

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Primary School Hall on Wednesday 8th December 2021

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; M Carter; S Crawford; N Inzani; B Low; P Moran; C Sims; M Smith.

In attendance: Fiona Ryder – Clerk.

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave instructions in case of fire. The Clerk read out a Covid-19 statement.

21-22/106 Public Section

There were no members of public in attendance and no written representations had been received.

21-22/107 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blackaller, Hill & Ventham.

21-22/108 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

21-22/109 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10th November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2021 were approved and signed.

21-22/110 Actions from Previous Meeting

21-22/061 – The Parish Emergency Plan has been updated. An article will be included in the February newsletter explaining the plan and asking for Community Volunteers. The Parochial Church Council have been looking into a similar set up of volunteers. AK Link Helpline could also be involved. Covid street wardens will be contacted.

Action: Cllrs Wingrove and Moran

21-22/090b – The Chairman is liaising with the enforcement officer who was due to make a site visit today. A member of the Flood Risk Group has investigated and spoken to the Environment Agency. The EA will liaise with the Enforcement Officer.

21-22/101 – A further report on marking the Queens Jubilee will be brought to the January meeting.

21-22/103n – Details of the next Area Board meeting were passed on as requested.

21-22/111 Chairman's Report

The inquiry into footpath 41 has taken place online, the case went well, the inspector will now produce a report.

We received concerns regarding the ditch running along the High Road Playing Field at Happy Land. A local contractor was found who was prepared to carry out ditch and hedge works for a small fee of £70. The council agreed to the payment.

21-22/112 Clerks Report

The Clerk had reported that there were 18 Ash Trees on the 2019 tree survey, 8 of which are on Playing Fields land. As the Playing Fields Committee and Open Space Maintenance contractor regularly keep an eye on the state of the trees it was agreed that these trees would continue to be included in the 5-year tree survey program and did not need to be surveyed earlier.

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The Clerk had met with a contractor regarding trees at Kent End/Harris Road and is awaiting a quotation. As there were some safety issues identified, the Clerk has also contacted Wiltshire Council. Cllr Berry will be asked if he can press the safety issue.

Action: Clerk

A parishioner had made contact today to report a tree that was coming down on Happy Land. The tree is on land that backs on to the playing field but is not on playing field land. A councillor had inspected the tree and did not deem it as dangerous. The Parish Council have no record of ownership of the land.

A case of dangerous trees on private land has been reported. One tree has already come down and there is concern that more will follow, however, the landowner is not concerned and will not be taking any preventative action. The Parish Council have been asked to get involved. Chairman will seek guidance from Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

21-22/113 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 566.54
OSM Contract	£ 900.00
Village Hall Room Hire	£ 27.00
Community Heartbeat Trust	£ 120.00
Hughes - Daffodil Planting	£ 100.00
Website Expenses	£ 301.75
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	£ 30.00

Closing balance: £28, 503.00 2

The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

The Grants and Finance Committee had met and prepared a budget which was circulated prior to the meeting. The budget includes village grant proposals of:

£1500 for the Village Hall

£3400 for the Playing Fields

£750 for Millennium Green Trust

The Village Hall had requested a larger sum, as per last year and we know it is likely that the Village Hall will require additional expenditure, however, we have already ring fenced a sum to cover this, and so the standard grant has been proposed.

Last year the Millennium Green spent slightly under the grant given, it has been proposed that we award the same grant this year with the understanding that it is to be spent in its entirety or it will need to be reduced the following year.

£1000 was included in the budget for the maintenance of the community assets in the church yard. An increase of funds has been included in the budget for Parish Projects. A precept of £36,335.00 was proposed, this is a slight increase on last year of 2.31% which amounts to an annual increase of £1.19 per band d property.

Concern was raised that building costs, labour and materials had all risen significantly in the past 12 months and that we should look to increase the precept inline with rising costs. The Parish Council reserves are healthy and are in the middle of the recommended range.

A vote took place and the proposed budget was agreed unanimously.

21-22/114 Date of Meetings Next Year

The Village Hall have asked if we would consider holding our monthly meetings on 3rd Wednesday of the month so that we can continue to support them. The 3rd Wednesday of the month was suitable for all councillors in attendance. Clerk to contact absent councillors.

Action: Clerk

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21-22/115 Clerks Expenses Policy

The policy provided by the Internal Affairs Committee was approved and adopted.

21-22/116 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) **Planning**
Minutes and Agenda for planning meetings continue to be circulated to all. A meeting will be arranged for 20th December at the earlier time of 6.30pm.
- b) **Flood Risk** – Nothing to report.
- c) **Internal Affairs** – Nothing to report.
- d) **Village Hall** – Further work is now being progressed regarding the long-term plans for the hall. Options are being investigated for setting up a trust fund for modernising/rebuilding the hall for when it is needed. This will be raised as an agenda item for discussion in the future. Next meeting is being held tomorrow.
- e) **Playing Fields Committee** – Nothing to Report.
- f) **Cotswold Lake Trust** – There is interest from a filming company, this is currently at discussion stage.
- g) **School Governors** – Nothing report.
- h) **Police** – Nothing report.
- i) **Highways** – Nothing report.
- j) **Footpaths & Cycle Routes** – Nothing report.
- k) **Ashton Keynes Charities** – Nothing report.
- l) **Parochial Church Council** – The PCC are looking to expand the pastoral support that they provide within the village. This was discussed earlier in the meeting in conjunction with the Emergency Plan. The Village welcome pack is also being updated and the PCC would like to know if the Parish Council want anything else including in the pack. The PCC would also like to know if there are organisations specific to Wiltshire that could be listed in the pack. PCC representative was given contact details for the Area Community Engagement Manager. PCC representative to provide Chairman with a welcome pack so that we can see what is already included.

Action: Cllr Low

It was asked if there was a network of 'welcomers' at the church? PCC representative to enquire.

- m) **Phone Box Project** – Nothing to report.
- n) **Speed Mitigation** – Nothing to report.

21-22/117 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda and to submit any reports for the Committees, Working Groups and Representatives section well in advance of the next meeting as it will be affected by the Christmas break.

A request from the Playing Fields Committee for a financial contribution towards the new equipment will be added to the agenda for January.

21-22/118 Date for the next meeting

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 12th January 2021 at Ashton Keynes Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.36pm