

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12th January 2011

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, M Jackson, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas and D Wingrove
County Cllr C Soden
Mr P Wheelhouse

2011/1 Mr Peter Wheelhouse – Provision of Industrial Units

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Wheelhouse to the Parish Council meeting and gave a brief outline of why he had been invited to attend.

Mr Wheelhouse introduced himself to the members as the Head of Wiltshire Council's Economic Development Section, and his job was to help businesses in Wiltshire to develop. He talked about demand, opportunities and planning policies in relation to assisting businesses reach their full potential. Cllr S Jefferson explained that there were a number of businesses in Ashton Keynes that had a demand for expansion, to employ even more people in the village. He said that there was little or no opportunity to expand in the village and local businesses were loath to use industrial sites in a neighbouring village.

Mr Wheelhouse said he was encouraged by what he had heard and he had a few ideas on where local businesses might find the space they are looking for, but first he must assess the totality of the demand. He questioned whether the owner of much of the Old Brickyard would be interested in investing in more industrial units. Cllr Jefferson explained that the units in the Old Brickyard were individually owned. Mr Wheelhouse said he would ask Colette Mallon of the Local Economic Partnership to ring the Clerk in the first instance to arrange a meeting of local businesses to carry out a systematic survey of their demands.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wheelhouse for giving his time and sharing his expertise with the members. He then left the meeting.

2011/2 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Tidmarsh.

2011/3 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2011/4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8th December 2010

The Minutes of the meeting were approved, with one small amendment, and signed by the Chairman.

2011/5 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said there were five matters arising, as follows:

- He said the Grit Spreader was ready in all respects for David Clover to collect from Patrick Edwards. He reminded the members that he was not successful in obtaining the Area Board Grant for 50% of the cost, so the Council would have to pay £545 for the equipment.
- He reported that the Street Lighting project is ongoing between Cllr M Carter and himself and should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

- Wiltshire Highways Department has confirmed that to implement a 20 mph speed limit in the village would not require any traffic calming measures to be installed. The only time that traffic calming measures do have to be installed is when a 20 mph Zone is set up.
- Martin Rose, the Principal Highway Engineer in the Wiltshire Council Traffic & Network Management Department had told him that he would do another test of traffic speed on the High Road sometime in the near future. When the last test was carried out there was a lot of snow and ice, which obviously produced false results. Martin would also be going with him next week to the Spine Road to discuss Speed Limits and other highway matters. He had received a Police report that did not support the reduction from 60 to 50mph on the Spine Road, so they would be discussing other options, such as rumble strips.
- Wiltshire Council had advised him that the free 1 Tonne of salt would be delivered within the next week. If for any reason it doesn't get delivered, then he would be contacting County Hall again.

2011/6

Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying that he had e-mailed Wiltshire Council Waste and Recycling Department and congratulated them on a job well done over the recent holiday period; having to contend with all the inclement weather.
- He had received a letter from the Royal British Legion with a brochure about their "Great Poppy Party Weekend" on the 10th to 12th June 2011; it is in celebration of the British Legion's 90th Birthday. He said he had the details and brochure and would be delighted to share them with anyone interested in helping to organise the weekend celebration. The Chairman agreed to bring up the subject at the next Parish Council meeting.
- To mark Prospect Hospice's 30th Anniversary, he said they are inviting individuals or organizations to join with them in constructing a lasting beautiful feature in their gardens. The Hospice has recently restored an overgrown area of woodland to create a Bluebell Wood. They are inviting sponsors to provide a paving stone engraved with a message, to be placed along the pathway leading to the Bluebell Wood. The Chairman agreed to bring this subject up at the next Parish Council meeting.
- The new Wiltshire Council Solicitor has now completed the Deed of Easement on the Village Hall Car Park, which he said he had added to the Village Hall Deeds.
- He said he would be attending one of the Wiltshire Council Flood Plan Workshops between 2 and 4 pm on Wednesday 26th January in their Monkton Park offices in Chippenham. The object will be to build up a general emergency plan for the village. On this subject, he said he would like to mention that Wiltshire Council has 'Gel Sac's' for sale, at £2.50 each, that are able to replace sand bags in the event of flooding.
- A brief discussion took place on the subject of in-filling the ditches in the village. These were seen to be a vital part of the battle to combat flooding. The Clerk was asked to write to County Cllr C Soden concerning the in-filling of the ditch going past Wheatleys Farm.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk brought up the subject of the Councillors Annual Dinner. On the question of where/when it should be held, the Chairman suggested the Village Hall as a possibility. The members were asked to consider what other options might be appropriate for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. The decision on who should be invited to do the catering, if necessary, would be discussed again at the February Parish Council meeting.
- 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 only two items reported to him, namely the potholes in various places around the village and the low tree branch over the footpath behind Gosditch.

2011/7 Financial Transactions

Payments Made:

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ AK Village Hall (December Room Rental)	£ 17.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (December)	£ 599.24
▪ Clerk's Expenses (December)	£ 22.84
▪ SLCC (Councillor's Book)	£ 11.95

2011/8 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Wiltshire Council

County Cllr C Soden reported that it had been a relatively quieter time for the Police over the holiday season, and agreed that the inclement weather may have been a factor. She said there is a Police questionnaire on the Council Website that she recommended the Councillors complete. She reported that the Council is working hard on the Budget, which is due out in February and said it was going to be a hard year; however, because Wiltshire has become a Unitary Council, it will make it slightly easier than it otherwise would have been. Cllr Soden finished by saying that the NPT would be outside the village Post Office on 2nd February between 2 and 4 pm for a consultation, although PCSO Sam Walsh has got to go into hospital sometime soon.

Cotswold Water Park

Cllr A Stefanovic reported the CWP was quiet of late and there will be an HLF meeting on 20th January.

Minerals Liaison

Cllr M Seymour reported that there would be a Minerals Liaison meeting with Aggregate Industries on 20th January and another meeting with Cullimore's on 27th January. He said that Cllr J Hughes would be chairing both meetings.

Footpath and Roads

Cllr M Seymour reported that there had been no meetings since November. He said that some Footpath signs had been removed, but he had a good idea who was responsible and would deal with it.

Planning Committee

Cllr R Thomas said he had nothing further to report than that which was written in the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings.

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman said he had nothing to report except that the fact that the boiler in the Bradstone pavilion is now having to be replaced.

Greener Village

Cllrs M Jackson reported that he would be handing over the Thermal Imaging Camera to Cllr M Carter that evening and giving an explanation of its functions.

2011/9 Path from Church Walk to the Churchyard

The Chairman said that the Parish Improvement Grant Scheme (PIGS) Application for funding support, to improve the look and feel of the path area from Church Walk to the Churchyard, was turned down. He said that we must now try to obtain Section 106 funding for the work.

2011/10 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes gave an encouraging update report on the Village Shop and reported a trading profit for the first four months of operation. He said more loans and bonds have been promised and there would be an AGM probably in late February.

The Chairman said that he had been speaking to Wiltshire Council Planning Section and the original Planning Application for the new Village Shop will stand; the Parish Council will be noted as the owners. There are, he said, technical difficulties still to be resolved and we could expect to see a letter from the Planning Officer shortly calling for a further consultation. The Chairman said that the Parish Council must have an interest in the design of the new shop. Cllr S Jefferson proposed that in any future consultation, the Parish Council should express their opinion that the new shop front should be traditional, which was seconded by Cllr J Freeth and was agreed unanimously. The Chairman concluded by asking the members not to send any ad hoc comments to the Planning Section as Councillors, only as Parishioners if necessary.

2011/11 Village Facilities Ownership

The Chairman said that more work was needed to be done in preparation for discussing this item, and was deferred until a later meeting.

2011/12 Traffic in Gosditch

The Chairman reported that a resident in Gosditch had recently sent him an e-mail about road safety issues in Gosditch. She had also sent her letter on the subject to the Primary School Head Teacher and the School sent a letter about their concerns to all parents. The Chairman said that a number of suggestions for solving the issue had been discussed over many years, but none were found to be acceptable. Cllr R Thomas said he thought double yellow lines would be effective and, in answer to opposition to the suggestion, Cllr D Wingrove said there were three types of yellow lines, one of which might be suitable. The Clerk was asked to investigate the restrictions on the use of yellow lines. In the meantime, the Chairman said he would progress the subject with Mrs Duckworth, who is a Governor and a parent of a child at the Primary School.

Action: The Clerk

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.55pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th February 2011 at 7.45pm