

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12 April 2017

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; M Carter; M Cooper; S Crawford; Y Jordan; A Seymour; A Tindall; A Wheatley

In attendance: The Clerk; Wilts Cllr C Berry

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

There were no questions from the public

2017/028 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Apologies for absence accepted by the Council were received from Cllrs B Ellison; M Seymour and E Tidmarsh

2017/029 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2017/030 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 March 2017

The minutes of the Council Meeting 8 March 2017 had been circulated previously were agreed and signed as a true record.

2017/031 Matters to Report not included on the agenda

- The has been no further notification from Wiltshire Council regarding the Parish Council's request to adopt the phone box, once British Telecom have decommissioned it. Cllr Berry agreed to find out the progress at Wiltshire Council on the decommissioning of the phone boxes throughout the county.

Action: Cllr Berry

- The application for the Cable Ski Centre will be called in if the case officer at Wiltshire Council is minded accepting the application and does not confirm the conditions forwarded by the Parish Council.

Action: Cllr Berry

- Cllr Crawford had forwarded the minutes of the last meeting to Mr Corry to inform him of the Parish Council's decision regarding speed issues along Gosditch.

2017/032 Chairman's Report

- The Chairman informed the Parish Council that there would not be an election for the Parish Council in May as only eight nominations had been received for the 11 places on the Council. It was noted that Cllrs Y Jordan, A Seymour and M Seymour had stood down and they were thanked for all the work they had put in on behalf of the community.
- The Parish Council was asked if it considered that there would be any value in entering the Best Kept Village Competition for 2017. The Parish Council decided that as judging would be in May or June, there was insufficient time to prepare and that there should be a review in September to consider if entry in 2018 would be feasible. This would give a more practical lead in time to prepare the village for the competition.
- Parishioner, Mr Dave Shepherd, had contacted the Chairman with a view to applying to the TV programme "Village of the Year". The Parish Council considered the opportunity and, again, considered that there would be insufficient time to prepare for this type of competition this year, however, should Mr Shepherd wish to progress with the application, the Parish Council would not stand in his way.

2017/033 Clerk's Report

Having met with the Parish Steward, the repair to the fence along footpath 18 by the stream has been completed, the pavements along the Spine Road and Friday's Ham Lane have been cleared and a gully lorry has been to check the drains along the Spine Road. The Parish Steward hopes to be able to paint the white railings along the High Road when

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the weather improves. Wiltshire Council has been asked to re-site the grit bin by the Aggregates Industries entrance by Friday's Ham Lane to a more appropriate access point by the junction with Happy Land and the High Road. The clerk is waiting for a response. The date for the Parish and Town Council meeting has been confirmed meeting has been confirmed as 17 May 2017 – Monkton Park, Chippenham - 1900hrs to 2100hrs. Councillors were invited to attend.

Wiltshire Council is amending its litter bin provision policy. If town and parish councils wish to replace a current WC litter bin, on WC land the bin will continue to empty by WC. But permission will first be needed from WC to ensure the replacement bin is suitable.

Oil Spillage River Thames: As requested by the Parish Council, the clerk wrote to the owner of the property with the oil leak and the response noting the steps being undertaken minimize pollution in the river was circulated to the Council.

The solicitor, acting on behalf of Westlea Housing Association (GreenSquare), has confirmed that the document has been signed by the client, the solicitor has dated the document, 1 Feb 2017, and is processing the transfer with the Land Registry. To date, there has been no further correspondence.

The Parish Council noted the report

2017/034 – Approve the Annual Governance Statement -Annual Return

The Parish Council confirmed the Annual Governance Statement and the statement was signed. It was noted that the Grants and Finance Working Group would review the financial procedures during the year and make recommendations, if any, to the Parish Council.

Action: Grants and Finance Working Group

2017/035 Financial Report

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|--------------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| Income since the last meeting: | | Expenditure: | |
| VAT reclaim | £768.15 | Clerk's salary (Mar) | £424.40 |
| Area Board Grant | £480.00 | Room Hire (Mar) | £19.00 |
| Unpresented Cheque | £175.00 | OSM Contract (Mar) | £816.00 |
| | | Thames Tree Services | £840.00 |
| | | (Playing Fields grant) | |

Closing balance: £38,159.62

The annual Accounts will be prepared for signing off at the next meeting, following the completion of the internal audit later in the month.

The Parish Council noted the report

There was a discussion as to the use of investments and lack of interest received with the current banking arrangements. It was noted that the Grants and Finance Working Group would review the situation when legislation is updated to allow internet transactions.

2017/036 Footpath 20 – by Lake 82

Cllr Jordan, as requested Cllr Berry agreed to raise the matter and Cllr Jordan is continuing to correspond with Wiltshire Council. As the responses have been unsatisfactory, Cllr Berry agreed to take the matter to a higher authority within Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllrs Jordan and Berry

2017/037 Transfer Of Land (footpath from The Mead to the rear of the Lotts)

As reported in the item 2017/019.

Action: The Clerk

2017/038 Speed Indicator Device

The Parish Council was informed that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been re-activated and it was noted that those travelling in the direction of the SID were slowing. The SID is to be re-checked to ensure that it is clocking speeds at the correct rates.

Action: Cllr Crawford

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2017/039 New Bus Timetable and arrangements

It was noted that as from the beginning of April, there have been significant changes to the bus service in Ashton Keynes. Bus service 50 has been withdrawn. Other than the school/college buses, there is just one bus (No 93) from Ashton Keynes to Cirencester, leaving Ashton Keynes at 1145. Other than one school/college bus from Cirencester, there are just two buses from Cirencester, arriving in the village at 0835 and 1415 respectively. However, these buses do not go to Swindon – they go on to Minety, Oaksey, Crudwell, Charlton and Malmesbury.

Wiltshire Council has replaced buses to Swindon and Royal Wotton Bassett with a taxibus service, which must be pre-booked. It leaves from Ashton Keynes and calls at Leigh, Chelworth, Cricklade, Purton Stoke, Purton, Lydiard Millicent, Hook and Royal Wotton Bassett. It will also call at West Swindon Centre on request. There is now no direct service to/from Swindon. The idea is that in calling at Cricklade and West Swindon, the taxibus service will enable passengers to link up with ordinary service buses from these points.

Notification for this will be put in the newsletter.

Action: The Clerk

There was a discussion as to whether liaising with Minety and organising a community bus service, which requires volunteer drivers, would be feasible. Cllr Berry agreed to research the mechanism for such a service.

Action: Cllr Berry

The Parish Council agreed at this point that, in the light of these bus timetable changes, there was no longer a need for a new bus shelter by the shop. Mr Shepherd who had initiated the scheme, has indicated to the Chairman that he agreed with this conclusion and the Council agreed not to pursue this initiative further.

2017/040 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- **Planning** – minutes from the latest meeting had been circulated previously and there was nothing further to report.
- **Open Space to include footpaths, hedges and water courses** – it was noted that the grass verge along Church Walk had been cut up by traffic, but it was expected that it would settle during the summer. The working group is mapping state of water course through the village and will make recommendations in due course. Cllr A Seymour agreed to continue to assist the working group when required.
- **Village Hall** – at the recent AGM the Village Hall Management Committee thanked the Parish Council for the additional grants to assist with the repair work within the car park.
- **Playing Fields Committee** – the AGM is to be held 26 April, 8pm at the Bradstone Pavilion
- **Minerals Liaison** – no further report
- **Cotswold Water Park** – Cllrs Jordan, Carter and Wingrove had met with the Cotswold Water Park (CWP) management to discuss the potential sale of Hailstone Lake. It was gathered that to meet liabilities, the CWP had to raise funds and this was considered the most appropriate opportunity. Whilst CWP would prefer the property to be used in a way similar to its current state, they could not stipulate how a future purchaser would use the site. It was noted that the site has little amenity areas and that another site has been mentioned that it could be available by negotiation. The Councillors have arranged for another meeting 5 May, when they hope for discussions to include CWP trustees. A press release has been issued indicating that Keynes Country Park will re-open at the end of May under new management.
- **School Governors** – no further report

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- **Police** – no report has been received, however the PCSO has been attending the Village Hall on some Tuesday mornings, to coincide with the opening of the Post Office and the Women’s Institute Coffee mornings.
- **Annual Parish meeting** – 15 May 2017 – invitations to organisations within the parish are to be issued shortly and notification placed in the newsletter.

Action: The Clerk

Bus Shelters High Road and Kent End – in the light of the discussion on item 2017/039, the Parish Council agreed that there was no longer a need for a new bus shelter by the shop. Mr Shepherd, who had initiated the scheme, has indicated to the Chairman that he agrees with this conclusion and the Council agreed not to pursue this initiative further.

2017/041 Neighbourhood Planning update

Following the examiner’s report and ratification from Wiltshire Council, the Neighbourhood Plan working group has received notification that the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan will take place on 25 May 2017. Prior to that date, there will be two further open events for the parishioners to view the Plan and check the amendments made by the Examiner and agreed by Wiltshire Council, these events will be on 13 May and 17 May. Flyers are to be distributed and notification placed in the newsletter, the Village website and on the “Next Door” website, to encourage as many as possible to vote.

Action: Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

2017/042 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to inform the Clerk by 3 May should any additional items be required.

2017/043 Date for next meeting Wednesday 10 May 2017 – this will be the annual meeting of the new administration. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 15 May 2017

The meeting was concluded at 08.58 pm