

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Present: Cllrs G Bridge (Chairman), M Carter, M Jackson, S Jefferson, Y Jordan, M Seymour, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh, D Wain and I Woods

The Chairman began by mentioning a letter he had received from the residents of Gosditch, spelling out their concern over the increase in noise from Cullimore's Dairy Farm site. He said he would deal with the subject at the end of the Agenda items. The Chairman also reported that the Village Hall Title Deeds had been found, after being lost for more than 40 years, so Agenda item 13 would be removed.

## **2009/126 To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden and Cllr J Freeth.

## **2009/127 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2009/128 To confirm the Minutes of Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman after amending the spelling of the word 'Sherston' in Minute 2009/113.

## **2009/129 Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk said he had two matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting. The first was to do with the last bullet point of the Clerk's Report, wherein he said he had obtained the Highways Rights Map from the Area Engineers; it did not tell him who owned what land, i.e verges, in the village. Cllr I Woods suggested that the Map should be magnified to show the verges, which should indicate the owner.

The other matter the Clerk wanted to report was that he had raised the form on the issue of safety at North End crossroads and sent it to Malmesbury Area Board. He said the Board will meet in Malmesbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, which will coincide with the date of the November Parish Council meeting.

## **2009/130 Wheeled Sports Facility**

Cllr S Jefferson reported on the work he had done thus far and distributed an Initial Consultation Document among the members. He agreed to e-mail the Clerk with a copy for distribution to the members. Cllr I Woods then raised the issue of a mobile Skate Park, which he thought should be investigated before considering a permanent option. A lively discussion followed during which various aspects of the facility were given consideration, such as who should be driving the project and some of the reservations. In conclusion, the members agreed with the Chairman that they were happy to continue progressing with the project.

**Action: The Clerk**

## **2009/131 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he would like to begin by giving his half yearly report on the financial position of the Parish Council. In July, he had reported that as of the 30<sup>th</sup> June there was £50,111.73 in the three Bank Accounts. In September, we received the second half of our Precept allocation of £16,342.50 and, in the last three months, we have also received a further £15,652.32 in the VAT refund and other amounts, giving us a total income of £31,994.82. Over the same period, he

said, we have spent £42,553.48, much of which was destined for the Village Hall. So, as of 30<sup>th</sup> September, we had £39,553.07 in the three Bank Accounts. The Chairman commented that a statement should be placed in the next Parish Magazine to the effect that the cost of the Village Hall recent improvements had been paid for largely by Grants obtained by the Village Hall Management Committee.

**Action: The Clerk**

- Now that we have a full Council, he would shortly be starting to undergo the change of signatories mandate for the Parish Council Accounts. He asked the members to bear with him, but all banks insist on carefully checking and double checking the details of every signatory.
- He said there was a need to agree who would form the Grants and Finance Working Group. The Working Group traditionally consisted of three Councillors and himself. He said the Chairman had agreed to be one of the members of the Working Group and, in response to a request for volunteers, Cllrs Y Jordan and I Woods also agreed to be part of the Working Group.
- He said that Age Concern Wiltshire had invited a representative from the Parish Council to attend their AGM in the Corn Exchange, Devizes on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October between 1.45 and 4pm. He said he had the documentation if anyone would like to attend.
- The Parish Council had been invited to send a donation to Vitalise in Essex, who provide respite breaks for disabled people, enabling their carers to have a rest. The members said the Parish Council had oversubscribed donations from the Precept and the Clerk was asked to write appropriately to Vitalise.
- He said his last item was, as usual to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month, which would be recorded and passed on to Wiltshire Highways Partnership. The only item submitted was for the ditch between Eastfield and Four Acres Close to be cleared out. The Chairman said that if Wiltshire Highways decline to do the work, he would like them to provide their reasons in writing why they are denying responsibility.

**2009/132 Financial Transactions**

**a. Payments Received:**

The Council noted that the following payments had been received:

• <b>VAT Refund</b>	<b>£ 7,911.52</b>
• <b>Telephone Directory Sales</b>	<b>£ 56.00</b>
• <b>Second Half of Precept</b>	<b>£16,342.50</b>

**b. Payments Made:**

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

• <b>David Clover (Grasscutting in September)</b>	<b>£ 800.00</b>
• <b>Village Hall (September Room Rental)</b>	<b>£ 17.00</b>
• <b>Clerk's Salary (September + 1% salary rise)</b>	<b>£ 632.84</b>
• <b>Clerk's Expenses (August &amp; September)</b>	<b>£ 171.52</b>

**2009/133 Standing Orders**

The Clerk reported that only one member had suggested some changes to the amended Standing Orders, which had been introduced into the document. He said that he had subsequently had to make one small corrigendum in Paragraph 9.

The members indicated that they supported the changes and the Clerk said he would have the replacement Standing Orders printed and distributed.

**Action: The Clerk**

#### **2009/134 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports**

Cllr Y Jordan reported that the problem of creating the Public Rights of Way through Keynes Country Park continued to rumble on and mentioned that a third of the footpaths were in Wiltshire. The Working Party formed from the three Parish Councils want people who walked the footpaths 10 to 20 years ago to contact them and help to structure their case.

Cllr I Woods reported that the rabbit-proof fencing between the Millennium Green and Bradstone had become badly damaged and the rabbit and fox problems on Bradstone Sports Field had got much worse of late; consequently, he said, a cull was in the process of being carried out.

#### **2009/135 Playbuilder Grant**

Cllr I Woods handed out a High Road Playing Field Project document on the Playbuilder project which, if approved, would be built between the Youth Shelter and the Aerial Flight. The document showed the schedule of costs, photos of the Bloqx 5 and drawings of the Velocity 2 and the positions of the equipment on the Playing Field. Cllr Woods said he had submitted a grant request to Wiltshire Council (WC), but he did not know as yet whether or not WC would agree to it. He said there might be a shortfall in the funding and asked whether the Parish Council would agree to support funding the difference. The Chairman said not until the Council know how much the short-fall amounted to.

A lengthy discussion then followed during which a number of issues were raised, such as the life expectancy of the equipment, whether the colours of the highly coloured Bloqxs could be changed and for what age group the project was being designed. The Chairman felt there may be a need for a public consultation to cover all the issues. After a number of Councillors indicated their non support for several reasons, Cllr E Tidmarsh suggested a triangular rope climbing equipment as an alternative. Cllr Woods said he didn't mind either way, but the Government and WC were sponsoring more adventurous projects; the grant would be for an extending risk element. In conclusion, the members were prepared to accept Cllr Woods proposal in principle. Cllr Woods said if any member had other ideas for providing an adventurous project would they discuss them with him and support them with costs.

#### **2009/136 Speeding on Recently Resurfaced B4696**

Cllr R Thomas said several people in the village had complained about speeding on the B4696 since it was resurfaced. Cllr M Seymour said it was not just cars that are speeding, but the lorries as well. It was suggested that our Community Policeman should be invited to our next Parish Council meeting to discuss the situation. The Chairman said he had e-mailed Wiltshire Police about the situation. He reported that County Cllr C Soden would be having a meeting in December with Parish Council Chairmen, with the Police Traffic Management Unit in attendance.

#### **2009/137 Dog Fouling**

Cllr I Woods reported that the incidence of fouling by dogs on the Bradstone Sports Field had become unbearable. He said that recently, while cutting the grass at Bradstone, David Clover was forced to change clothes after so much excrement had been thrown onto his clothing. Cllr Woods said that the Parish Council has responsibility for the health of people, especially children, walking on Bradstone and the simple answer would be to ban dogs from the Sports Field, however, there are public rights of way so that is not possible. He said it might help if the footpath was to be diverted behind the pavilion for a couple of years. Another idea by Cllr Woods was to increase the size of the Dog Signs at the four entrance points to Bradstone, which would cost about £1,000. Cllr D Wain suggested that an appropriately worded leaflet

should be given to every dog walker. The Chairman closed the item by saying that we need a Bye-Law for Bradstone Sports Field, which will be investigated.

**2009/137 Review the Parish Council Risk Assessment**

The Clerk reported that the only member to contact him about amending the Parish Council Risk Assessment was Cllr D Wain. Cllr Wain had pointed out the need to introduce an item assessing the use of the new Parish Council Desktop Computer and an assessment of the use of the Parish Council Thermal Imaging Camera and Laptop. The Clerk read out his input to the Risk Assessment of the Computer, which was accepted, but he said he would require an input from someone in the Green Ashton Working Group about the Camera and Laptop. Cllr M Jackson agreed to write a Risk Assessment on the Camera and Laptop and send it to the Clerk.

**Action: Cllr M Jackson**

**Dairy Farm Complaint**

The Chairman read out much of a letter that had been sent by Mr Rick Pratten on behalf of the Residents of Derryfields, Gosditch and Dairy Farm complaining about the increased noise levels emanating from the Dairy Farm site. The Clerk said he had spoken to Dean Thomas, the Enforcement Officer in Wiltshire Council, who said he was already looking into the complaint. After further discussion, it was agreed that a Sound Level Meter Datalogger should be obtained at a price of £129.80, to include a Calibration Certificate, which would be sited in an appropriate position. The data would then be given to the Environmental Health organisation, to persuade them to set up a monitoring station with their equipment for recording specific noise levels. Cllr I Woods said the equipment would also prove useful for monitoring noise level when the work begins on Lake 81. The Chairman proposed the purchase of the Sound Level Meter Datalogger, which was seconded by Cllr E Tidmarsh and approved unanimously.

**Action: The Clerk**

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.55pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.45pm**