

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); M Carter; M Cooper; B Ellison; A Seymour; M Seymour; A Stefanovic; E Tidmarsh; K Winstone

In attendance: The Clerk, Unitary Cllr C Berry, five members of the public – Mr G Ford; Mr D Mobley; Mr T Waller; Mr I Woods; Mr C Yeates

Prior to the meeting, Mr Yeates addressed the Council, as a representative of the Ashton Keynes Cricket Club (AKCC), to validate the purposes of the request for advertising boards to be placed along the tree line in the Bradstone Playing Fields. The Cricket Club have been attempting to raise funding and this appeared to be the natural course of events. Mr Woods, representing The Ashton Keynes Playing Fields Committee (AKPFC), addressed the Council stating that the AKPFC supported the project and evidence from the "Fields in Trust" website indicated that the organisation also supported this type of self-help by sports clubs.

Mr Ford, Mr Mobley and Mr Woods left the meeting

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 12 March 2014

2014/023 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Cllr R Thomas to whom the Council extended its best wishes for a speedy recovery; Unitary Cllr C Berry had been delayed, arriving later in the meeting for item 12

2014/024 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

Declarations of Interest were noted from Cllr D Wingrove on item 10

2014/025 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 February 2014

The minutes to the meeting held on 12 February 2014 were confirmed and signed.

2014/026 Co-option of new Councillor

The council had advertised through the parish magazine with applications to have been received by Monday 10 March 2014. Further notification is to be placed in the Parish Magazine, inviting potential applicants to 'observe' a meeting in order to gain an insight to the functions of the Parish Council.

2014/027 Appointment of Vice Chairman

Since no nominations had been brought forward and in order to give all Councillors an opportunity, the position of Vice Chairman has been held open until the May meeting.

2014/028 Matters to Report

- Cllr Berry had sourced the statistics regarding the number of applications that miss the deadline for determination:

Description	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 target
(%) Major Applications Determined within 13 Weeks	52.23%	70.00%
(%) Minor Applications Determined within 8 Weeks	61.86%	75.00%
(%) Other Applications Determined within 8 Weeks	79.79%	85.00%

- The Clerk has contacted the AKPFC for an update on the enhancement of the playground equipment and it had been indicated that applications for accessing the

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Section 106 funds will be ready for the April meeting. The Council require assurances that the residents in the locality have been consulted the improvements to take place.

Action: The Clerk

- Cllr A Seymour updated the Council on the Flood Planning and confirmed an article will be placed in the Parish Magazine outlining the situation and requesting volunteers to assist in a flood plan.

Action: Cllr A Seymour

- Cllr M Seymour had contacted the site manager at Aggregate Industries (AI) Ltd and confirmed that sand would be made available for sandbags as and when the need arose, providing bags were made available, any potential costs would be confirmed at the point of use. Furthermore an offer of delivery to the affected areas had been made. A letter thanking the company for this offer and bags for potential use sourced.

Action: The Clerk

- The Village Hall been successful in its application for a grant from Wiltshire Council, having indicated that the Parish Council were also supporting with financial aid, and have requested to draw down the initial £1,000 for the external works to the roof.

Action: The Clerk

- The dog waste bag dispenser has been fixed on the Village Hall wall.
- Cllr D Wingrove asked Cllr B Ellison to proceed in arranging the meeting between themselves and Mr M Cullimore.

Action: Cllr B Ellison

- It was noted that website access had improved. Councillors should inform Cllr M Carter if there are any further issues.
- The additional salt purchased by the Council had been covered for further protection from adverse weather.
- Discussions with the Wiltshire Highways Community Co-ordinator, Matt Perrott had resulted in three potential ways to progress. The council discussed the various options and RESOLVED:

- to accept the offer by Wiltshire Council to move one of the bins at the end of Harris Road and position it on the boundary fence by The Lotts playground, thereby incurring no additional costs to the Parish Council.
- to have the bin situated within the Bradstone Playing Field along the Thames Path removed. The cost to the Parish Council for the removal of the waste from the site had been considered unsustainable. Notification of the reasons behind the decision to be put in the Parish Magazine.

Action: The Clerk

Mr Waller left the meeting

2014/029 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had attended the Area Board and met the recently returned Highways Community Co-ordinator, Matt Perrott. The Chairman had raised the issues the previous officer had attempted to resolve and the response was the same as set out in the Clerk's report.

The issue surrounding the Parish Council part funding the additional signage along the B4696 had been disputed, however Wiltshire Council are charging all town and parish councils alike.

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A resident in Happylands had reported the potential road hazard caused by the farmer 'muck-spreading'. It was confirmed that a councillor had met up with the farmer concerned and had been assured that there would only be one more field to fertilise and that the dry weather had eased the situation. Assurances had been obtained that the farmer would clear any spillages and was inspecting the roads at the end each day. The Council are to ask the residents to monitor the situation.

Action: The Clerk

The date and time for the Annual Parish Meeting was discussed and the Council RESOLVED:

- o to hold the Annual Parish Meeting prior to the monthly meeting on Wednesday 9 April 2014 from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm.
- o to invite other village organisations to provide static displays of reports and send representatives if they so wish, which would enable parishioners to ask questions to the relevant parties
- o to place an open invitation in the Parish Magazine.

Action: The Clerk

Potential use of Section 106 funds available to the Parish Council had been identified as lighting along the footpath to the Church, from Church Lane. The feasibility of the proposition is to be undertaken and reported back to the Council.

Action: Cllr K Winstone

Flooding had been identified at the junction from Gosditch onto the B4696. It appeared to be the result of ditch infilling and further problems with the junction had given raise to the fence that restricted the views for drivers exiting Gosditch. Wiltshire Highways are to be informed once evidence of the problem has been sourced.

Action: Cllrs M Seymour, E Tidmarsh, The Clerk

There was a request for the Chairman's report to be circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman explained he wished to leave the current procedure as it stands and that he circulated material and placed them on the agenda, occasionally there were matters that needed to be brought to the attention of the Council at short notice. E.g. the 'muck-spreading' issue above

2014/030 Clerk's Report

The paper containing the clerk's report had been circulated previously.

Points to note included:

The hedge along Happylands by the High Road Playing Fields had been cut

The negotiations with GreenSquare for the adoption of the footpath from The Mead to Four Acre Close were with the GreenSquare conveyance team. It was noted that Wiltshire Planning had requested an amendment to one plan and neighbours had not received notification of the change and not given the opportunity to assess the amendment. Wiltshire Council declared they had sent out letters to the relevant parties, who were the neighbours who would be most affected by the amendment. The Parish Council had not been notified of the amendment to the application by Wiltshire Council, but GreenSquare were giving regular updates to Cllr D Wingrove.

The Council had been requested to make a decision regarding the purchase of 'gel-sacs' from Wiltshire Council, this action had been superseded by the resolution to accept the offer by Aggregate Industries (AI) Ltd.

2014/031 Financial Report

The financial report had been circulated previously. This was in the form of income received and expenditure on a month by month calculation, which was compared with the budget set for the

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year. The forecast to the year-end had been affected by the receipt of the grant from the Community Development Fund (CDF) for the Neighbourhood Planning process. The grant is intended to run throughout 2014, so the predicted surplus of c£7,000 includes restricted funds (principally the Community Development Fund of £6,300) to be carried forward to the next financial year. To assist the Council in assessing free reserves, a re-formatted version of the previously agreed budget for 2014-15.

Payments in February of significant amounts were:

➤ Clerk's employment costs (gross) £607.43

Receipts:

➤ Interest £4.45

2014/031 Bradstone Playing Fields – potential advertising

The Ashton Keynes Cricket Club (AKCC) had requested permission to seek advertising boards to be displayed around the pitch. Permission for signage from the Council has been set out in the lease agreement with 'Fields in Trust'.

Whilst accepting the AKCC had researched avenues of additional funding, the method proposed was seen as a potential for 'opening the floodgates' for other organisations to follow suit at the Bradstone and the High Road Playing Fields. Therefore the Council would need to more in depth information on which to make a considered decision.

The Council RESOLVED to postpone any decision and to request:

- the AKCC to confirm whether or not planning permission would be required as the Playing Field was in a conservation area
- to confirm that with a public footpath crossing the field, the area was deemed an enclosed playing field, which could impact on the legality of this type of action
- to consider alternative advertising methods, e.g. temporary advertising boards

Action: Cllr D Wingrove

Mr Yeates left the meeting

2014/032 Highways

o **B4696, roundels and white gates**

At the previous meeting, the Council had resolved to accept additional signage as suggested by Wiltshire Council, but at that point the Council were unaware of the cost of 25% of the total cost of the works. The Council RESOLVED unanimously, to accept the additional signage at a cost of £500.

Action: The Clerk

The feasibility of placing white gates at the entrances to the village had been under discussion previously, any further discussion would be held over until the effect of the Community Speed Watch Group (CSW) and the additional signage had been assessed.

o **North End Crossroads**

It had been requested if there was a possibility of some type of crash barrier by the pond at the crossroads. The ownership of the pond was in doubt and Wiltshire Highways are to be asked if the pond is under their responsibility. The Council noted that the road markings at the crossroads have been worn away and Wiltshire Highways are to be asked to restore the white lines.

Action: The Clerk

It was noted that any development at the Cotswold Community would necessitate liaising with the developer concerned for more suitable options.

o **20 mph zone**

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Wiltshire Council had asked all town and parish councils to consider any areas deemed prudent to change to 20 mph to be submitted by the end of March 2014 for consideration by the CATG. The Council RESOLVED not to pursue this course of action.

2014/033 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Planning Committee – there had been no meetings.
 - Footpaths – a meeting to be arranged for April.
- Action: Cllr A Stefanovic**
- Village Halls – the AGM is to be held later in March, the successful bid for a grant to repair the storm damaged roof, with the support of the Parish Council, had been acknowledged.
 - Memorials – the cross at Church Walk would be cleaned, weather permitting, in April.
 - Aggregates – a meeting of the working group to be arranged by the end of March
 - Playing Fields – no report
 - Emergency Planning – as reported earlier in the meeting.
 - School – no report
 - Police – a report had been received confirming that two arrests had been made in regard to separate incidents in the village, both were out on police bail. The police were supporting the re-introduction of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, but urged residents to report anything considered out of place.

2014/033 Neighbourhood Planning update

The main activity concerned the focus groups working towards their objectives for the end of March, quarter 1 of the Locality grant. Two Community Engagement days have been set for 12 and 16 April in the Ashton Rooms of the Village Hall. The grant obtained from Locality would be used to obtain external expertise, but would be insufficient to meet all the needs. Whilst there are other areas of assistance available, it had been a slow process and the application in February had been unsuccessful. There will be a second round of opportunity in April, at which funds should prove more accessible.

Action: Cllr M Carter

The Council thanked Cllr M Carter for his unstinting efforts with the Neighbourhood Plan

2014/034 Neighbourhood Watch

A resident, Paul Eastman had informed the Council that he had initiated the commencement of the Neighbourhood Watch, together with residents in Leigh following the disturbing number of properties being targeted in the village. The program has received backing from the police and are liaising already. The Council are to thank the team being raised for all their efforts.

Action: The Clerk

2014/035 Best Kept Village 2014

It was considered that, due to recent events, the village was not in a suitable position to enter the competition, but should make a concerted effort to make preparations for one or two years on. A working group would need to be set up to co-ordinate actions required.

Action: Cllr D Wingrove

2014/036 Matters for the next meeting

- No items were brought forward for the next meeting. However the Chairman requested that if any Councillor wishing to raise any matter for the next meeting, to please contact the Clerk of the Chairman by Wednesday 2 April.

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The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 7:15pm and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6:30pm

The meeting was concluded at 9.55pm

Signed:

Date:

Dave Wingrove Chairman