

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11 June 2014

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman) M Carter; M Cooper; B Ellison; M Seymour; E Tidmarsh; R. Thomas.

In attendance: The Clerk, Unitary Cllr C Berry, Helen Richardson, GRCC

Helen Richardson of Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, gave a presentation to the Parish Council on the WILD project, which concerned the preservation of waterways and water quality, which, for this parish, relates most notably around the Swillbrook and Thames areas. The project is commencing the second year of a three year Environment Agency grant funded pilot programme. The aims are to improve the quality of waterways of the Upper Thames and Cotswold Water Park areas. Rivers within the area have been walked and water quality noted for fish stocks, phosphates and invasive plant species, and graded accordingly. The Swillbrook has been rated a top priority as there fish stocks are poor. The aims of the project are to liaise with land owners to form best methods of improvement and work with Highways agencies to engage with the programme. The project aims to include local councillors to engage with the project and Helen Richardson agreed to forward a ditch clearance guidance sheet. The Chairman thanked Helen Richardson for her presentation.

Helen Richardson left the meeting

2014/067 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Cllrs A Seymour; A Stefanovic; K Winstone

2014/068 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2014/069 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 May 2014

The minutes for the meeting held on 14 May 2014 were correctly for a typing error and were confirmed and signed.

2014/070 Co-option of new Councillor

The Council had advertised through the parish notice board and on the website but no applications had been received. All Councillors were encouraged source potential candidates.

2014/071 Matters to Report

- Cllr A Seymour had visited the concerned residents whose properties were next to the tree line in the High Road playing fields and will be liaising with the residents in the near future.
- The standing orders previously issued to all councillors were available on the website. However, there would appear to be a need to review the Standing Orders to include recent changes in legislation and potentially formalise the working groups. Propositions for amendments to be sent to the Clerk for discussion at the next meeting.

Action: All Councillors

- The Community Asset application for The White Hart Public House has been registered with Wiltshire Council and recent correspondence would indicate that the Area Board would support the application.

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2014/072 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had received a request from Mr Hartshorne for the Parish Council to apply to have the 40/60mph signs along the B4696 extended to before the Minety turning. Wiltshire Highways had been contacted and the response was that The Department for Transport had a few years ago requested that all highway authorities in England & Wales review the speed limits on their road network in accordance with new guidelines. Subsequently, the speed limit review exercise on A & B and more recently the C class roads has been completed and an opportunity was given to all parish and town councils through a consultation exercise to comment upon the proposals within their parish and allow their residents to also comment. The results of the review can be found online at the Councils website. Now that the speed limit review is complete however, new requests relating to speeding issues should be made directly to the area board. However, given that a comprehensive review of speed limits in the area has recently been undertaken, the Council resolved not to pursue this particular request further. The Chairman is to report back to Mr Hartshorne.

Action: The Chairman

2014/073 Clerk's Report

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

Points to note included:

Miranda Gilmore from Wiltshire Council had requested the Parish Council be specific in the presentation on S106 and CIL. It would appear that an officer would not be available to attend a Parish meeting but the Councils that made up the Minety ward could attend the Area Board meeting on 9 July at Crudwell Village Hall when the subject will be addressed by Cllr Sturgis. The Chairman expressed his disappointment at this response from Wiltshire Council. In the circumstances, though, he felt that the Council should at least take up the offer of hearing what Cllr Sturgis has to say. Even though the presentation coincided with the next Parish Council Meeting, Cllrs Tidmarsh and Winstone were nominated to attend this Area Board Meeting.

Action: Cllrs E Tidmarsh; K Winstone

Further quotes are to be obtained for the ditch clearances along the Playing Fields.

The grass cutting by Wiltshire Highways has caused consternation from those within the Parish and those who are regular users of the roads around the village. Cllr Berry is to request that the junction on the B4696 and Gosditch and the North End Crossroads with the Spine Road be upgraded to monthly cuts.

Action: Cllr Berry

The offer sand and empty sand bags from Wiltshire Council is to be accepted. The items are to be stored at the Bradstone Playing Fields in the first instance.

The Council resolved to continue the membership of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England for a fee of £36.00.

Action: The Clerk

The new initiative by Wiltshire Council to encourage Playing Fields to become "smoke-free zones" on a voluntary basis, would not be followed up by the Parish Council, but the information would be forwarded to the Playing Fields Committee for consideration.

Action: The Clerk

Cllr Berry informed the Council that Wiltshire Council are planning to enrol local volunteers as Community Enforcement Officers. These CEOs would be given powers to report owners of dogs that had been allowed to foul public areas. The proposal would be expected to be confirmed by Wiltshire Council by 2015.

2014/074 Financial Report

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The financial report had been circulated previously, with the additional information of the cash status of the Council.

Expenditure of note included:

- Clerk's Salary (net) 486.03
- HMRC (PAYE) 121.40
- Open Space Maintenance 1,400.00
- Cost to Neighbourhood Planning 469.50

It was noted that the invoices had been received for the play equipment ordered (playtrain and rubber matting) totalling 2,252.40 (inc VAT). The Clerk will apply for the VAT refund for the last year later in the month.

2014 / 075 Cotswold Community

A meeting had taken place 19 May 2014 between available councillors and the property developer, Amita, concerning with the Cotswold Community site. There had been much discussion regarding various proposals. Concerns were raised that a precedent could be set by allowing the Cotswold Community development to become a separate settlement which, potentially, could lead to other sites outside the village following suit. A request from the developers for another meeting in a similar vein as the May meeting, was not deemed as constructive at this time. The Council agreed that they could seek professional advice, for the benefit of the parish, regarding the development at Cotswold Community.

2014 / 078 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Minerals Liaison – there has not been a meeting of the working group as there is a need to meet with the relationships manager from Aggregates Industries Ltd. There has not been another meeting with Cullimore since the Chairman and Cllr Ellison had met with Mr Moreton Cullimore in May.
- Emergency Planning – the meeting for May had not been able to take place and is to be re-scheduled
- Footpaths – the planned meeting has had to be re-scheduled. Cllr M Seymour had attempted to liaise with Aggregates Industries Ltd to clear the footpath behind the Millennium Green before the company vacates the site. The company has a gardener who tidies the site for them and, whilst the company is in residence, it would appear appropriate to get them to maintain the footpath. Due to the overgrown nature of the pathway, people have taken to using the field alongside and dependant on the new owner of the land, this may not be able to be continued.
- Grants and Finance – no report
- Communications – no report
- Hedges and Ditches – the working group agreed to liaise with the Environment Focus Group of the Neighbourhood Planning panel, Cllrs M Seymour and A Stefanovic and the WILD project to discuss how to benefit from the expertise on offer.
- School Governors – a report had been received stating that the interim head Jan Thomson was in post and that the permanent head would commence in September. There were 2 new permanent staff members. A building project was underway to replace the non-permanent cabins. At present, there are 178 pupils and this number is expected to rise slightly in September. There are to be free school meals provided for the under 8s in September.
- Ashton Keynes Charity – no report
- Police – no report
- Village Hall – no report
- Playing Fields Committee – no report, but it was brought to the attention of the Council that in the Constitution of the Ashton Keynes Playing Field Committee, 2 of the committee should be Parish Councillors, nominated by the Parish Council. Since the resignations last year, this had lapsed. Cllr K Winstone and Cllr B Ellison were nominated. Proposed: Cllr E

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Tidmarsh; seconded: Cllr M Seymour Vote: unanimous in favour. The Chairman requested the Constitution be disseminated to all Councillors.

Action: The Clerk

- Area Board – the next meeting has been scheduled for 9 July 2014, Cllrs E Tidmarsh and K Winstone to attend.
- Cotswold Water Park – the scheduled meeting had been postponed until September.
- Planning – minutes of the last meeting had been circulated earlier.
- War Memorial – Cllr A Stefanovic has forwarded the photos of the cross and is waiting on a timescale for the work to be completed.

2014/079 Neighbourhood Plan – update

The analysis of the survey undertaken in April has 4 of the 6 elements completed, only the 'historic' and 'infrastructure' results are outstanding. There had been a meeting with the Planning Aid advisor who had made several suggests as how to progress with the scoping report from a very light touch approach to a very intense methodology. It was agreed a middle way would be more beneficial to all concerned. The target of completing this part of the Neighbourhood Plan by the end of the year would appear to be achievable.

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

2014/080 Community Day, schedule of priorities

Wiltshire Council offer 'blitz' days whereby a team of workmen attend the parish and clear up areas and repair broken signs. The Council was asked to prioritise areas that could be sent forward for the next Community day due around August/September. Ideas to be forwarded to the Clerk of collation. One suggestion brought forward would be to re-paint railings in the village.

Action: All Councillors

2014/081 Matters for the next meeting

- o The review of the Standing Orders
- o No other 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 or the Chairman by Wednesday 2 July.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9 July 2014 at 7:15pm

The meeting was concluded at 9:27pm

Signed:

Date:

Dave Wingrove, Chairman