

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14 December 2016

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; M Carter; M Cooper; S Crawford; B Ellison; Y Jordan; A Seymour; M Seymour; E Tidmarsh; A Tindall.

In attendance: The Clerk; Wiltshire Cllr C Berry; Mr A Wheatley; Mr M Low; Mr R Williams (parishioners)

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Prior to the meeting, Mr Williams addressed the Parish Council to run by some ideas he is considering at land at Derryfields Farm, which was previously owned by his parents. Although the farmhouse has been sold, Mr Williams still retains the land (c6.3 acres), and his proposal, still at a very early stage, would be to make some of the land available for between 6 to 10 self-build houses, with the remainder being available for the community as potentially a community orchard and allotments. Mr Williams would be looking for Parish Council support should he progress with the proposal. The Parish Council thanked Mr Williams for his presentation and said that they would give consideration to his ideas in due course.

Mr Williams left the meeting.

2016/126 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

There were no apologies for absence.

2016/127 Parish Council Vacancy

Mr Wheatley and Mr Low had both put themselves forward to fill the position, both candidates having submitted CVs which had been sent on the Councillors. The candidates were given a further opportunity to express their interests. They left the meeting for the Parish Council discuss their applications. Following a ballot, Mr Wheatley was declared the successful candidate. The Candidates returned to the meeting, Mr Wheatley signed the Declaration of Acceptance and Cllr Wingrove welcomed Cllr Wheatley to the Parish Council. Mr Low expressed an interest for any other involvement with the Parish Council, for which he was thanked.

2016/128 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Carter declared an interest in item 2016/138. Grants and Finance

2016/129 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 November 2016

The minutes of the Council Meeting 9 November 2016 had been circulated previously were agreed and signed as a true record.

2016/130 Matters to Report not included on the agenda

- Mr Ollie Phipps, the Community Engagement Officer of Wiltshire Council, had tried to negotiate with the bus company to improve the service through the village by including it on the route of services 51 and 51A. Following a Parish Council request for parishioners to contact the company directly to show the need for the service, the response had been that the company would not consider the service unless there was a subsidy forthcoming from Wiltshire Council. It was noted that, as subsidies are due to be cut, this would not be likely. The Parish Council concluded that it would no longer be pursuing the project.
- Cllr M Seymour has tried to contact the owners of Footpath 7 to request the footpath is made passable, but there has been no response and the footpath has been reported to Wiltshire Council through the "My Wilts app".

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

- Footpath 13 hedges have been cut back.
- The estate agents have been requested to remove signs from public land and, although there has been no acknowledgement of the request, the signs have been removed.
- Following a request to the Environment Agency for a meeting to discuss the strategy for the future maintenance of the River Thames from the western approach to the village, there had been a response from the Agency which stated that: "...When it comes to the river banks the EA gets involved when we are taking enforcement action as we are forced to make the riparian owner maintain the river, or possibly even clear the river ourselves but we would then bill whoever is responsible for not maintaining the channel. You need to have this discussion with the person who actually owns this section of the river.". The Parish Council considered the response and the working group responsible for the hedges, ditches and water courses agreed to meet to decide on the next strategic steps to protect the Thames for the future. Mr Low will be invited to bring his experience in riparian ownership into the equation.

Mr Low thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting

- Cllr Wingrove has contacted the new PSCO and expects to meet him in the New Year.

2016/131 Chairman's Report

- The Chairman will write to the White Hart management team for generously providing the Christmas Tree outside the pub for the enjoyment of the whole village.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2016/132 Clerk's Report

Since the last meeting, the clerk has been following up on various fly-tipping incidents, been in contact with the Environment Agency regarding the strategy for maintaining the River Thames, which included submitting photographic evidence of the state of the river. The report was noted.

2016/133 Financial Report

Income since the last meeting:

Interest (Nov) £2.70

Expenditure:

Clerk's salary (Nov)	£424.40
Room Hire (Nov)	£19.00
OSM Contract (Nov)	£816.00
Outreach Post Office costs	£780.00
Village Hall Car Park Grant	£2,725.00
Website costs	£271.16

Closing balance: £43,250.41

The Parish Council noted the report

2016/134 Footpath 20 – by Lake 82

Cllr Jordan, as requested by Wiltshire Council, had forwarded further maps high lighting the route of footpath 20 which has been requested to be re-instated. Cllr Jordan will contact Wiltshire Council in the New Year for an update on progress

Action: Cllr Jordan

The Parish Council expressed disappointment at the Wiltshire Council decision not to enforce the land owner to apply for retrospective planning for the digging of the ditches by lake 82. The Parish Council considered that this move could set a precedent.

2016/135 Transfer Of Land (footpath from The Mead to the rear of the Lotts)

The clerk has sent two signed transfer of land agreement forms back to the solicitors acting on behalf of GreenSquare, the signed copy for the Parish Council records has not been returned as yet.

Action: The Clerk

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

2016/136 Speed Indicator Device (SID)

The Speed Indicator Device has been positioned along the B4696 and has been considered to have had a beneficial effect. Whilst the data from the camera is proving tricky to download, those in the vicinity agreed that traffic did appear to have slowed and the SID was not flashing as frequently as it originally had been. The Parish Council considered that it would be useful to obtain the data showing the general profile, and Cllr Crawford agreed to extract this. This information, together with that collected by the Community Speed Watch Group, could then be published in the next newsletter. The Parish Council thanked Councillors Crawford and Ellison for enabling the siting of the SID.

Action: Cllr Crawford

2016/137 Phone Box; High Road

The clerk had forwarded information from BT that there would be a consultation period regarding the continuation/closure of the phone box in the High Road. Evidence had been forwarded which indicated that the box had been used once during the last 12 months. Should the service be removed, BT will offer the Parish Council to adopt the phone box for a nominal amount of £1. The Parish Council agreed that there was no justification for maintaining the public telephone service but they decided that the box itself should be retained in the Village. It was therefore agreed to adopt the phone box.

Action: The Clerk

It was noted that the box could be used to site the defibrillator (as has happened in many parts of the country), but this would first need to be discussed with the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr. Wingrove agreed to liaise with this Committee on this matter.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2016/138 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Planning – minutes had been circulated, there was nothing further to report
- Grants and Finance – the Draft Budget for 2017-18 had been circulated and this was discussed. (Cllr Carter left the meeting for part of the discussions on this matter.) The Parish Council agreed to amend the Budget to meet the needs of the website. The Parish Council confirmed the setting of the grants to the village organisations having obtained assurances from members of the Parish Council who were trustees of the Millennium Green that, for the foreseeable future, they could work with a grant of no more than £750 p.a. (uplifted, if necessary, for inflation). The Parish Council resolved to accept the draft budget for 2017-18.
- Open Space to include footpaths, hedges and water courses – the drop by Stone Bridge has been reported to Wiltshire Council and the response was that they are aware of the situation and monitoring to state of the road. Following road works by BT along Happy Land, the culverts do not appear to be working as they should and causing water flow in the wrong direction.
- Hatches along the Thames – the hatches by River House and Mill House have both been repaired with improved flow by the river and some silt clearance.
- Village Hall – nothing to report
- Playing Fields Committee – nothing to report
- Minerals Liaison – nothing to report
- Cotswold Water Park – it was noted that the Car Park at the Country Park was closed until a new tenancy was being agreed, however the footpaths are still open.
- School Governors – there will be a report from the school at the next meeting outlining the details of the proposed "Window Wanderland"
- Police – no report, however it was noted that the Community Police alerts were inconsistent, some people receiving generic reports and others receiving more relevant notifications, recently there have been diesel thefts from businesses.

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

2016/139 Neighbourhood Planning update

The Regulation 16 six-week consultation period closed on 14 November. There have been several comments from Parish Councillors and other Parishioners, several developers and Wiltshire Council. The independent examiner has been appointed by Wiltshire Council, Nigel McGurk, and the examination of the plan will commence week commencing 19 December 2016. The report and recommendations should be completed and returned to Wiltshire Council by the end of January. At that point, Wiltshire Council will forward to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group any revisions recommended by the inspector. The Steering Group will then address these as necessary. The final stages of the process will then involve Wiltshire Council Democratic Services who will arrange for a referendum of Parishioners to seek their approval of the Plan. It is hoped that this could be by April or possibly May. Cllr Carter was thanked for his continual efforts with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Cllr Carter

2016/140 'Our Community Matters: Malmesbury' on Wednesday 11 January 2017, 6.30pm at Malmesbury Town Hall

Councillors have been invited to attend this annual meeting, which, as last year, coincides with the next scheduled Parish Council meeting. Cllr Wingrove will be attending and others expressed an interest. Therefore, as last year, it was agreed to cancel the January 2017 meeting to enable Councillors to attend this meeting.

2016/141 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to inform the Clerk by 1 February should any additional items be required. Items already noted included a discussion on the potential proposition for the land at Derryfields Farm.

2016/142 Date for next meeting 8 February 2017

The meeting was concluded at 09.37 pm