

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; S Crawford; M Cooper; N Inzani; M Smith; B Low; R Blackaller; P Moran; \*M Carter.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk and 4 Members of the Public.

The meeting commenced at 7:20pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the members of the public to speak if they so wished. One member of the public was in attendance as an interested observer regarding the Councillor vacancy. The other 3 members of the public were representing The Derry. A group of residents are concerned about the potential risk of flooding to a number of properties in The Derry. The group have been proactive with river clearance in the village in the hope that the help would be reciprocated. Members of the group have been liaising with the Flood Risk Management Group and have now identified maintenance that could help alleviate the risk of flooding. The ditch in The Derry has not been cleared for some years, last time it was cleared it was paid for by a number of residents. There is now believed to be 2 foot of silt that needs dredging from the ditch and used to build up the bank. 10 interested parties of residents/riparian owners have verbally agreed to pay a share towards the costs of dredging and the group would like to ask the Parish Council for a contribution.

The Chairman thanked the members of public for coming together and for the works carried out so far. Agenda item 100b was moved up the agenda due to the interested members of public in attendance.

A member of the public added that the proposed work will take the silt out of the ditch and water will be directed into the river which would reduce flood risk and the backing up of water in the village.

### **20-21/091 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ellison.

### **20-21/092 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Low asked for it to be noted that she was a resident of The Derry.

### **20-21/093 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> October meeting were approved and signed.

### **20-21/094 Actions from Previous Meeting**

20-21/081 – Interested parishioner is in attendance of the meeting as an observer.

20-21/082 – The Chairman continues to be involved in WALPA, Wiltshire Councils 5 year land supply is still being worked on. There is another WALPA meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November which the Chairman will attend.

20-21/085- The Clerk has contacted the resident regarding trees in The Lotts to inform them of the Councils decision.

20-21/086 – The Grants and Finance Committee will discuss grant proposals at its forthcoming meeting.

20-21/087 – The Priory Pizza van visited the village and positive feedback was received.

A councillor noted that there were a number of old items on the action tracker. All Councillors are to look at the action tracker and update the Clerk on actions.

**Action: All Councillors**

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **20-21/100b Flood Risk Management Working Group**

The Environment Agency were asked if they can assist with silt dredging in the Thames or give a dispensation on the fee they charge for a permit to use mechanical means for clearance. Unfortunately they have not been able to offer either. The offer of a demonstration of river clearing by a number of EA workers will still be available to us at a later date when conditions allow.

As heard at the start of the meeting, a number of residents in The Derry along with a Riparian Owner have grouped together in recent weeks to tackle ditch clearance. To date this has been a manual effort by a few residents, which has shown some improvement to drainage. However, due to the long stretch of the ditch on the South side of the road, and the depth of silt and debris that has built up over the years, it is acknowledged that the only effective way of restoring the ditch as a drain is to have it dug out by mechanical means. The Working Group have been liaising with the co-ordinator of the Derry Ditch Clearance Group providing advice, and also contact details of the owner of a digger with experience of ditch clearing work. A quotation for digging out a stretch of ditch in The Derry has been obtained by the co-ordinator of the Group. This includes a digger, driver, and banksman. The co-ordinator has advised that the cost of this work has been agreed to be shared between the Riparian owner of the ditch and a number of residents.

To support this well organised initiative by the Derry Ditch Clearing Group the Flood Risk Management Working Group would like the Parish Council to make a contribution towards the cost of the digger and workmen. The Working Group would like to recommend a contribution of £500, and are seeking the approval of the PC.

This matter was not included as an agenda item and therefore cannot be resolved at this meeting. We have to work within stringent rules and need to look into the appropriate mechanism to be able to pay such a contribution. An alternative contractor was recommended. It may be necessary to hold an extra meeting to resolve this matter before the next planned Parish Council meeting. Chairman of Council, Chairman of Working Group and Clerk to liaise with The Derry Co-ordinator.

**Action: Cllrs Wingrove & Carter, Clerk**

2 members of the public left the meeting.

## **20-21/095 Parish Council Vacancy**

A notice of vacancy has been published and an interested member of public is in attendance as an observer.

## **20-21/096 Chairman's Report**

Every year the Parish Council lay a wreath on remembrance Sunday and make a £25 donation to the Royal British Legion. A wreath has been laid and all Councillors agreed to the donation.

Demand on the Street Warden Scheme has tailed off recently and will be closed at the end of December 2020. Many vulnerable people now have help in place where needed. Concern was raised at the recent increase of Covid-19 cases in the area and the scheme may be needed more now. The names of the volunteer wardens are still available to those who need assistance the formal scheme would be brought to an end.

## **20-21/097 Clerks Report**

A report was sent out prior to the meeting. Councillors were asked to liaise with the Clerk should they require training. The Council agreed to the purchase of Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration Twelfth Edition.

# Ashton Keynes Parish Council

## 20-21/098 Financial Report

**Income since the last meeting:**  
VAT Reclaim £ 170.97

**Expenditure since the last meeting:**

OSM Contract September	£ 900.00
Sharples Tree Surgery	£ 175.00
M.J Gardner & Co	£4236.00
Admin & Phone Costs	£ 696.41
PKF Littlejohn (Audit)	£ 240.00
Idverde Ltd (Waste Bin)	£ 178.02
Cotswold Water Park Trust	£ 500.00
Website Support	£ 191.50
Zoom Video Comms	£ 14.39
Village Hall Outreach Post Office	£ 780.00

Closing balance: £27,519.92

The Parish Council noted the financial report and approved the income and expenditure to date.

## 20-21/099 Boxing Day Duck Race

The Annual Boxing Day Duck Race is a long-standing tradition in the parish and brings in around £3000 for the Youth Football Club. As this is an important event the organisers do not want to cancel it this year and are intending to hold a virtual stream of the duck race on Boxing Day. Due to current restrictions people will be encouraged not to attend in person but to buy tickets and watch the event online.

The Chairman agreed that it would be a shame to cancel completely but reemphasised the importance of people not gathering to watch the race.

## 20-21/100 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning**  
New drawings have been received from Wiltshire Council regarding Wheatleys Farm development and will be sent out to all tomorrow.  
The Change of Use of an area of land at Ashfield has been approved by Wiltshire Council, with conditions.
- b) **Flood Risk Management** – Discussed earlier in agenda.
- c) **Internal Affairs** – Grants and Finance Committee will be meeting soon to discuss budget.
- d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.
- e) **Village Hall** – No report.
- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – The annual inspection of play equipment has taken place and defects have been found, some items are now out of use and remedial action needs to be taken. There is some ageing equipment in place which may be beyond repair. The replacement of play equipment is likely to be a project for the near future.  
The committee received a grant for a new boiler which has now been installed.
- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – No report.
- h) **School Governors** – It was requested at a recent meeting that a matter be brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Due to the current Covid-19 rules only staff and pupils are allowed on school premises, the school has staggered drop off and collection times, but parents and children are still having to wait in the road outside school. The number of delivery vans going past is causing concern and is likely to rise as we approach December.
- i) **Police** – There was an incident at the shop this week which the police are currently investigating.
- j) **Highways** – A Highways Improvement submission has been made but as yet no response has been received from Wiltshire Highways. Chair will respond to Matt Perrott regarding the 7.5t limit signs in the near future.

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

The Community Speed Watch group have provided a list of speed signs that are faded/worn in some way, these have been reported using My Wiltshire but are not currently being treated as a priority.

- k) Footpaths & Cycle Routes** – A footpath inventory has been updated and nearly all 29 footpaths in the parish have been walked. The main contact of the working group has also built a good working relationship with the Senior Rights of Way Warden at Wiltshire Council. The stile discussed at last months meeting has now been taken down. Cllr Blackaller has stood down from the working group leaving one councillor and potentially 3 members of public in with working group. It was mentioned that the WI in previous years have shown a keen interest in footpaths. It was noted that a security guard with dogs is approaching walkers attempting to use Footpath 3, Wilts Cllr Berry was asked to raise this matter. Cllr Low to chase Senior Rights of Way Warden for a response. The inventory will be updated quarterly.
- Action: Cllr Berry & Cllr Low**
- l) Ashton Keynes Charities** – Will be individually delivering Christmas donations this year instead of giving out the money on one morning in the Village Hall.

## **20-21/101 Matters for the next meeting**

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda at least 10 days before the next meeting.

## **20-21/102 Date for the next meeting**

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 8.41pm

\*Please note that Cllr Carter was able to see and hear 2 thirds of the meeting but due to technical difficulties was not able to be seen or heard.