

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd March 2023

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); R Blackaller; M Carter; S Crawford; B Low; and C Sims.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk. One member of public.

22-23/146 Public Section

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was one member of public in attendance as an observer.

22-23/147 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hill, Inzani, Moran, Smith and Ventham.

22-23/148 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

22-23/149 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15th February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2023 were approved and signed.

22-23/150 Actions from Previous Meeting

22-23/110 – The Enforcement Officer is dealing with the landscaping at Wheatleys Farm development and will be visiting site on Friday to check on progress.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/114b – Lake 82 ditch works carried forward. Cllr Berry is still awaiting an update from Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/133 – The Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum on 27th February was not attended by a representative of the Parish Council.

22-23/141a – Youth Football Club potential parking options – no update provided.

22-23/141b – Liaison with Open Space Maintenance Contractor and Playing Fields Committee regarding a one way system of parking at the High Road – no update provided.

22-23/141c – Investigation into the placement of cones along Happy Land found that permission under a Section 8 ruling by the local highways authority is required. The Police visited and issued tickets to those parked causing an obstruction.

22-23/136 – There has been no update on our entry into the Best Kept Village competition. Clerk to chase update.

Action: Clerk

22-23/136a – There was no update on running an Open Gardens Competition to coincide with the Best Kept Village Competition.

Action: Cllr Moran

22-23/136b – The local litter picking organiser has been contacted and will arrange a litter pick for 15th April. It was noted that IDVerde will supply equipment if needed.

22-23/137 – Street Naming paperwork has been completed and returned.

22-23/138 – A speed mitigation group has already been formed. 20MPH is now being encouraged in villages. Cllr Blackaller happy to continue to be involved. Parishioners to be contacted regarding reforming the group.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

22-23/139 – Wiltshire Council Highways have agreed to move the village sign and have suggested a new location within the village boundary. The Clerk was asked to respond to Highways and arrange for the sign to be relocated.

Action: Clerk

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22-23/151 Chairmans Report

It was noted that the Village Hall were holding their AGM this evening, which is being attended by the Parish Council representative.

22-23/152 Clerks Report

The discounted rate for village hall hire is increasing to £30 from 1st September 2023. Meeting dates for the next 2 years have been circulated.

It was noted that the National Living Wage will be rising by 9.7% as of 1st April 2023. Clerk to contact the Cleaner at Bradstone.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk continues to chase SSE regarding updating the meters at Bradstone and High Road with smart meters. The Internal Auditor that we have used for the past four years is willing to carry out our internal audit again this year.

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority Local Performance and Scrutiny Committee Meeting dates were circulated.

22-23/153 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Playing Fields Inv 456 £ 72.00

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 521.74
SLCC Annual Membership	£ 139.00
OSM Contract	£ 900.00
Wiltshire Council (LHFIG)	£ 285.00
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 13.40
Playing Fields Costs	£ 209.95
Village Hall Hire	£ 27.00

Closing Balance: £ 35,567.08

The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

22-23/154 Telephone Box Lease

The Telephone Gallery has been successful over the past year. The Parish Council agreed to extend the licence for another 2 years.

Action: Cllr Low

22-23/155 Licence Application

The Parish Council agreed that there was no objection to the licence application.

Action: Clerk

22-23/156 Open Space Maintenance Contract

The Open Space Maintenance Contract is up for renewal on 30th March. Since the contract was drawn up there have been some changes regarding the Cricket Club. It was agreed to amend Annex B of the contract to make it consistent with paragraph 32 of the Cricket Club Lease.

Action: Clerk

The current contractor continues to provide a great service at a cost that has remained the same for many years, providing the best value for the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed to extend the contract with the current contractor for another 3 years at an increased cost of 10%.

Action: Clerk

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22-23/157 Asset Register Review and H&S Inspection of Assets

It was agreed to carry forward this item to next month as the Clerk is awaiting an update from the Playing Fields Committee due to the new play equipment project.

22-23/158 Acorn Biodigester Proposal

The chairman wanted to get an idea of the councils view on the proposal. A number of councillors were strongly against the proposal, stating that there were no benefits to the village, negative effect on Biodiversity in a SSSI and increased traffic. The Chairman will contact South Cerney Parish Council for their views.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

An offer to look at forming a basis for a possible objection was accepted.

Action: Cllr Sims

22-23/159 Planning Committee Vacancy

It was agreed that the planning committee will continue with 5 members.

22-23/160 Grants and Finance Committee Vacancy

The grants and finance committee is in need of another member. As the committee is not due to meet over the next couple of months, it was agreed to address this at the May meeting where the committee structure is discussed.

2-23/161 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) Planning Committee (MS) – Minutes and Agenda circulated.
- b) Flood Risk Working Group (MC) – Report circulated. A proposal for the FRWG to be disbanded and replaced with a representative on the Wiltshire Council North Operational Flood Working Group was discussed. The group has been very useful and has built up knowledge and awareness which has been documented and published on the Parish Council Website. The groups aim was to identify flood risk, at present there is no evidence of flood risk to property. Wiltshire Council have a strategic flood risk assessment available to view, there are no flood risks showing for Ashton Keynes. It was agreed to disband the Flood Risk Working Group and to appoint Cllr Carter as the representative for the council on the WCNFWG. At the next meeting the possibility of a Watercourse working group/committee being set up will be discussed.
- c) Internal Affairs Committee (CS) – nothing to report.
- d) Village Hall (PM) – nothing to report.
- e) Playing Fields Committee (SC/PM) – Report and Minutes were circulated. Weekly checks continue to be carried out, at present these are not being shared with the Clerk. The Playing Fields policy is being worked on to clarify spend levels and authority. The new play equipment project continues to progress. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 4th May at 8pm in the White Hart Annex.
- f) Cotswold Lake Trust (BL) – nothing to report.
- g) School Governors (SC) – nothing to report.
- h) Police (DW) – nothing to report.
- i) Highways (SC) – Following works to heighten the bank of the ditch running parallel to the High Road Playing Field, new drainage pipes have now been added in the flood prone areas to allow water to drain from Happy Land into the ditch. 3 pipes had been installed by the Playing Fields Committee Manager and a further 3 were installed by SSE whilst they were working in the area. SSE were approached by the Manager of the Playing Fields and were happy to oblige, they even provided the pipe free of charge. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write a letter of thanks to SSEN, enclosing a copy of the relevant entry that will appear in the next edition of the Village Newsletter

Action: Clerk

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- j) Footpaths and Cycle Routes (BL) – nothing to report.
- k) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – nothing to report.
- l) Parochial Church Council (BL) – nothing to report.
- m) Speed Mitigation (RB) – nothing to report.
- n) Millennium Green (NI) – nothing to report.
- o) B4696 Road Safety – nothing to report.

22-23/162 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda and to submit any reports for the Committees, Working Groups and Representatives section at least 10 days in advance of the next meeting.

22-23/163 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 19th April 2023 in the main hall of the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.