

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs S Crawford (Vice-Chairman); M Carter; G Carter; S Hill; N Inzani; M Low; D Ventham.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk, three members of public.

23-24/159 Public Section

One member of public was in attendance to raise the issue of water still coming down the footpath from Mill Field to Church Walk. The Parish Council have contacted the landowner who has said that it is not their responsibility. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Berry.

Action: Clerk

Two members of public raised issues with the B4696 when traffic is diverted from the A419. The A419 was closed 16 times in January, the B4696 is currently unsuitable for the increased traffic.

23-24/160 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Wingrove, B Low and Romback.

23-24/161 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23-24/162 Parish Council Vacancies

There is still one vacancy.

23-24/163 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2024 were approved and signed.

23-24/164 Actions from Previous Meeting

23-24/103 – Cllr Inzani has raised the Tree Warden role at a meeting of the Millennium Green. The role is still available.

23-24/155 – The Clerk has contacted other local clerks regarding issues with Playdale Zip-wires. One local council did have an issue but it was minor and is now sorted.

23-24/165 Chairmans Report

There was no Chairmans report this month.

23-24/166 Clerks Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Renewal of SLCC annual membership at a cost of £144 was approved.

The upcoming visit from the Gully Service Crew has been advertised. Cllr Inzani has arranged to walk the village with a member of public to identify gullies to be included on the list.

Action: Cllr Inzani

The Council resolved to request a free of charge portrait of the King. To be displayed at a location to be agreed.

Action: Clerk

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Correspondence:

Wheatleys Farm Gravel Extraction – A call was received from a parishioner reporting that the information published in the newsletter stating that the application was refused was incorrect and that Earthline will be digging the gravel and taking it to Latton for processing. The Planning Officer at Wiltshire Council has confirmed that they have had no further applications relating to the site.

Pavement on Gosditch adjacent to Dairy Farm – Email received reporting dangerous potholes. Advised to report to Wiltshire Council using MyWiltshire. Discussed with the Parish Steward who has visited site and carried out repair works.

Rixon Gate Flooded Ditches – Email received regarding concern of flooded ditches and overflowing lake.

This was discussed with the Parish Steward who advised that the tractor team are currently working their way around and should be in Ashton Keynes in the near future. They may be able to carry out some works to the ditches. Steward advised reporting the concern using MyWiltshire.

23-24/167 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Lloyds Bank

Income since the last meeting:

Playing Fields Hire	£ 954.00
HMRC VAT Reclaim	£1301.24

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Village Hall Hire	£ 30.00
HMRC	£ 48.77
Payroll Compliance	£ 12.54
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 110.84
Castle Water	£ 8.99
Village Hall Grant	£3500.00
Clerks Expenses	£ 115.51
Swindon Fire Protection	£ 69.49
HJ Carter	£ 220.00

Unity Bank

Income since the last meeting:

Wiltshire Council Cil	£111,088.17
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Expenditure since the last meeting:

Account Fees	£ 18.00
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The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

23-24/168 Highways Improvement Request B4696

The Council agreed with issues raised regarding the B4696, a working group was set up some time ago to initially deal with issues raised regarding the Thames Path crossing. Verge protector markings are a good idea. Cllr Crawford agreed to complete the HIR form requesting traffic calming measures, village gates and verge markings, however, the B4696 will still need improving.

It was asked why the Speed indicator device was located where it is. This is due to the metal pole that it is situated on, there are restrictions on where you can locate them at the side of the road.

The Council approved white village gates.

Action: Cllr Crawford

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23-24/169 Best Kept Village Competition

The Council agreed to enter the competition again this year. Cllr Ventham agreed to complete the application.

Action: Cllr Ventham

23-24/170 Telephone Box

A number of requests had been made regarding the telephone box. The solar power light had been experimental and is not perfect, it is not getting enough sunlight in winter. The Council resolved to purchase an external box for the solar light to assist with maintenance.

Action: Cllr M Carter

A request had been made for the repainting of the telephone box, there is paint left over and an offer to repaint the box was accepted.

The current keyholders, K Gray and R Blackaller were approved.

23-24/171 Playing Fields Committee

Cllr Hill had contacted the training company regarding the Zip-wire, they were not very forthcoming. A company that would carry out an inspection was contacted, the cost of the inspection would be £449 plus VAT and would include all other equipment on site, the report will advise on any remedial repairs.

It was agreed that Cllr Inzani would contact Playdale.

Action: Cllr Inzani

It was noted that there is still some fitness equipment to be installed at Bradstone.

23-24/172 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) Planning Committee (SH) – Nothing to report.
- b) Internal Affairs Committee (SC) – Nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall (BL) – Nothing to report.
- d) Cotswold Lake Trust (ML) – Nothing to report.
- e) School Governors (SC) – Nothing to report.
- f) Police (DW) – Nothing to report.
- g) Highways (SC) – Nothing to report.
- h) Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Waterways (BL) – nothing to report.
- i) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – Nothing to report.
- j) Parochial Church Council (BL) – Nothing to report.
- k) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- l) B4696 Road Safety (SC) – Nothing to report.

23-24/173 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 at least 10 days in advance of the next meeting.

23-24/174 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 20th March 2024 at 7:15 p.m. at Ashton Keynes Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.23pm