

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 9th December 2020

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; S Crawford; M Carter; M Cooper; N Inzani; M Smith; B Low; R Blackaller; D Ventham.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk and 2 Members of the Public.

The meeting commenced at 7:17pm

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 hoping to be co-opted onto the council. Stephen Butcher was in attendance, a resident of Chelworth for 8 years he will be standing in the elections next May.

20-21/106 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ellison and Moran.

20-21/107 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Carter declared an interest in agenda item 114.

20-21/108 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 11th November 2020 and 25th November 2020

The minutes of the meetings held on 11th November and 25th November were approved and signed.

20-21/109 Actions from Previous Meeting

20-21/094 – Still awaiting updates from Councillors, action marked as ongoing.

20-21/100b – The Derry Ditch clearance works have been completed.

20-21/100k – Stephen Leonard the Senior Rights of Way Warden at Wiltshire Council will look into the issues raised regarding the Cotswold Community Footpaths. Cllr Berry will investigate prior to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Berry

20-21/110 Parish Council Vacancy

Cllr Crawford proposed the Co-option of Dominic Ventham, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Blackaller. The Parish Council voted in favour of the proposal and Dominic Ventham was welcomed as a Councillor. A Declaration of Acceptance form was signed at the end of the meeting witnessed by the Clerk.

20-21/111 Chairman's Report

A Zoom meeting of WALPA was attended by the Chairman yesterday. Latest figures show that Wiltshire Council has a 4.5 year supply plan rather than a 5 year plan. The position with Neighbourhood Plans is currently unclear, there is an advisor that we could get intouch with. Cllr Berry stated that if you have a made and voted on neighbourhood plan that has been reviewed after 2 years then a 3 year housing plan is sufficient. The review should look into the housing need and would need to be publicised before being submitted to Wiltshire Council. The Wiltshire Council Local Plan is being updated with a consultation due in January. If we decide to update/review our plan the Local Plan would be useful. Cllr Berry to provide cabinet paper to Chairman.

Action: Cllr Berry

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A lot of work went into the Neighbourhood plan and it should be reviewed, we need to understand what is required to protect ourselves from development whilst assuring we have enough houses.

Action: Cllrs Smith & Wingrove

The Telephone Box has been standing empty for some time now, a book and jigsaw exchange have been suggested as ways to make use of the telephone box while we await updates on the Art Installation idea. Some work would need to be done i.e. shelving, it was suggested that the Parish Council could provide some of the materials for this. Chairman to liaise.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

Heals charity in Malmesbury have been in touch to ask if we would like to refer anyone who is lonely, vulnerable, or isolated that would benefit from having a Christmas dinner delivered. 5 parishioners have been put forward.

20-21/112 Clerks Report

A report was sent out prior to the meeting. The Clerk has attended a number of remote training courses/webinars recently. The Parish Steward is an asset that we need to make use of. Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any jobs to be reported to the Parish Steward. A Councillor mentioned an issue with mud on the road from builders and the fly tipping that is still to be dealt with. All Councillors were reminded to use My Wiltshire to report such issues.

Action: Cllrs Crawford & Low

20-21/113 Financial Report and Budget

Income since the last meeting:

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 565.40
OSM Contract October	£ 900.00
Zoom Video Comms	£ 14.39
WALC Training x 2	£ 72.00
Lexis Nexis - Arnold Baker 12 th Ed	£ 119.99
RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 25.00
Corinium Plumbing & Heating	£ 3560.40
Play Inspections Company	£ 270.00

Closing balance: £21,992.74

It was requested that the totals for the savings accounts be included in all Financial Reports.

The Grants and Finances Committee had met and provided a draft budget for consideration of the council. The proposal was to keep the precept the same for next year. Village Grant allocations were discussed, it had been taken into consideration that the Village Hall had an increased allocation this year, however there is an acceptance that the Parish Council will need to help fund the building from time to time. The Parochial Church Council did not submit an application and it has also come to light that there is legislation that prohibits Parish Councils from providing financial assistance to the Church. The Parish Council voted in favour of keeping the precept for 2021/22 the same as 2020/21 at £35,450. The Parish Council voted in favour of the budget breakdown figures provided.

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

20-21/114 Website Support Contract

Cllr Carter was put into the virtual waiting room by the Clerk. There are no changes to the contract from last year. Renewal of the contract will be automatic unless either party wishes to invoke the termination section. The Parish Council agreed with the continuation of

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the contract. Cllr Carter was brought back into the meeting and thanked for his continued work.

20-21/115 Planning Application 20/09593/FUL

The Chairman of the Planning Committee shared his screen to show the drawings for planning application 20/09593/FUL. It was agreed that the Parish Council would Object to the planning application for the following reasons: Although described by the applicant as a temporary building, this is clearly a residential proposal.

The location is outside the Settlement Boundary of the village and therefore, results in 'village creep.' The proposed scheme is contrary to the guidance on new residential development as described in our made Neighbourhood Plan. This site is also a car dependant location, as there is very poor public transport available. The position of the static home will be very visible from the B4696. The current septic tank installed on the site is not suitable for residential development.

We consider that the development would harm the setting of the conservation area due to the physical built forms, additional noise, smells, lights and vehicle movements.

There is a precedent example of a similar scheme being refused previously by Wiltshire: 15 The Derry. (16/10419/FUL)

Action: Clerk

20-21/116 Ashton Keynes Charities

One of the two trustees nominated by the Parish Council is coming to the end of his term of office which means the Parish Council need to nominate a trustee. The existing candidate is happy to be put forward for another term. The Parish Council voted in favour of Ernie Tidmarsh to continue for another term as nominated trustee to Ashton Keynes Charities.

Action: Clerk

20-21/117 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning** – No Report
- b) **Flood Risk Management** – The Derry Ditch clearance work was carried out last week, we would like to express our appreciation of the riparian owner and residents involved. This should prevent flooding onto the road during periods of heavy rainfall and possibly drain away some of the field flooding into the Thames. Photos have been published on the website. Members of the working group attended a series of Flooding webinars given by Communities Prepared, a presentation will be distributed to all councillors. Debris blockages are being investigated near Flood Hatch Copse and Mill House. The section of the Thames adjacent to the Thames Water Pumping station is in need of tidying. The EA have been asked to contact Thames Water as the riparian owners. As we are entering the Winter period it is expected that the groundwater level will rise, and watercourse/river levels will rise too. Periods of heavy rain will add to these increased levels. The flood plain fields South of the village are already showing signs of flooding, as happens every year. Whilst this can be expected to slow the flow of the Thames South of the village, it is not seen as flooding risk itself. The Working Group will continue to inspect key sections of the watercourse network, and in particular monitor key locations for signs of flooding risk.
The Chairman thanked the working group for all that they had done this year.
- c) **Internal Affairs** – No Report.
- d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.
- e) **Village Hall** – No report.
- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – No report.
- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – The CWP Trust had another studio shoot session over 2 days at Cleveland Lakes which resulted in the permissive path being closed for 2 days.

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- h) School Governors** – The school continues to be an asset with the highest number of pupils on role and has again been listed in the top 250 primary schools in the country and are now at 125th out of 16,769. The school are handling the current crises exceptionally. Members of the fundraising group have produced a Thank you video which will also be used as the prospectus while potential new parents are unable to visit the school in person. The Chairman will write to the Head Teacher from the Parish Council.
- Action: Cllr Wingrove**
- i) Police** – No report.
- j) Highways** – Earlier this year it was reported that the Happyland/Waterhay bend needed improvement, we have applied to CATG who met last week and approved our application for better signage. Wiltshire Highways will now look into the works, however, there is a current backlog so nothing will happen soon. CATG funding will need funding from the Parish Council in the region of £600, final costs for approval will be available in future.
- k) Footpaths & Cycle Routes** – All footpaths have now been walked or inspected; some are currently underwater. 3 footpaths have been cleared of overhanging brambles and a working group has been put together to clear FP25 & FP27. Moreton Cullimore has continued to be proactive in keeping paths clear and has been really helpful. Requests have been received regarding walkways through the village, it was suggested that we reissue the note in the February newsletter regarding keeping footpaths and walkways clear. The footpaths section of the website has been made more prominent. The Chairman expressed his thanks for all the work carried out so far regarding footpaths.
- l) Ashton Keynes Charities** – No Report

20-21/118 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.

20-21/119 Date for the next meeting

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 13th January 2021. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 9.23pm