

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); S Crawford (Vice-Chairman); M Carter; N Inzani; B Low; M Low; T Romback.

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

23-24/175 Public Section

Four members of public had attended to give an update presentation on the Acorn Biodigester application. The slides of the presentation will be sent to the Clerk, anyone wishing to view the presentation can contact the Clerk.

One member of public wished to address the Council to raise a number of issues: Gumstool Bridge which is grade II listed, has been damaged.

The footpath at Cleveland Farm was meant to be reinstated as part of the planning restoration plan.

Cyclists using the Thames Path and other footpaths. Requested 'no cycling' signage.

Erosion of the bank at Church Walk from Gumstool to Mill House, there is a cable underground that is at risk of being exposed if erosion continues.

The member of public was thanked for bringing the matters to the attention of the Council.

Cllr Low will Liaise with Stephen Leonard regarding 'no cycling' signage. Cllr Berry will investigate what action Wiltshire Council can take to discourage cycling on footpaths. Cllr Wingrove will investigate other matters raised.

Action: Cllr Low, Cllr Berry & Cllr Wingrove

23-24/176 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Carter, S Hill and N Inzani. Cllr Ventham was absent.

23-24/177 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23-24/178 Parish Council Vacancies

There is still one vacancy, which is regularly advertised.

23-24/179 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2024 were approved and signed. Vice Chairman Cllr Crawford was thanked for chairing the meeting.

23-24/180 Actions from Previous Meeting

23-24/159 – Clerk has emailed Cllr Berry regarding the issue of water coming down the footpath from Mill Field to Church Walk.

23-24/166 – Two councillors walked the village with a member of public to identify gullies to be added to the list for the upcoming visit.

Action: Cllr Inzani

23-24/166a – A free of charge portrait of the King has been ordered.

23-24/168 – Cllr Crawford has been working on the Highway Improvement Request and will be submitting it shortly.

23-24/169 – Clerk to chase Cllr Ventham for an update on the Best Kept Village Competition entry.

Action: Clerk

23-24/170 – Cllr M Carter is sourcing an external box for solar light at telephone box.

Action: Cllr M Carter

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23-24/171 – Cllr Inzani has been provided with all information regarding the Zip-wire and has been getting legal advice.

23-24/181 Chairmans Report

There was nothing to report.

23-24/182 Clerks Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

The Parish Steward visited Gosditch to deal with Potholes and broken pavement as reported by a parishioner. Shovelled mud off the footway on the Spine Road, there is a ticket for further clearance of the mud but no date as yet. Filled in various potholes around the village.

The state of the road at the top of Cox's Hill and the presence of one single traffic cone, was reported to the Steward, he was going to investigate.

The Clerk attended the RMSG A417/419 stakeholders briefing held at Stratton House Hotel in February. A lot of work is planned on the A419 between now and March 2026, this will mean a number of closures and diversions, especially overnight. It was agreed to discuss minimising road closures in both directions where possible. It was suggested that when both sides of the A419 are closed at the same time, only one direction be diverted along the B4696 and an alternative diversion was suggested for traffic in the opposite direction.

Martin Cook confirmed that the B4696 became a diversion route to take traffic out of Cricklade due to a housing development and complaints from local councillors. Since then, there has been a lot of resurfacing work in Cricklade that would make the road quieter. He suggested that when both sides of the A419 are closed at the same time, Cricklade be used in one direction and the B4696 in the other.

Wiltshire Council Highways will be having monthly meetings with RMS and assured that they would keep the B4696 on the agenda.

Contact from Parishioners

Happy Land Ditch – The grass verge along Happy Land has pipes running through from the road into the ditch to drain rain. Over time, mud & leaves have blocked the openings to these, so rainwater builds into very large puddles. It would be useful to clear these blockages to keep the road free from flooding.

While we're on the subject of rainwater, the developers of Carters Field have put in pipes to allow excess water from the site to run into the ditch.

I would like to know, going forward, who will be responsible for keeping the ditch clear of debris & plants to enable free flowing of water along the ditch to avoid flooding in Happy Land. *Responded explaining riparian ownership responsibilities and will speak with the Parish Steward regarding clearing the pipes. Wiltshire Council buildings inspector was on site late February.*

Happy Land and Waterhay Ditches - I was wondering when the parish council plan to clear and unblock the ditches and get the water flowing, as now there will be all the water run off from

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the new house been built going into the ditch also for the road to be looked at as the work they have done to the road is a right old mess if this could be looked at that would be much appreciated.

Responded explaining that many of the ditch's act as reservoirs and due to the level of rain recently, they are likely to remain full. Wiltshire Council Streetworks department are dealing with the road.

Lake 82/33 – Concern was raised that there has been some drainage works carried out that have affected the flow of water and caused flooding.

This is a civil matter between landowners, the Lakes Trust are aware and are investigating as are the Environment Agency.

23-24/183 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Lloyds Bank

Income since the last meeting:

Playing Fields Hire £ 258.00

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Village Hall Hire	£ 30.00
HMRC	£ 48.43
Payroll Compliance	£ 12.54
SSE Bradstone	£ 562.41
SSE High Road	£ 209.81
Telephone Box Supplies	£ 33.34
Spot on Supplies	£ 72.74
SLCC Annual Membership	£ 183.00
HP Laptop	£ 799.00

It was noted that the expenditure is looking likely to come in just under budget again this year. The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

23-24/184 Local Emergency Schemes

Wiltshire Council have advised of an Emergency Contact Hub scheme, it was agreed that this should run alongside the Ashton Keynes Parish Council Emergency Plan. Work is required to condense the AKPC Emergency Plan.

Action: Cllr M Low & Cllr Wingrove

23-24/185 Open Space Maintenance Contract Renewal

The Council approved the continuation of the Open Space Maintenance Contract.

Action: Clerk

23-24/186 Annual Parish Meeting

A number of ideas were discussed to encourage attendance by members of the public. Chairman and Clerk to arrange a date.

Action: Clerk & Cllr Wingrove

23-24/187 CIL Funds

Just over £111,000 has already been received, with two similar payments expected to follow. Had we not had a Neighbourhood Plan in place, this amount would be significantly smaller. This is a good opportunity for the Council to spend on a large project in the village. Section 9.2.1 of the Neighbourhood Plan contains a CIL funded project list which should form the starting point of discussions on spending.

It was agreed to set up a small working group to provide initial spending plans to be presented to full Council.

Action: Cllrs Wingrove, B Low, T Romback and M Carter

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23-24/188 Flood Protection Initiatives

A paper had been circulated outlining action taken in other local parishes to ditches. Clearing ditches and building up banks will increase capacity to deal with heavy periods of rain. It was proposed that a working group be set up to investigate ditch works in Ashton Keynes. It was pointed out that ditch works should be being carried out by riparian owners, Wiltshire Council have recently announced an increase in expenditure on roadside ditches. It was also noted that due to high ground water levels in the village, ditches are likely to fill up from the bottom. Wiltshire Council are currently running behind with their ditch clearance works but are due to visit Ashton Keynes in the near future.

Action: Cllr M Low

23-24/189 Grant Policy Annual Review

The Grant Funding Policy and Grant Funding Application form were approved.

Action: Clerk

23-24 190 Playing Fields Committee

There was no update.

23-24/191 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) Planning Committee (SH) – Minutes and Agenda circulated.
- 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) – Minutes of latest meeting circulated. The working group would like to write to riparian owners to request access to private land to walk watercourses in September, to identify any works needed and offer assistance. The Council agreed for letters to be sent.

Action: Cllr B Low

School children walking the footpaths around the village was raised, it is important that the next generation are aware of the footpaths.

Action: Cllr B Low

Stephen Leonard has responded and will be taking action on issues raised.

- 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.

23-24/192 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.

23-24/193 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 17th April 2024 at 7:15 p.m. at Ashton Keynes Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm