.
- He had recently sent a Planning Application for four of the Parish Council trees in the woodland at the end of Four Acre Close to be given tree surgery; two to be felled and two are to have their crowns raised by up to 4 metres. David Clover has provided a quotation of £320 to undertake the work and leave the area clean and tidy. After a short discussion, the Chairman said he would discuss the matter with David Clover and report back at the November meeting.
- He said that the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) would be holding their AGM in Devizes Town Hall at 6.30 for 7pm on Tuesday 16th November. If any member was interested in attending, would they please let him know.
- CPRE has invited members to attend a one hour tour of Avebury Henge at 3pm on Saturday 16th October – any member interested in attending was asked to let him know and he would pass on the invitation.
- He asked if there were any takers for attending one of the four Local Transport Plan meetings, as per his recent e-mail. In the absence of anyone offering to attend, the Clerk said he would do so on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: The Clerk

- He reported that he had attended the one day SLCC training day in Swindon on 28th September; the subjects covered were Common Land, Rights of Way, Village Greens and Open Spaces. We were made aware of two very good books on 'Countryside Law' and 'Parks and Open Spaces' for the sum of £47.90, including postage and packaging. Cllr S Jefferson proposed and Cllr A Stefanovic seconded the proposal to purchase the books, which was agreed unanimously. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether the books could be downloaded.

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 three items reported to him, which he will forward.

Action: The Clerk

2010/122 Financial Transactions

a. Payment Received:

The Council noted that the following payment had been received:

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| ▪ Wiltshire Council (50% of Annual Precept) | £16,342.50 |
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b. Payments Made (by Cheque):

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

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| ▪ Aeshton Services (Grasscutting & Puncture Repair) | £ 822.91 |
| ▪ AK Village Hall (Room Rental) | £ 17.00 |
| ▪ SLCC (Training Day) | £ 111.62 |
| ▪ Ellisons (Tractor Battery) | £ 78.13 |
| ▪ Clerk's Salary (September) | £ 599.24 |
| ▪ Clerk's Expenses (September) | £ 59.93 |

c. Payment Made (by Debit Card):

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

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| ▪ Three Software Downloads for PC Website | £ 143.66 |
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2010/123 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

Cllr A Stefanovic began by reporting that the Cotswold Water Park Society would be having a public meeting in the Gateway Centre on 20th October and a Society meeting on 22nd October. She went on to mention the Lottery Heritage Fund, which had been applied for, but currently they do not know where the money is going to be spent.

Cllr M Seymour said there had been no Mineral Liaison Meeting.

Cllr R Thomas said the members were now receiving the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings. The Chairman said that County Cllr C Soden had called in the Planning Application for The Old Vicarage. Cllr Thomas said that planning policy had changed in that gardens are no longer to be regarded as brown-field land and it may be more difficult to obtain planning consent for developments in gardens. He went on to say that the policy setting minimum housing densities has been abolished.

Cllr M Seymour said the Footpaths and Roads Working Group would be meeting on 17th November.

The Chairman said work had been carried out in the High Road pavilion on replacing the cooker and worktop in the kitchen. The Football Club would be replacing the guttering.

The Chairman said there was nothing specific for Ashton Keynes from the Area Board, but he noticed that they had rejected the development of several houses in Malmesbury and he could see a significant change in policy on this issue.

The Chairman said that in County Cllr Soden's absence, she had reported that there had been three prosecutions from the use of Speed Watch Cameras in her Division and was interested to know if Ashton Keynes wanted to participate in the scheme. The Chairman asked the Clerk to place an article in the Parish Newsletter and on the web asking the Parishioners if they were interested.

Cllr M Carter said that the development of the Parish Council Website has continued to progress and he would like to go live by the end of November. Everyone should now have a user name and password and he would provide education on the Website, if required. The Chairman said he would like the Website to go live on Wednesday 1st December, which was agreed.

2010/124 Delegation of Services from Wiltshire Council

The Chairman reported that an off the record meeting had taken place with Bob Chequer and Lance Wilcock of Wiltshire Council to discuss the delegation of Roadside Verges and Public Open Spaces. The meeting was fruitful in so far as the Wiltshire Council representatives were helpful and gave an up to date report on where Wiltshire Council has got with their delegation of services. They said there would not be any massive sums of money available to give us, so it could be touch and go whether we take on any of their services. If we were to assume the responsibility for cutting the grass, the rule of thumb that Wiltshire Council would apply was to give us about 80p per square meter per year. Wiltshire Council representatives said they would advise us within about 10 days what area of grass on the verges in the village was involved.

2010/125 Path from Church Walk to the Churchyard

The Chairman said the lowest quote for repairing the path was nearly £7,000, so a 50% contribution would require the Parish Council to pay £3,500. Even so, this would not be a long-term fix and the path would have to be repaired every few years. The Chairman said he would make a PIGS application for 50% of the cost.

2010/126 Street Lighting

The Clerk mentioned the e-mail that had been received and distributed from Wiltshire Council on the subject of switching off some of the street lighting between midnight and 5.30am. After a short discussion, the members were in agreement that some of the street lighting could without detriment be switched off. The Clerk said he would inform Wiltshire Council accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

2010/127 Grit Bins

The Clerk said an extra three Grit Bins had been installed in the village in the positions he had informed Wiltshire Council where they were needed. All that now remained was for the Grit Spreader machine to be obtained and connected to the Tractor when needed in icy conditions. It was hoped that this would prevent accidents in the village under inclement weather conditions.

2010/128 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said he had attended a recent Village Shop Steering Group meeting and reported that up to the end of September trading was slightly ahead of budget and trading profit was slightly below budget. Stock has built up following take over, cash balance is healthy and there has been a good response to donations/bonds/loans; the Group remain enthusiastic about the project.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.20pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th November 2010 at 7.45pm