

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the meeting held at Ashton Keynes Primary School on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.20m**

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); M Carter; S Crawford; N Inzani; D Ventham.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry; Fiona Ryder – Clerk.

### **24-25/184 Public Section**

There were no members of public in attendance.

### **24-25/185 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Carter, M Low and T Romback.

### **24-25/186 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **24-25/187 Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were approved and signed.

### **24-25/188 Actions from Previous Meetings**

24-25/062 – The main trigger point that would allow the NHP review to progress is the housing numbers from Wiltshire Council.

24-25/124 – There is no update on Council Storage.

24-25/145 – Stephen Leonard has been made aware of the issues on the footpath at Church Walk and will hopefully make a visit to inspect.

24-25/175 – Objection in relation to Appeal APP/Y3940/W/25/3359792 has been submitted.

### **24-25/189 Chairmans Report**

#### Composition of the Parish Council

In March, Stephen Hill resigned as a Parish Councillor. Stephen has been thanked for his services to the Council. We are coming to the end of the cycle for this Council, with all Councillors automatically standing down in May.

Not enough nominations were received for the upcoming election to make the Council quorate. This means the Council cannot act and or make decisions when the existing councillors retire on Tuesday 6 May 2025. The Returning Officer for Wiltshire Council is now required to run a further election for our area for the vacant seats, within 35 working days of when the election would have taken place. Wiltshire Council will be contacting us after 1<sup>st</sup> May with further details.

We will not be able to hold a Parish Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025, as planned, and the current Chairman remains in place until a new one is elected.

The situation will be publicised in the hope of attracting nominations for the new election.

#### The Wheatley's Farm 'Quarry' Appeal

Since the public part of the Inquiry finished in October last year, the Inspector has been considering whether he should pass the Appeal or not. At the same time, there has been considerable discussion about what Conditions should be put on the Application, should the Inspector be minded to grant the Appeal. The Parish Council was involved in discussions on the Conditions during the public part of the Inquiry, but have largely been cut out of discussions subsequently, with only a few specific aspects being referred. Cllr Inzani has done a great job in pushing the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Parish Council. As a

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result, the Planning Inspectorate has finally come back to try and justify our exclusion by saying:

- Conditions are usually drafted by the Council in discussion with the Appellant
- In the normal course of events third parties (such as us) do not participate in the conditions process.
- In this case the Inspector made an exception and invited representatives from AKPC to be present when they were informally discussed and to participate at the formal session at the Inquiry.

The Parish Council has recently, been invited to comment on certain specific conditions. These have been circulated to those people who have been involved, within the village, in this 'Conditions' process, asking if they wish to add their comment. These will be combined into one document to form the Parish Council response.

The process is entering the final phase, it is the Inspector's intention to formally close the inquiry after Wednesday 23 April.

We will continue to keep Parishioners up to date with developments in this matter.

## Annual Parish Meeting

It is currently unclear as to whether the Annual Parish Meeting can go ahead this May. An update will be provided.

## **24-25/190 Clerks Report**

### Parish Steward

The Parish Steward was accompanied by the road sweeper, they carried out works on the Spine Road footpath and swept around the village. The drains between Gosditch and Church Walk were dug out again and drains at North End were cleared. Potholes were patched up by Maisey Mews and filled in Harris Road and The Mead.

### Damaged Verges

A Highways Technician has inspected verges in the village, this did not include Fridays Ham Lane/Rixon Gate, photos have been taken of the verges and submitted to Wiltshire Highways to request that they are also inspected and included in the works to repair.

Wiltshire Council Streetworks department are leading on this investigation and are in contact with Thames Water discussing repairs and have contacted contractors for a quote on the works.

The repairs required will be the pulling back of the verge along High Road from Swillbrook Bridge to The Derry. Once this has been completed, they will then see if any further work is needed on the road surface. A 'bob cat' patch near Glead Cottages has also been requested.

The area outside Maisey Mews and Heavens Rise has already been added in for a reactive patch of the road. This damage is not as a consequence of the diversion and was already noted before Thames Water arrived. There are currently no dates confirmed as to when this will be completed.

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Other areas of High Road where there has been overrun of the verges has not been included in this investigation as they do not meet Highways safety intervention levels and historically these areas have been overrun by large vehicles, these areas will be monitored by the technician for the area.

## Pension Scheme

The pension scheme for the Clerk is set to start from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## Augustus Payroll

The payroll provider has increased their fees by 10% from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## Electricity Bills

Invoices totalling over £6000 have been received for electricity at High Road and Bradstone Pavilions. So far, the Clerk has managed to get £3308.62 credited and is still working on the rest.

## VAT Reclaim

VAT paid out from April 2024 to September 2024 has been reclaimed.

## Contact from Parishioners

**The Mead** – Phone call received reporting potholes as you enter The Mead. Included on the Parish Steward list for his next visit.

**Footpath to Leigh** – phone call reporting a large dead Ash tree on the footpath from Ashton Keynes to Leigh. Advised to report using MyWilts.

## **24-25/191 Financial Report**

Finance reports for March and April were circulated prior to the meeting.

### **Income since the last meeting:**

HMRC VAT Reclaim	£ 826.09
Unity Trust Interest	£2248.93

### **Expenditure since the last meeting:**

Scribe	£ 42.00
HMRC PAYE	£ 15.40
OSM January	£ 990.00
Payroll	£ 10.90
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 14.35
AKVH Hire	£ 30.00
Scribe	£ 42.00
OSM January	£ 990.00
SLCC Membership	£ 114.00
Payroll	£ 10.90
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 14.35
Lloyds Bank Service Charge	£ 4.25
Ashton Keynes Primary School	£ 16.00
Website Expenses	£ 798.98
AK Music Festival Grant	£10,000.00
Unity Trust Service Charge	£ 6.00

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## **Playing Fields**

### **Income since the last meeting:**

Playing Fields Hire    £ 1052.00

### **Expenditure since the last meeting:**

Bradstone Cleaning	£ 120.00
YGP Electricity	£ 1910.40
Castle Water	£ 21.59
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 120.00
YGP Electricity	£ 606.31
Castle Water	£ 21.05

The Council approved the finance reports, income and expenditure and payments. It was noted that the 1st April report is effectively the report for the full financial year that has just finished. It would appear that there has been an overspend of around £25,000. However, this figure is almost entirely an overspend on Parish Projects (circa £15,000) and Village Grants (circa £10,000). The Council has said that it is happy for this to be regarded as coming from the CIL money, even though it has to be shown in the General Accounts. If these two overspends are stripped out, the annual expenditure was almost equal to the Precept Budget (as has been the case for several years). The finances can therefore be regarded as being in healthy state.

## **24-25/192 Planning Applications**

### **Application: PL/2025/02428**

Proposal: Gable end extension. New entrance porch. Replacement windows and doors.

Address: Larchmont, High Road

Comments: No objection

### **Application: PL/2025/02672**

Proposal: Common Maple tree – reduce by one third.

Address: 2 Eastfield

Comments: No objection

### **Application: PL/2025/01549**

Proposal: Proposed Air Source Heat Pump and battery installation.

Address: 23 Harris Road

Comments: No objection

### **Application: PL/2025/02736**

Proposal: T1 T2 Birch tree – 30% crown reduction.

Address: 15 Ashfield

Comments: No objection

### **Application: PL/2025/02734**

Proposal: Installation of composite (UPVC) timber effect cladding to single storey (retrospective).

Address: 32 Eastfield

Comments: No objection

### **Application: PL/2025/02856**

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension.

Address: The Grove, 9 High Road

Comments: No objection

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## **24-25/193 Flood Resilience**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Parish Council noted the report and thanked Cllr Low for the review. The Parish Council are awaiting a visit from the Environment Agency to confirm points of concern.

**Action: Cllr Inzani**

## **24-25/194 Ashton Keynes Emergency Plan**

The Parish Council noted the report circulated prior to the meeting and acknowledged the work already done. An Emergency Plan, Emergency Contact Hub and Flood Plan will be addressed by the new Council.

## **24-25/195 Best Kept Village Competition**

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Ventham for completing the documents needed to enter the Laurence Kitching Award 2025, and approved entry. A litter pick will be arranged in June.

**Action: Clerk**

## **24-25/196 Succession Planning**

When a new Council is in place following the upcoming elections, bank signatories will need to be agreed and changed. The Clerks Payroll approval will need to be set up with the new Chair.

Due to the Council being inquorate as of 6<sup>th</sup> May, it was agreed to preapprove all standard payments up until the New Council is formally in place.

## **24-25/197 Playing Fields Committee**

A meeting has not yet been arranged.

## **24-25/198 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports**

- a) Planning Committee (SH) – Nothing to report.
- b) Internal Affairs Committee (SC) – Nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall ( ) – Nothing to report.
- d) Cotswold Lake Trust (ML) – Nothing to report.
- e) School Governors (SC) – Nothing to report.
- f) Police (DW) – Nothing to report.
- g) Highways (SC) – Nothing to report.
- h) Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Waterways (BL) – Nothing to report.
- i) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – The Parish Council approved that Ernie Tidmarsh continues as a Parish Council Representative Trustee for the charity.
- j) Parochial Church Council ( ) – Nothing to report.
- k) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- l) B4696 Road Safety (SC) – Nothing to report.
- m) CIL Funds (TR) – Nothing to report.
- n) Flood Protection Initiatives (ML) – Agenda Item.

## **24-25/199 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.

## **24-25/200 Date for the next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting cannot be arranged due to being inquorate from 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting concluded at 9.19pm.