

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8 November 2017

Present: Cllrs M Carter; S Crawford; B Ellison; A Levens; M Smith; E Tidmarsh; D Wingrove.

In attendance: The Clerk; Mr & Mrs Philips (members of the public)

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Prior to the meeting, Mr Phillips addressed the Parish Council to re-iterate his concerns regarding the temporary floodlights at the High Road Playing Field. Mr Phillips had been given the impression that the Parish Council had given permission for the floodlights to be used at the site. However Mr Phillips was informed that this was not the case. Mr Phillips also requested that the Parish Council discuss the position of the current Chairman of the Playing Fields Management Committee as he felt that there is a conflict of interest here. Mr Phillips was informed that as the subject of the temporary use of floodlights at the playing field was on the agenda, the Parish Council would discuss the issue at the appropriate time. Mr Phillips was thanked for his observations.

2017/116 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Apologies for absence accepted by the Parish Council were received from Cllrs Cooper, Tindall, Wheatley and Wilts Cllr Berry.

2017/117 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2017/118 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 October 2017

The minutes of the Council Meeting 11 October 2017 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

2017/119 Parish Council Vacancy

There have been no applications received for the vacancy

2017/120 Matters to Report not included on the agenda

- Cllr Wingrove has contacted the other Chairs in the Minety ward to arrange a meeting regarding the Community Bus Service. The response has been that they are prepared to discuss the subject to ascertain if it is worth pursuing. A date has been arranged for Monday 13 November.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

- Cllr Ellison has commenced with the refurbishment of the telephone box. Once completed, the defibrillator can be moved from the side of the village hall to the more prominent position of the phone box. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Ellison for the work that he has undertaken so far, and agreed to purchase defibrillator signage that fits the K6 box and replace the notice that says Telephone.

Action: Cllr Ellison, the Clerk

2017/121 Chairman's Report

- The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Council is commencing a review of its Core Strategy, with a view to extending to 2036. The consultation period commenced on 7 November and runs through to mid-December. There are

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several briefing sessions and Cllr Wingrove will attend the session to be held in Chippenham on 16 November, which should give more clarity to the process and how this effects the current Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that there is a comprehensive compendium of information on the consultation page of the Wiltshire Council website.

- There has been a request from a gentleman, from outside the parish, for the audited accounts from the last five years, he is in receipt of the last three and the fourth will follow shortly. However, as his request referred to the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan, the necessity for any previous years appears irrelevant as the Neighbourhood Plan process did not commence until November 2013.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

- Cllr Wingrove will lay a wreath, on behalf of the parish at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November.
- The next meeting of the Area Board has been scheduled for 10 January 2018 in Brinkworth. As this date clashes with the Parish Council meeting, Cllr Smith agreed to attend on behalf of Ashton Keynes.

Action: Cllr Smith

2017/122 Clerk's Report –

The report had been circulated previously and it was noted that since the last meeting, no suitable bin has been identified to be moved a site along the Thames path by the B4696. The notice regarding the Best Kept Village Competition has been inserted in the Parish Newsletter. The clerk emailed the clerk to South Cerney Parish Council regarding planning approval for the signage for Jennie's Kitchen at the junction of Friday's Ham Lane and the Spine, to date the clerk has not acknowledged the request. Contact details for South Cerney Parish Councillors is restricted to home addresses only. The clerk is liaising with Aggregates Industries to re-arrange the Minerals Liaison Group's meeting, which had to be postponed due to illness. From Wiltshire Council, it was noted that a Velocity Patcher is used for pothole repairs, which carries out repairs quickly and efficiently, especially in rural areas. Wiltshire Council has requested that local parishes ensure that mud is cleared up from the roads and encourage farmers and contractors to fulfil their obligations. There has been a further request from Wiltshire Council, requesting local parishes to assist in helping maintain access to their areas by working with local landowners in trimming back private hedges and trees. A parishioner had requested the Parish Council approach Wiltshire Council to replace the current village signs with those that included pictures of tractors, riders, cyclists and ducks which indicate the rural nature of the village in an attempt to slow traffic, mostly delivery vans, through the village. The matter was discussed. However, as Wiltshire Council has indicated previously that the siting of any new/replacement signage would not be considered, the Parish Council agreed not to pursue the matter. PCSO Bordiss has agreed to attend the village with a speed gun. However when he last visited the High Road, he did not find any evidence of speeding. It was noted that PCSO Bordiss might like to check speed along Happy Land as well.

The Parish Council noted the report

2017/123 Financial Report

Income since the last meeting:

Expenditure:

Clerk's salary	£440.80
OSM Contract	£900.00
Room hire (Oct)	£19.00
Open meeting room hire	£27.00
Outreach Post Office costs	£780.00

Closing balance: £50,921.21

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The draft budget was presented to the Parish Council to review with the reminder that the budget would need to be ratified by December. The Parish Council made no comments to the budget presented. Currently, there has been no planned increase in the precept for 2018-19.

The Parish Council noted the financial report

2017/124 Neighbourhood Planning Project review

Cllr Levens was thanked for the commencement of the two projects. The Historic group has met and has contacted Wiltshire Council with a view to get Wiltshire Council to adopt the Conservation Statement. The group would like to be made aware of planning applications that could affect the nature of the village. It was agreed that Cllr Levens would receive the Planning Committee agendas and he could disseminate these as appropriate.

The Environment group have set the date for the initial litter picking day, Sunday 12 November. Cllr Levens has set up two groups on the "Next Door" website, the public group to receive intermittent updates, while the private group, for those who require more in-depth details on specific elements. The steering group intends to meet in the near future to set out a more strategic way forward, which could include identifying trees of significance within the village.

Action: Cllr Levens

Mrs Phillips left the meeting

2017/125 Best Kept Village Competition

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) organises the Best Kept Village competition with Hills Waste Solutions Ltd annually. Notification had been made in the Parish newsletter regarding the competition and for anyone interested in assisting the Parish Council to contact the Chairman. To date, no-one has come forward. Cllr Wingrove requested the Environment group to identify areas that required attention, so the Parish Council could make a concerted effort to ensure these areas improved prior to the judging.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2017/126 Gravel extraction Wheatley's Farm to Three Bridges

An open meeting, held in the Village Hall, had been called by Ashton Keynes Parish Council to enable parishioners to express their views on a planning application that is likely to be submitted shortly for the extraction of sand and gravel from land adjacent to Wheatley's Farm, Ashton Keynes. Approximately 50 Parishioners were present. Neither the applicant nor his agent was present. Cllr Wingrove gave a short presentation based on the information that had been provided by the potential developer at the September meeting, together with information that the Parish Council had gleaned from a subsequent meeting with the potential developer. Concerns raised by the parishioners included flood/ water management, both the short term management of water during the extraction process and the long term effects following restoration; wildlife, which, in the long term the site might be favourable for wildlife, in the short to medium term there could be disruption to wildlife currently resident, over a period of 8 to 10 years, and might result in some species leaving the area; highways issues, which included keeping the roads clear of mud, increase in heavy traffic over the next 8 years, traffic displacement through locals using alternative routes and are the bridges in the area fit for purpose; how many more potential gravel extraction sites are there in the area; issues around land use after extraction; effect of dry extraction process on airborne dust levels in the area, and the public health implications of this; concern about a historic bridle way running through the site. It was felt there is a need for clarification why use of conveyor belts were not economically viable

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(at least in part) while tarmacing of internal roads was. (Conveyor belts would significantly reduce lorry movements within the site, cutting noise and air pollution from exhausts). It was noted that parishioner, Mr Winstone, has written to James Gray MP, requesting him to intervene once the application has been made. The Parish Council confirmed that no further discussions regarding the potential application could be had until the Council had sight of the official application.

2017/127 Temporary floodlighting High Road Playing Field

Parishioner, Mr Phillips, had requested the item be discussed. Furthermore Mr Phillips had requested that the Parish Council discuss the position of the current Chairman of the Playing Fields Management Committee as he felt that there is a conflict of interest here. As to the latter part of the request, it was noted that this was not appropriate as the Chairperson of the Playing Fields is elected annually at the Playing Fields AGM and is outside the remit of the Parish Council. There was no discussion on this matter. The Parish Council has requested guidance from Wiltshire Council regarding the use of temporary floodlights and is awaiting a response. Cllr Wingrove has approached the Playing Fields Chair and it has been agreed that the Friday night training sessions for the Girls Football team be transferred to the Bradstone Playing Field. The Wednesday evening sessions coincided with another activity at the Bradstone, but these sessions would on the High Road would cease by 29 November. The Parish Council considered the compromise to be satisfactory, but should there be further incidents, the Parish Council would review the situation. The motion was proposed by Cllr Tidmarsh, seconded Cllr Smith:

The Wednesday evening activity should be allowed to continue until its planned cessation on 29 November and that the Friday night activity be transferred to Bradstone, as offered. The vote was in favour unanimously.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2017/128 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

• Planning

a) Application: 17/06974/FUL Amended Plans

Address: Land at Dairy Farm Bungalow & Dairy Fields

Proposal: Erection of 27 dwellings, provision of staff car parking for Ashton Keynes School, provision of open space, new access and associated works including retention of footpath routes through site. (Revision to 16/07440/FUL)

Decision: Ashton Keynes Parish Council submitted its original response to this Planning Application on 17 September 2017. This further submission from the Council addresses the 'Partridge Homes (Cotswolds) Ltd Response to pre-submission draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan September 2017', henceforth referred to as 'the Document'. The Applicant's agent has presumably included the Document here because he regards the draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan as prejudicial to his client's application. The start of the Document makes passing reference to the 'made' Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan (AKNP) and tries to imply that the proposed development is consistent with the AKNP. This is completely untrue, as detailed in the original (i.e. 17 September) response of the Parish Council. The Document then recognises that the need for the housing in the proposed plan is not supported, in any way, by the comprehensive series of detailed housing reports and calculations which have been used in the formulation of the Wiltshire Core Strategy

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(now adopted) and the AKNP (now 'made'). The Document also recognises that the proposed housing is outside both the current Settlement Boundary and that proposed in the draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan. It tries to question the validity of the proposed Settlement Boundary, in spite of the fact that documentation supporting the draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan demonstrates the rigour of the methodology of the process of determining the proposed Settlement Boundary. In short, the Document's response to the inconvenient facts associated with housing needs and settlement boundaries is simply to say that it is quite satisfactory to ignore them. The fallacious arguments put forward in this Document should be summarily dismissed since they have no validity and since it is clear that the Document unashamedly seeks to discredit the draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan for no other reason than to promote the planning application of the client.

Proposed: Cllr Wingrove; seconded Cllr Carter, voted in favour unanimously

b) *Application: 17/10278/FUL*

Address: Cleveland Lakes, Cleveland Farm

Proposal: Change of use to centre for non-motorised water sports and associated ancillary development

Decision: No objections – proposed: Cllr Carter, seconded Cllr Levens, voted in favour unanimously

- **Open Space to include footpaths, hedges and water courses** – The map from the Environment Agency had proved useful in locating the watercourse through Back Street and Kent End and had confirmed the direction of flow. Bottlenecks are being identified along these courses, which can cause a backflow depending on the height of the Thames. The ditch between Ashfield and Harris road has become overgrown and the clerk will inform Wiltshire Council as the responsible body for the land both sides of the ditch

Action: The clerk

- **Review of tree work – footpath 18 (The Lotts to Park Place)** – Cllr Carter had raised the issue of felling all the conifers along Footpath 18 as it made the footpath dark and blocked light from the street light, the trees being on Parish Council land. However, several Councillors were opposed to the felling of all the trees and considered crown reduction may be more appropriate. Cllr Wingrove had contacted the neighbours to the tree line and the preferred option was crown reduction with pruning of the lower branches to head height. Cllr Wingrove will reply to the neighbours to say that the Parish Council would like to fell the two conifers by the Park Place entrance with 50% crown reduction to the other conifers along the path.

Actin: Cllr Wingrove

- **Village Hall** – Cllr Cooper had reported that the Village Hall Management Committee thanked the Parish Council for bringing forward the grant for 2018-19 to enable the Velux replacement to be completed

- **Playing Field Committee** – no further report

Mr Phillips left the meeting

- **Minerals Liaison** – there is to be a meeting with Aggregates Industries in November/ December.
- **Cotswold Water Park** – no further report

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- **School Governors** – Pupil numbers are maintained at 210 with 1 recent leaver and 2 new joiners from village families; after a long gap, there is a new Scout group starting in the village, linked to the school and using the hall as a venue; the school has received a grant to enhance its wildlife and pond area and has recently received the Sports Gold Mark award in recognition of the excellent sports provision at the school. The school is aware of the revisions to the planning application for housing behind Gosditch, but has not been consulted about the staff parking or access elements. Wiltshire Council has advised there is no realistic likelihood of any money for new buildings to replace the ageing temporary classrooms; the Governors are setting up a working group to look at other options. The Parish Council agreed that Cllr Crawford would be the representative on the working group. It was noted that The Friends of Ashton Keynes School (FOAKS) had applied to Area Board for a £5,000 grant towards a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), the Parish Council was disappointed that the MUGA at the Bradstone was not used by the school.
- **Police** – PCSO Bordiss regularly attends the WI coffee morning, although the next date is unknown

2017/129 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to inform the clerk by 6 December should any additional items be required.

2017/130 Date for next meeting 13 December 2017.

The meeting was concluded at 09:29pm