

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Ashton Keynes Primary School on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); M Carter; G Carter; N Inzani; M Low.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry; Fiona Ryder – Clerk.

24-25/135 Public Section

There were no members of public in attendance.

24-25/136 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hill; Crawford; Romback; Ventham.

24-25/137 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

24-25/138 Parish Council Vacancy

There are currently two vacancies to be filled by Co-option.

24-25/139 Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 20th November 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2024 were approved and signed.

24-25/140 Actions from Previous Meeting

24-25/062 – Neighbourhood Plan actions from last month were carried forward.

Action: Cllr Crawford

24-25/122 – A letter has been produced for the renewal of the use of the telephone box as an art gallery for a further 24 months.

24-25/123 – Response to Highway Improvement Request has been sent as discussed.

24-25/124 – Parish Council Storage discussions action carried forward.

Action: Cllr Crawford

24-25/125 – Vexatious Policy has been adopted.

24-25/128 – The Village Hall have been contacted regarding the new Parish Council Representative.

24-25/145 – Leak on footpath at Church Walk, Clerk to email Cllr Berry.

Action: Clerk

24-25/146 Planning Public Inquiry – PL/2023/03298

This item was brought up the agenda by the Chairman.

The Planning Inspectorate have rejected the request for the Planning Inspector to be recused. A complaint has been lodged on the inadequacy of the Planning Inspectorate's response, this will be followed up with further observations.

Although the public part of the Inquiry had finished on Friday 18 October 2024, the Inquiry was, technically, adjourned rather than closed. This was to allow the Inspector to finalise the Conditions to be attached to the Application (should the Appeal be passed). The Inspector had raised concerns regarding the implications of the use of a part of High Road by vehicles travelling between the two parts of the proposed quarry. He had requested that Wiltshire Council, in consultation with the Appellant, comprehensively review this and submit a further report. Yet again, we were initially thwarted in our attempts to make our own comments on this document but finally, having re-engaged the services of our KC, were able, last week, to submit our response to these 'Highways' issues.

On 24 November, an email was sent to Roz Savage saying that although we had not yet had the official ruling from the Inspector on the Inquiry, we would like to put in place the initial steps that would be needed to get the Secretary of State to act in this manner. Roz's caseworker, Lisa Hepworth, responded on Roz's behalf saying: "This situation is of utmost

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importance, and I briefed Roz this morning when we met. It is something that the parliamentary assistant will pursue for me today and I will get back to you as I can with the way forward."

Notwithstanding the complaints that we have lodged with the Planning Inspectorate, and the potential involvement of the Secretary of State, we are still awaiting the Inspector's decision.

24-25/152n – Flood Protection Initiatives Report

This item was brought up the agenda by the Chairman.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was reported that during a recent storm, ditches in the village were full and in places, overflowing, drain covers on Back Street and Fore Street were spilling water into the road. Thames Water and the Environment Agency were contacted, Thames Water confirmed that water had entered their sewerage system, they pumped out the system and the water levels dropped.

The report noted several ditches and sections of river that could be improved.

A detailed plan showing where potential issues are, and the responsible riparian owners will be produced.

Action: Cllr Low

Thames Water and the Environment Agency will be contacted requesting a visit and enforcement action where needed.

Action: Cllr Low

Include in newsletter a request for home/business owners to report if they suffered flooding either internal or external and any issues with flushing toilets during the recent storms (Bert/Darragh).

Action: Clerk

24-25/141 Chairmans Report

A response to the letter to Thames Water regarding the new development connecting to the system has been received. Thames Water state "We can confirm we'll be modelling the impact of the development on our waste network and if this shows detriment to our network we'll deliver a scheme to provide the necessary reinforcements.

We'll also be liaising with the Developer to understand their build profile with the aim to agree a phasing plan to mitigate any adverse impact on the network whilst the new site is built out".

The Parishioner who raised the issue has been informed and the matter will continue to be pursued.

24-25/142 Clerks Report

There was no Clerks Report.

24-25/143 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

HMRC VAT Refund £ 273.00

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Scribe	£ 42.00
HMRC PAYE	£ 62.71
Payroll	£ 10.90
Village Hall Hire	£ 60.00
M Carter Expenses	£ 152.39
OSM Contract	£ 990.00
R Lewis Roofing	£6174.00
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 14.35
RBL Poppy Appeal	£ 30.00
Chairmans Expenses	£ 408.38

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Playing Fields

Income since the last meeting:

Playing Fields Hire £ 620.00

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Bradstone Cleaning	£ 120.00
YGP Electricity	£ 119.05
Castle Water	£ 21.59

The Council approved the finance report, income and expenditure and payments.

24-25/144 Planning

Application: PL/2023/03359

Proposal: Construction and operation of anaerobic digestion facility, ancillary infrastructure and construction of new access from Ashton Road.

Address: Land West of Ashton Road

The Parish Council agreed to continue to object to the application. Draft text circulated prior to the meeting was approved.

Action: Clerk

8.10pm NI left the meeting.

24-25/145 Budget and Precept

The Grants and Finance Committee met on 27th November to discuss the precept and budget for 2025/26, a proposal was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was proposed that the precept be held with a 0% increase in cost for parishioners, due to a rise in tax base this would still mean a small rise in precept for the Council. Whilst this may lead to a higher increase in future, CIL funds currently held are expected to be used.

The following grants were included in the proposed budget:

Millennium Green Trust - £ 885.00

Maintenance of Community Assets in the Churchyard - £ 1000

Telephone Gallery Expenses - £ 50.00

The Village Hall Committee have been allocated £0 from the precept, with CIL funds being available.

Proposed annual donations are as follows:

RBL Poppy Wreath - £ 30.00

Community Heartbeat Trust – Village Emergency Telephone System - £ 100 (plus VAT)

Outreach Post Office - £ 865.00

Projected available reserves at the end of 2024/25 of £25,902.52 were approved as being within the scope of the Councils Reserves Policy.

Cllr Wingrove proposed the budget and precept as provided by the Grants and Finance Committee, Cllr M Carter seconded the proposal, the Council voted unanimously in favour.

24-25/147 Financial Regulations

Updated Financial Regulations were circulated prior to the meeting. The following modifications were proposed:

3.7: Council to appoint internal auditor.

5.6: Delete as it is covered by 5.7 and 5.8, keep the wording "The recommended tender process is shown in Appendix 1".

5.15: Figure needs to be agreed with the Chairman of the Playing Field Committee, Clerk and Parish Council Chairman.

Cllr Wingrove proposed adoption of the new financial regulations with the modifications stated, Cllr Low seconded, the Parish Council voted unanimously in favour.

Action: Clerk

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24-25/148 Risk Assessment

There were no changes to the risk assessment, the Council approved the policy.

Action: Clerk

24-25/149 Reserves Policy

There were no changes to the Reserves Policy, the Council approved the policy.

24-25/150 Emergency Planning

The Emergency Contact Hub model provided by Wiltshire Council Emergency Preparedness Group is a framework that can be adapted to meet the needs of village in the event of an emergency. A visit from the group will be arranged and the Village Hall will be contacted.

Action: Cllrs Low, G Carter and M Carter

24-25/151 Playing Fields Committee

There was no update from the Playing Fields Committee.

24-25/152 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 () – 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 () – Nothing to report.
- k) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- l) B4696 Road Safety (SC) – Nothing to report.
- m) CIL Funds (TR) – Nothing to report.
- n) Flood Protection Initiatives (ML) – Report circulated and discussed.

24-25/153 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.

24-25/154 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 15th January 2025 at 7:15 p.m. at Ashton Keynes Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.36pm.