

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12 November 2014**

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

In attendance: The Clerk; Uty Cllr C Berry; PC S Harvey; P Eastham (Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator); 39 parishioners

Prior to the meeting, Mr Eastham addressed the meeting to explain the purpose of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Although relatively new to the village, it became apparent to Mr Eastham that there was a growing number of incidents of inappropriate behaviour in the village, which included both dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries. A network was set up, via email, in order to alert parishioners to 'out of the ordinary' behaviours. The Neighbourhood Watch liaises closely with the Police. The meeting was reminded that community empowerment started with vigilance and watching out for the more vulnerable in the area. Advice as to 'self-help' to avoid becoming a victim of crime is another part of the Neighbourhood Watch. The aim of the function is to develop a community that is prepared to take action and support each other.

PC Harvey updated the meeting on recent events in the locality. Dee Curran has been taken on as a Community Support Officer to assist PC Harvey who has been the only operative in the area for the last two years. Issues in the area include the non-domestic burglaries concerning garden equipment and farm machinery. An arrest has been made which links to these burglaries and it is hoped that more equipment could be recovered in the near future. The area is vulnerable to this type of incident and vigilance needs to be ongoing.

There followed a question and answer session for parishioners to voice concerns.

Cllr Wingrove thanked PC Harvey and Mr Eastham for their reports.

PC Harvey, Mr Eastham and the parishioners left the meeting

### **2014/129 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Stefanovic and Tidmarsh

### **2014/130 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **2014/131 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 October 2014**

The minutes for the meeting held on 8 October 2014 were confirmed and signed.

### **2014/132 Co-option of new Councillor**

All Councillors were encouraged to source potential candidates.

### **2014/133 Matters to Report**

- The WILD co-ordinator has been invited to a follow up meeting on the environment, but there had been no response to date.  
**Action: Cllr Wingrove**
- A letter had been sent to Aggregates Industries to thank them for their donation towards the repairs to the paving by the Millennium Plinth
- The completion of the hedge cutting at the Bradstone is outstanding.  
**Action: The Clerk**

### **2014/134 Chairman's Report**

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The Chairman has agreed to attend the meeting in Malmesbury which will introduce the new Local Youth Community Officer, on 6 December.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

Flyer outlining services transferred from the recently closed Post Office to the Village Shop, are available in the shop. Cllr Winstone will circulate the flyer to all Councillors for further distribution. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked the Village Shop Committee for all their efforts in ensuring as many facilities as possible could remain in the village.

**Action: Cllr Winstone**

Royal Mail have removed the post box from outside the former Post Office. Originally, it had been assumed that the post box would be relocated to a suitable site in the village. However Royal Mail have not re-sited the box, but have removed it. Royal Mail are to be contacted with a view to replacement post boxes sited in the village. Two boxes are to be requested, one at the corner of Harris Road and Kent End and one at the entrance to the Village Hall Car Park.

**Action: The Clerk**

There has been a request from the Area Board for a representative from the Ninety Ward to attend the Community Area Transport Group (CATG). If there are no Councillors put forward, the Clerk will attend to represent the ward.

Following work to the trees last year at the pumping station in Gosditch, the local residents have kept the Parish Council in the loop as to their issues with Thames Water, concerning the work and concealing the eyesore that had been left.

Greensquare have had another change of personnel, which has impacted on the proposed work due at The Mead. Cllr Wingrove had been assured that he would be informed of a conclusive decision on the project. There has been no report on the progress at this point.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

The Ashton Keynes Playing Fields Committee has yet to confirm a replacement Chairman and Treasurer and there appears to be a lack of members on the Committee. Cllr Wingrove is in discussion with those members that remain.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

## **2014/135 Clerk's Report**

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

Points to note included:

Mr Jefferson had put the equipment on ebay and the machines are waiting to be collected by the purchasers, once payment has been confirmed.

The Open Maintenance contract is up for renewal for 2015-16. Councillors were asked for input into areas to be maintained. Once agreed, the contract will go to tender. Cllr A Seymour agreed to identify the areas indicated on the contract for an update before the next tendering process commences. Maps from Wiltshire Council indicating Highways areas of responsibility are to be circulated to all Councillors to ensure there is no cross-over of responsibility.

**Action: Cllr A Seymour**

The gully clearance between Church Walk and Church Lane appeared to have narrowed the area of water flow. It is unclear as to why the clearance was undertaken. Wiltshire Council confirmed they did the work although it wasn't their responsibility and do not have the facility to remove the spoil. Cllr Berry agreed to look into the matter.

**Action: Cllr Berry**

## **2014/136 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) £299.80
- Cotswold Water Park Estate & Rangers Services £420.00
- AK Services £1,400.00

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The grants and finance committee will meet later in November when a draft budget will be produced. The claim for the precept will need to be with Wiltshire Council by 23 January 2014. The draft budget will be presented at the next Council meeting.

The donation request from Community First to go towards the Good Neighbour Scheme, already funded by Wiltshire Council and Age UK(Wiltshire) was declined by the Council.

## 2014/137 Section 106 - update

Cllr Winstone had attended the training event on 4 Nov in Chippenham, the presentation had been circulated to all Councillors, and, together with Cllr Tidmarsh and the clerk, had met up with Wiltshire Council Officers, Colin Kennerson and Sarah Holloway to discuss the preferred projects forwarded by the Councillors from the last meeting. Before further action can be taken, clarification from the Wiltshire Council legal team regarding appropriate use of the s106 funds has to be received. Once confirmation of use or not, for the preferred options, has been received, then quotes for the project work can be sourced.

**Action: The Clerk, Cllrs Tidmarsh, Winstone**

## 2014/138 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Minerals Liaison – no report
- Planning – Application 14/07747/FUL. The original application had been approved by the Parish Council. However Wiltshire Highways objected to the current access point on the grounds of the vicinity of the bends in the road either side of the Old Brickhouse works and the applicant had been requested to re-position the access point. Revised plans were circulated to the Councillors and the decision of the Parish Council was to object on the grounds of safety for the following reasons:
  - a) Cox's Hill is a narrow, unclassified road. At present few lorries use it because vehicles over 7.5 tonnes are banned, except for access to the village. It is a busy road used by cars, cyclists and Ellison's Coaches, who legitimately have access to the centre of the village. Lorry traffic would make the road both difficult and dangerous for existing traffic.
  - b) Lorries would make the road very dangerous for pedestrians, as there is no footpath and no space for one to be constructed.
  - c) An access onto Cox's Hill could encourage traffic to drive through the centre of the village.
  - d) The proposed access point on Cox's Hill is just below the brow of a hill, which itself would be hazardous.
  - e) Traffic coming up the B4696 from the south would have to conduct a dangerous right-hand turn, on a blind bend, to enter the top of Cox's Hill.
  - f) Access to the site at present is from the B4696 itself, which keeps traffic away from the centre of the village. This arrangement has not caused any problems to date. The Parish Council strongly believes that this should continue to be the entrance to the site, with improvements if necessary.

Uty Cllr C Berry agreed to monitor this application and have it 'called in' should Wiltshire Council Officers be minded to accept the revised plans.

**Action: Uty Cllr C Berry**

- Emergency Planning – Cllrs A Seymour and M Seymour attended an Emergency Planning workshop and held a meeting with a initial draft of an emergency plan to be prepared for the next meeting
- Footpaths – Cllrs Winstone and M Seymour had checked on internal paths and had noted work that required attention, it was noted that on path 15/16 at the Derry , electric fencing had been put up. The landowner has been requested to remove the fencing, if the situation is not resolved, Wiltshire Environment Officer, Steve Leonard, will be notified of the situation to take the matter further. It was noted that Rights of Way applications were with CDC from Keynes Park to upgrade a bridleway towards Minety.
- Grants and Finance – to meet later in the month.
- Communications – no report

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- Hedges and Ditches – the recently received templates from Wiltshire Council are to be circulated to all councillors. The templates are for the use of the Parish Council reminding riparian landowners of their responsibilities of ditch and hedge maintenance.
- School Governors – no report
- Ashton Keynes Charity – no report
- Police – reported earlier in the meeting
- Village Hall – the recent repair to the roof appeared to have withstood the recent weather. The situation will continue to be monitored.
- Playing Fields Committee – no report
- Area Board – Cllr Tidmarsh had attended the last meeting
- Cotswold Water Park – Cllr Stefanovic attended the meeting on 16 Oct and circulated the report. It would appear that the group have recovered as much of the embezzled funds as possible, there are significant losses at the cafe at the Spine Road and, whilst looking to purchase retired gravel pits, the CWP are underfunded currently.
- Community Speed Watch – the speed watch group has forward several requests for the Parish Council to discuss. The Council resolved not to pursue suggests related to: The installation of Villages Gates; Additional 'Village-Only Signage; New 'Slogan' signage; Footpaths along the B4696; Speeding/Road Safety as a permanent Parish Council agenda item; Extra Parish Precept for Road Safety. It was noted that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was in place. This is a temporary placement and the Council agreed to see the effects of recent implementations before committing to further expenditure on this. With regard to the signage notifying the road users of the crossing at the Thames Path, the Council resolved to re-visit the application, although it had been refused previously. The CSW are to be informed of the Parish Council's decisions.

• **Action: The Clerk**

## **014/139 Neighbourhood Planning - update**

The steering group have arranged for a training workshop on policy writing as the next stage in the process. Mr Terry Klee has agreed to assist Cllr Carter with work on the draft plan. Initial feedback on the draft, from Wiltshire Council has been very positive and it needs finalising, after the training session, and then forwarded to the three main consultees for further input.

**Action: Cllr Carter**

## **2014/140 Cotswold Community**

The developers, Amita and their representatives, had met with Councillors earlier in the month. At this point there is nothing further report. Amita are to hold another public open day later in the month, with their latest plans, for open consultation.

**Action:**

## **2014/141 Matters for the next meeting**

Councillors were reminded to forward any items for inclusion on the next agenda to the Clerk by Wednesday 3 December 2014. Items to be taken to the next meeting:

- Best Kept Village competition
- Open Space Maintenance contract for tender
- Draft budget for 2015-16

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2014 at 7:15pm**

The meeting was concluded at 9:59pm

Signed:  
Dave Wingrove, Chairman

Date: