

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9 July 2014

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman) M Carter; M Cooper; B Ellison; A Seymour; M Seymour; E Tidmarsh; R Thomas; K Winstone.

In attendance: The Clerk; Guy Wakefield (Hunter and Page); Sam Crawford; Ben Pearce (Land Development and Planning Consultants Ltd); Adrian Gleed; Mrs Jane Slaughter (Community Speed Watch) and 3 other members of the Community Speed Watch group; PC Steve Harvey

Prior to the meeting, Mrs Slaughter made a presentation, updating the Council on the findings of the Community Speed Watch Group (CSW) since April. The purpose of the group is to educate speeders in the perils of driving over the speed limit, reduce the risk of injury on the road and improve the quality of life for the residents along the stretch of the B4696. 10 volunteers have been trained up and from 34 outings, 772 drivers were recorded in excess of 47mph, of which 20 were clocked in excess of 60 mph. The findings are forwarded to PC Harvey and 648 letters have been issued. To date there have been no repeat offenders. 12 tickets have been issued by PC Harvey on those occasions he has been with the CSW. There has not been an opportunity to see if the wheelie bin stickers issued by the Parish Council make a difference when the bins are out for collection. The additional roundels and signage are now in place. However the group would like to put in a request for further village indication, white gates, pavements and the sign at Cox's Hill to indicate the centre of the village is down the hill.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Slaughter and her CSW group for their achievements to date.

PC Harvey re-iterated some of the points Mrs Slaughter's presentation and then gave his report. There had been 6 incidents reported, 3 sheds that had been broken into, but nothing taken, and 3 further thefts, 2 in the village and 1 at the Cotswold Community. There had been a serious road traffic accident, involving a motor cyclist and a car, along the B4696 by the Minety Road and a cyclist had been knocked off his bike in Fore Street. The Council were also informed that the Malmesbury Policing Team were running a pilot scheme which is a free online service and once signed up, recipients will have instant police updates via email, text to a mobile phone or a voice message to a landline, whichever is the chosen method.

The CSW group left the meeting

Mr Wakefield (Hunter Page) addressed the Council with a brief outline of a proposed development of a site off the B4696 near to Derryfield Cottage. The site would be discreet and screened by trees. Although within the conservation area, a heritage consultant had indicated the site would be suitable for up to 10 properties. Assurances were made that these properties would be sympathetic to the area. Although 10 properties had been indicated with a mix of affordable and market housing, ecology, trees and highways reports may result in a lower target.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wakefield for his presentation.

Mr Wakefield and Mr Crawford left the meeting.

Mr Pearce (Land Development and Planning Consultants Ltd) addressed the Council with a proposed development at the site of the old dairy farm to the south of the village. The owners have been looking for a long term future for the now defunct farm buildings. The site is not in the conservation area and early indications from a hydrologist report indicated that flooding would not be an issue. The plan indicated 22 units with a mix of 35% affordable housing as in keeping with the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. Although the current buildings have received consent to be changed from agricultural use to light industrial units, to start afresh with new build would appear more beneficial to all concerned. Mr Pearce was reminded that the site is outside the current residential boundary for the village and the recent Wiltshire Council Rural Housing Survey had indicated that the village only required an additional 11 new dwellings.

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The Chairman thanked Mr Pearce for his presentation.

Mr Pearce and Mr Gleed left the meeting.

2014/097 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Unitary Cllr C Berry (Area Board)

2014/098 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2014/099 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 July 2014

The minutes for the meeting held on 9 July 2014 were confirmed and signed.

2014/100 Co-option of new Councillor

The Council had advertised through the parish notice board and on the website but no applications had been received. All Councillors were encouraged to source potential candidates.

2014/101 Matters to Report

- The clerk is to discuss with Simon Jefferson the progress with the removal and sale of the equipment from the Bradstone Playing Field. Alternative methods of sale may be required.
Action: The Clerk
- The change of bank account was not appropriate until legislation allowed internet bank transfers.
- The meeting with the Environmental group and the WILD project had been delayed and Cllr Wingrove agreed to take the arrangements forward. The hedges and ditches working group will need to be involved.
Action: Cllr Wingrove
- Cllr Seymour had spoken to the CSW group and the checking of speed along the High Road, however the action had not been deemed appropriate.

PC Harvey left the meeting.

2014/102 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had been informed by Ian Woods that he has stepped down as Chairman and Treasurer of the Ashton Keynes Playing Fields Committee (AKPFC) and a new Chair and Treasurer are to be appointed at the November meeting. Cllr Wingrove is to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council AKPFC representatives and Mr Woods to discuss any impact this could have at the Playing Fields and with the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

There had been notification from a broadband company, Harlequin, that improved broadband for the village is to be installed. A progress update from Harlequin was requested by the Chairman, also to ascertain if there would be a need for addition BT boxes within the village.

Action: The Clerk

The Parish Steward had cleared some of the culvert by Church Walk and the High Road, however the spoil had been left on the bank. The clerk is to contact Wiltshire Highways to find when the spoil will be removed.

Action: The Clerk

2014/103 Clerk's Report

The paper containing the clerk's report had been circulated previously.

Points to note included:

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Cotswold Water Park had confirmed a date of 1 October to commence the ditch clearance at the Bradstone.

Colin Kennerson, Technical Officer Wiltshire Council, had visited Ashton Keynes to confirm the correct usage of the Section 106 funds available to the Parish Council.

Quotes had been obtained for the insurance renewal, the Council resolved accept the quote from Aon.

2014/104 Financial Report

The financial report had been circulated previously, with the additional information of the cash status of the Council.

Expenditure of note included:

- Clerk's Salary (net) £485.83
- Open Space Maintenance £1,400.00

It was noted that the Clerk reclaimed the VAT for the last 12 months to the value of £984.62.

2014/105 Temporary closure of the Post Office

Notification had been received from the Post Office that the current postmaster will be retiring at the end of October and that there will be a temporary closure of the Post Office in Ashton Keynes. The nearest Post Offices being sited in South Cerney and Cricklade, neither being easily accessible by public transport.

The Post Office have said that they are currently investigating the options available which would enable them to reinstate a local Post Office Service. Hopefully, therefore, the closure will be temporary, although it seems unlikely that Ashton Keynes will have another, separate Post Office, at least in the foreseeable future. Discussions have taken place with the Village Shop Management Committee (VSMC) to ascertain how much of the Post Office services can be incorporated in the shop. Some services, such as cash withdrawal (via 'cash back'), benefits payments and bill settlement are already available at the shop, and the VSMC are to look into the legality of providing further banking services. Stamps can already be purchased at the shop, but it may prove difficult to provide other Post Office services such as receipt of items that the postman cannot deliver. The newspaper service currently attached to the Post Office, would not be feasible within the shop; however other avenues are being researched by both the retiring postmaster and the VSMC.

There is uncertainty of the siting of the post box by the Post Office and Post Office Ltd are to be asked if the post box will remain or be replaced.

Notification of the Parish Council efforts to ensure a Post Office facility remains in the village will be placed in the Parish Newsletter.

2014/106 The Settlement Boundary

During the summer, Wiltshire Council issued draft proposals for settlement boundaries, copies of which had been circulated previously. No further comments had been brought forward to the meeting and the clerk is to respond that the proposed draft settlement boundaries are the correct, they have been drawn in accordance with the criteria, no areas need to be modified and the Parish Council are not looking to review the boundaries through the neighbourhood plan with the comment "Ashton Keynes is in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Early indications show that it will not be necessary to review the settlement boundary (as outlined in the proposals) to meet projected housing needs in the area. However, as the neighbourhood plan process progresses, it may identify one or two sites, immediately adjacent to the area enclosed by the proposed settlement boundary, to provide enabling housing development for community facilities".

Action: The Clerk

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2014/107 The Mead development

The Chairman had contacted GreenSquare for a progress report and disappointed to be informed that the start date had been scheduled for the 15 September without prior consultation as to the traffic arrangements for construction workers. This had been agreed previously and whilst GreenSquare had indicated that there may be a delay in the start date, the Chairman had responded that he wanted the promised meeting to discuss the traffic issues before work commenced. The meeting for consultation with the residents from The Mead, The Lotts and Fouracre Close and GreenSquare has been arranged for 11 September.

2014/108 Section 106 - update

Cllrs Tidmarsh and Winstone had attended the last Area Board meeting at Crudwell to hear a discussion on Section 106 which had been a very brief presentation. Cllr Tidmarsh and the clerk had met with Colin Kennerson, Technical Officer Wiltshire Council, to review the recent acquisitions and discuss other uses for Section 106 funds available to the Parish for open space installations. The Parish Council are to gather a wish list and Mr Kennerson will visit with members of the Council to discuss the merits of the items put forward. In order to utilise the funds, ideas are to be put forward to Cllrs Tidmarsh and Winstone by the end of September. Mr Kennerson will also discuss the impact of the Community Infrastructure Levy which is to replace Section 106 in April 2015.

Action: Cllrs Tidmarsh, Winstone

2014/109 Cotswold Community

The developers for the Cotswold Community had issued a "route map" however, there did not appear to be any progress nor amendments from previous notifications. The Parish Council discussed the options put forward and are to respond in a manner which does not favour any of the options put forward as the Council would like to see the 27 houses and other buildings already on the site, maintained and upgraded.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2014/110 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Minerals Liaison – no report
- Planning – minutes had been circulated from the meeting held since the last meeting of the Parish Council
- Emergency Planning – Cllr A Seymour to attend a workshop provided by Wiltshire Council, later this month.
- Footpaths – Cllr Stefanovic had resigned as Chair of the working group. It was agreed that Cllr M Seymour should take over the leadership of this working group. The clerk had been notified that Mr Brian Marston would not be able to continue with the group. Cllr M Seymour has done extensive research into the legality of footpath 20 – behind the farm at Rixon Gate. Wiltshire Council can find no record of adopting the footpath as a right of way and it is a permissive footpath, which may not continue once the land has been sold by Aggregates Industries Ltd (AI). Cllr Seymour is to continue with discussions with AI and Wiltshire Council.
- Grants and Finance – no report
- Communications – no report
- Hedges and Ditches – as reported at item 2014/103, ditch clearance will proceed shortly
- School Governors – no report
- Ashton Keynes Charity – no report
- Police – reported earlier in the meeting
- Village Hall – the decoration had been completed and the grant from the Parish Council received
- Playing Fields Committee – as reported earlier in the meeting
- Area Board – no report
- Cotswold Water Park – Cllr Stefanovic to attend a meeting on 16 Oct and ask the CWP for signage to stop by cyclists using the footpaths in the area.

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014/111 Neighbourhood Planning - update

The report had been circulated previously, the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group had met in July when a training session was given by Planning Aid on 'Visioning and Objective setting'. Focus Groups are continuing to refine their key objective statements and a draft Scoping Report Sustainability Appraisal is in the process of being created as a guiding document. A date for a Steering Group meeting will be set for later this month, and work will commence in the coming weeks on Site Assessment and Policies creation.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Carter for his continuing efforts with the Neighbourhood Plan.

2014/112 Update of standing orders

The draft standing orders, in conjunction with the Wiltshire Code of Conduct 2012, had been circulated previously. The Parish Council agreed not to amend the Standing Orders at this point other than to make minor updates (such as deletion of references to District Councillors).

2014/113 Christmas for the Councillors

The annual dinner had been overlooked in 2013. The councillors agreed to re-instate the tradition and the date and venue to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Thomas

2014/114 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to forward any items for inclusion on the next agenda to the Clerk by Wednesday 1 October 2014

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 7:15pm

The meeting was concluded at 9:56pm

Signed:

Date:

Dave Wingrove, Chairman