

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th November 2011

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), J Hughes, M Jackson, S Jefferson, M Seymour, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh and D Wingrove

2011/120 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden and Cllrs M Carter, J Freeth and A Stefanovic.

2011/121 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

Declarations of interest were submitted by Cllrs S Jefferson and R Thomas on the School Holiday Club to be discussed under Agenda item **2011/135**.

2011/122 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th October 2011

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2011/123 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said that he had only one matter arising, namely that David Clover had cleared the rubbish in the corner of the copse near Four Acre Close and he had sent a photograph of the offending area to confirm it.

Cllr M Seymour said the statement by the Police in the October Minutes that the subject of problems with cyclists had not been raised before, was not entirely accurate. He said that numerous complaints had been lodged with the Police in the past. The Chairman said that PC Harvey was a new Neighbourhood Policeman and may well not have received any such complaints himself. The Chairman said that he would revisit the Police Liaison meetings prior to the Parish Council meetings.

Cllr E Tidmarsh said that it was now understood that the brass Lectern, reported by the Police in October to be identified as that from Holy Cross Church, was not correct, although one has been seen in Romania, apparently.

2011/124 Recommendations from Grants & Finance Working Group

The Clerk explained the recommendations from the Minutes of the Grants & Finance Working Group (GFWG) Meeting held on 24th October 2011, and answered a number of the members' questions. Although the figures recommended by the GFWG were not altered this month, the Clerk said that the members had the December Parish Council in which to make a final judgement, before the figures are confirmed. The GFWG were particularly pleased to recommend the reduction of the Precept by £420 on the current year's Precept. Cllr D Wingrove asked the Clerk if he would give the members the forecast of expenditure through to the end of the Financial Year.

Action: The Clerk

2011/125 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying David Clover had contacted him on behalf of the PCC to ask whether they needed permission, planning or otherwise, to put up a notice in the Churchyard saying, 'Welcome, Church open'. Cllr R Thomas said that because the Church is in a conservation area, the PCC would need Planning Permission. The Clerk said he would inform David accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

- He said that he sent the members an e-mail on the trial taking place on the Highways and Streetscene service. It involved the Parish Steward, the local Highway Technician, the Streetscene Supervisor and the Street Cleaning and Grasscutting Operatives. Our team will be the 'Malmesbury team' whose area of responsibility will coincide with the Area Board Boundary. He said that if they had a need for the team to undertake one of the tasks just mentioned, please let him know and he would make contact with them.
- He reported that he had a meeting with Lisa Price of Wiltshire Council that morning and discussed a distressed Oak Tree behind the Tennis Courts on the High Road Playing Field and two Ash Trees by The Lotts Playing Field. Lisa approved the five day removal of the Oak Tree under the "Dead, Dying or Dangerous" rules. Lisa said that she would like the Parish Council to replace the tree in the fullness of time. Cllr E Tidmarsh said he would recommend another Oak Tree be planted, which was agreed unanimously by the members. Lisa also agreed that the Ash Tree inside The Lotts playing area should be 20 to 25% crown reduced and the Ash Tree outside the playing area should be felled. The Clerk said he would try to get Wiltshire Council to remove the roots from the Ash Tree under the adjacent footpath, which are raised and a trip hazard.
Action: The Clerk
- He said his last item, as usual, was to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month. There were no items reported to him.

2011/126 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Received

The Council noted that the following payment had been received:

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| ▪ Playing Fields Committee (High Road Pavilion) | £ 564.30 |
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b. Payments Made by Cheque:

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

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| ▪ Aeshton Services (Oct Grasscutting) | £ 850.00 |
| ▪ Aeshton Services (Rubbish Clearance) | £ 120.00 |
| ▪ Bradstone Pavilion (Oct Room Rental) | £ 20.00 |
| ▪ SLCC ("Clerk's Manual" Update) | £ 30.00 |
| ▪ Clerk's Salary (Oct) | £ 627.24 |
| ▪ Clerk's Expenses (Oct) | £ 102.83 |

c. Payments Made by Debit Card:

The Council noted that the following payment had been made:

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| ▪ Dell (Ink Cartridges) | £ 74.40 |
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d. Planned Expenditure on New Parish Council Printer

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| • Epson WorkForce Pro WP4525DNF – (£163.72 + VAT) | £ 196.46 |
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The Chairman explained that the current Dell Printer Ink Cartridges were costing over £300 a year and it would be cost effective to replace the printer with one that would be cheaper on Ink Cartridges. The members agreed that it should be replaced when the current Ink Cartridges run out.

2011/127 Move PC Meetings to Monday and to Bradstone Pavilion

The Chairman said that yet again the Malmesbury Area Board were meeting that evening and, due to the clash with our monthly meeting, he was unable to represent the Parish Council. After a short discussion that did not resolve which day of the week/month suited all the members, the Clerk was asked to canvas everyone to find a solution. Prior to doing so, the Chairman asked him to speak to Miranda Gilmour and ascertain on which dates the Area Board will be meeting in 2012.

Action: The Clerk

2011/128 Cullimore's Gravels Ltd Dairy Farm Planning Application

The Chairman said the Planning Application had been called in by County Cllr C Soden, but he did not know when it would be discussed by the Committee. Cllr J Hughes said that he and Cllr S Jefferson had a meeting with Moreton Cullimore, which was amicable. The Chairman said that the Clerk had received another letter from Moreton, a reply to which will be drafted by Cllr S Jefferson.

2011/129 Minerals Extraction Update

Cllr E Tidmarsh reported that he had been asking questions of a number of people concerning the lakes that need the earliest attention. He said the two lakes that look the worst are those on the right at the end of Friday's Ham Lane. Cllr Tidmarsh said a meeting with Cllrs M Seymour and R Thomas will be arranged to discuss those lakes that haven't been properly landscaped and he will report back to the Parish Council.

2011/130 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Footpaths Working Group

Cllr M Seymour reported that the Working Group is due to meet on the 16th November, but they are still awaiting a letter from Barbara Burke, the Wiltshire Rights of Way Officer, which will give her decisions on a number of footpath issues.

Planning Committee

Cllr R Thomas reported that the Committee were opposed to a Planning Application to build a five bedroom house in the grounds of Pilgrim Cottage, Back Street. Cllr Thomas read out the comments opposing the Application and then read the comment of Mr Keith Bowley, also opposing the Application, which the members noted.

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had decided against installing CCTV on the High Road Playing Field.

School Governors

Cllr D Wingrove said the Governors were in the process of looking at the issue of forming conglomerates. He also reported that the Governors had recently appointed a male Deputy Head Teacher.

2011/131 Adoption of Village areas by the Councillors

Cllr D Wingrove asked whether the members were prepared to keep in touch with the Parishioners, if so, adopting an area would be an additional means of communicating with them. Cllr M Seymour said that the members do need to keep in touch and if the adoption of areas is established, then the members must stick with them. Cllr E Tidmarsh suggested that the Parish Council would need to publish the areas and tell the Parishioners who their area members were and invite them to direct any questions to him or her. Cllr M Jackson said the areas and members adopted by them should be put on the Parish Council Website. The Chairman was unsure whether he was in favour or not of the approach. Cllr D Wingrove and the Clerk agreed to re-examine their earlier work on the subject.

2011/132 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Chairman said a meeting had been arranged in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th November to discuss the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations; the Clerk had written to the principle groups in the village and invited them to attend. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should underwrite the Celebrations, within reason, to which the members were in agreement. The Chairman also suggested that after the Celebrations, using any profits from the celebrations or by public donations.

2011/133 Cycle Routes out of Village

The Clerk said he had been in touch with Michael Crook, a Wiltshire Council Public Rights of Way Officer, with whom he had discussed the cycle routes requirement last year. Michael e-mailed to say that the Cotswold Waterpark Society is considering commissioning a study to look at the current access route network in the Waterpark. If this study proceeds, a link here could be considered. He said he had copied his e-mail to Jill Bewley in the Waterpark for information. He concluded by saying that if the study goes ahead, no doubt there would be some consultation with the local community.

2011/134 Lollipop Lady

The Chairman said that he was aware that the Clerk had spent a considerable amount of time trying to convince Wiltshire Council five years ago not to dispense with the Lollipop Lady, to no avail. He had also been made aware that no one would volunteer to take on the responsibility in a non-paying capacity. Nonetheless, the Chairman suggested that when the new Shop opens on the High Road an advertisement should be placed throughout the village asking for a volunteer Lollipop Lady or Gentleman. He said the Head Teacher had been asked to write a School Travel Plan, which would indicate where the Lollipop Lady should operate from.

2011/135 School Holiday Club

The Chairman said there had been a meeting between the local residents and the School on the issue of the Summer Holiday Club. The meeting, held on the 18th October, decided that the Club would continue and the residents would be e-mailed with the information about it. None of the Chairman of Governors points came out at the meeting. The Chairman said he would send Cllr D Wingrove a letter asking what transpired at the meeting and Cllr Wingrove said he would find out and reply to the letter.

2011/136 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes gave an update on the Village Shop and said the accounts showed a small profit for October, which was helped by a contribution from the Siren Sisters and other donations. The trading result was a small loss. A decision was taken to invest approximately £3k in a new EPOS system (stock control) for the new shop. Cllr Hughes said the target was still to get the shop open and trading before Christmas, but this will be a challenge. There is a proposal to build a short, raised pavement in front of the shop door with a ramp at each end, to assist with access.

The Chairman agreed to the following subject being raised:

- Cllr M Seymour said he wanted to bring up the subject of the Village Handyman contract. In particular, he said, the dumping and burning of waste on the Bradstone field should cease, because it is an eyesore. Whoever gets the Village Handyman contract should be informed that disposal of their own, or Parish Council, rubbish must be tendered for to remove it from the village. Cllr Seymour said he knew that it would be an additional cost to the Parish Council. He said his final point was that the Village Handyman should complete a monthly job sheet of work that has been carried out.

- Cllr D Wingrove brought up the subject of the closure of the Horse and Jockey Pub, which generated a short discussion.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.10pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 14th December 2011, commencing at 7.45pm