

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the meeting held at Ashton Keynes Primary School on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs S Crawford – Chairman; M Carter; L Mason; C McMurtry; A Tindall; M Young.

In attendance: Wiltshire Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk, 3 x Members of Public.

### **25-26/091 Public Section**

Members of the public wished to raise the state of the river bank in Church Walk. The Parish Council can make Wiltshire Council aware of the damage to the section for which it has responsibility, the gravelled section of Church Walk is unadopted and assumed ownership lies with the owner of the gravel track. The Parish Council is not responsible for this section, however, it has been employing a contractor to cut the grass verge. Grass cutting of the verge will be ceased as it is unsafe. All concerned residents are encouraged to report the erosion of the bank to the Environment Agency directly.

### **25-26/092 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Romback, Inzani, Ellis and Jeffery.

### **25-26/093 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **25-26/094 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were approved and signed.

### **25-26/095 Actions from Previous Meetings**

25-26/068 – At last months meeting it was noted that a standard letter had been written regarding an overhanging tree and that a planning application had been received for the felling of the tree. It was noted that the planning application was for a neighbouring property and not the property that had been written to.

25-26/083 – Wiltshire Council are aware of the fallen sign near the White Hart and are awaiting a new post.

25-26/086 – Donation to SWAC paid.

25-26/087 – Building fire risk assessments have been arranged for Bradstone and High Road.

### **25-26/096 Chairmans Report**

Various sources have made reference to “closure” of the Hills operated Purton Recycling centre. Cllr Berry read a letter from Roz Savage to a concerned resident which stated that the decision was made due to a substantial increase in operational costs from Hills and that Wiltshire Council are in discussion with Swindon Borough Council to allow residents to use the Swindon HRC. There are plans for a new HRC in the area. The Parish Council will write to the local MP to raise concerns and encourages parishioners to do the same.

**Action: Clerk**

Community Speed Watch have now provided proposed locations for the additional speed indicator hardware. CSW have been asked to update the original Highways Improvement Request Form they originally submitted, to include as much detail as possible.

Wiltshire highways have now provided a proposed location and hardware for the village gates, this information has been forwarded to CSW for their input, once this input has been received it will be circulated to all councillors for consideration.

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Discussions with Wiltshire Highways regarding the condition of the Spine Road junction are ongoing, it has been agreed that the entire junction including the approaches from Spine Road East and West require resurfacing with a material suitable for the HGV traffic, as this is a major upgrade it will have to join the queue of other major tasks and may not be completed until as late as Spring 2027. Infill work will occur before this time and pressure will be applied to Highways to get this resurfacing completed at the earliest opportunity.

Acorn Energy contacted the Clerk to request a meeting, they were invited to attend this meeting but were unable, they have subsequently made a request for a private meeting which has been declined. The Clerk has informed Acorn of the dates of the January and February meetings.

## 25-26/097 Clerks Report

The Parish Steward has cleared the gully by the Old Brick Yard, cleared rat holes by the White Hart, cut back vegetation off the cycle path on the Spine Road, cleared out gullies by the river. Confirmed that the Spine Road/North End junction has been inspected and a ticket has been submitted for the pot hole team as stop/go is needed. Confirmed that the sign opposite the White Hart has been reported and is awaiting a new post.

Email received reporting Ivy growing into the road at Four Acre Close/Rixon Gate. This was reported to the Parish Steward who has cut back the Ivy.

## 25-26/098 Financial Report

The Finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

### Income since the last meeting:

### Expenditure since the last meeting:

Open Space Maintenance	£ 990.00
Payroll Services	£ 11.98
Scribe	£ 42.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 30.00
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 15.42
Bank Charges	£ 10.25

### Playing Fields

#### Income since the last meeting:

Hire £826.00

#### Expenditure since the last meeting:

Safety Signs	£ 15.49
Roof Tile Guards	£ 439.20
Electricity	£ 77.65
Hills Waste	£ 201.12
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 120.00
Castle Water	£ 18.14

The Council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

## 25-26/099 Budget and Precept

The budget for 2026/27 and a precept request of £44,064.00 was approved.

## 25-26/100 Financial Regulations

The Parish Council approved the Financial Regulations.

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## **25-26/101 Reserves Policy**

The reserves policy was approved. Projected reserves for 2025/26 are in line with the policy. It was proposed by Cllr Crawford and seconded by Cllr Tindall to revert the emergency funds for inquiry back to earmarked reserves for village assets, the Council unanimously agreed.

## **25-26/102 Risk Assessment**

The Parish Council approved the Risk Assessment.

## **25-26/103 Meeting with Developers Policy**

The Parish Council approved the Meeting with Developers policy.

## **25-26/104 Playing Fields Committee Update**

Emergency Exit signage has been fitted/replaced ahead of a fire risk assessment being carried out next week.

Additional signage reminding hirers to set the alarm on exiting the building have been installed.

An additional dog poo bin has been installed.

The scrap removal company refused to take away the skate ramp due to it being filled with foam that is not easily removed. Costings will be sought for the removal of the ramp.

## **25-26/105 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports**

To respond to any questions relating to reports circulated prior to the meeting.

- a) Planning Committee (AT) – Minutes and Agendas circulated.
- b) Internal Affairs Committee ( ) – Nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall (MY) – Nothing to report.
- d) Cotswold Lake Trust (MJ) – Nothing to report.
- e) School Governors (SC) – Nothing to report.
- f) Police (SC) – Nothing to report.
- g) Highways (SC/AE) – Nothing to report.
- h) Footpaths, Rights of Way and Waterways (LM) – Nothing to report.
- i) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – Nothing to report.
- j) Parochial Church Council (LM) – Nothing to report.
- k) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- l) B4696 Road Safety (SC/AE) – Nothing to report.
- m) CIL Funds (TR) – Nothing to report.
- n) WC Operational Flood Risk Working Group (MC) – Nothing to report.

## **25-26/106 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.

Proposals for the Council need to include sufficient information for the Council to be able to make an informed decision.

## **25-26/107 Date for the next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm, in Ashton Keynes Primary School Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.54 pm.