

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9 July 2014

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

In attendance: The Clerk

2014/082 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Cllrs M Seymour (holiday); E Tidmarsh; K Winstone (attending the Area Board meeting); A Stefanovic; Unitary Cllr C Berry (LGA conference)

2014/083 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2014/084 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 June 2014

The minutes for the meeting held on 11 June 2014 were confirmed and signed.

2014/085 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.

2014/086 Matters to Report

- Cllr Tidmarsh and Winstone were attending the Area Board meeting where a short resume on Section 106 was to be given. A report on the discussion will be given to the Council at the next meeting.
- The areas of concern regarding the grass cutting had been confirmed as to be upgraded to "urban" i.e. monthly cuts, from "rural" i.e. bi-annual cuts.

2014/087 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had recently held a meeting with GgreenreenSquare's Kelly Thomas and Andy Sumser, the Project Manager for The Mead Development. GreenSquare had said that they anticipated that the work on site would commence in a few weeks time. The Chairman reminded the GreenSquare representatives the commitment previously given, that prior to the start of work, a comprehensive traffic management plan and would hold a meeting with the local residents to relay the information. In addition to vehicles and equipment associated with the construction work, the Chairman wanted reassurance that adequate provision was made for contractors' vehicles. The car parking areas at the High Road and Bradstone Playing Fields had been suggested in order to alleviate the potential problem. GreenSquare have yet to produce this work schedule.

The Ashton Keynes Playing Fields Committee had requested the six bladed floating gang mower and grit spreader be removed. The Council Resolved to dispose of the machinery either through eBay or by private contacts. The AKPFC are to be informed of the decision.

Action: The Clerk

The Chairman has been invited to the 'licensing' ceremony for the new vicar to the Upper Thames Parish.

The playground equipment and the benching for The Lotts, are on track for being in situ by the end of July.

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The Wiltshire Council newsletter had invited all residents to participate on the consultation regarding the non-chargeable, fortnightly, kerbside garden waste collection. The Council are offering three options:

- o To reduce the non-chargeable collection by three months, no collections December, January, February
- o To reduce the non-chargeable collection by five months, no collection November, December, January, February, March
- o To charge for the collection

The consultation is to be included in the Parish Newsletter with advice to residents as to how to become involved with the consultation and have "their say".

Action: The Clerk

The preferred option from the Parish Council would be the first option.

2014/088 Clerk's Report

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

Points to note included:

Quotes received for the ditch clearance, which could not progress until after the breeding season, (September) and once the AKPFC had the hedge reduced. Options as to disposal of the silt are to be discussed and reported back at the next meeting. The Council confirmed the preferred tender as submitted by the Cotswold Water Park.

The Clerk left the meeting

The meeting agreed to the Clerk's proposal to amend the contracted hours to enable a more flexible method of working. The Council resolved to offer the Clerk a permanent contract from 1 September 2014, based on 40 hours a month. The Council also resolved to an incremental increase to scale point 20 as from 1 September 2014. The Clerk will redraft the contract to reflect the changes, to be authorised by the Chairman.

Action: The Clerk, The Chairman

The Clerk returned to the meeting

Legislation regarding payments made by Parish Councils is to be amended to allow internet banking transactions. The Clerk had issued a revised draft of the financial regulations for the Council to consider. The Clerk had issued options for taking the internet banking possibilities forward. The Council resolved to proceed with the internet banking once possible and should the need arise, change to the Unity Trust Bank as that bank has current accounts, with interest payments, that are specifically set up for parish and town councils. The Council resolved to accept the revised financial regulations.

Action: The Clerk

2014/089 Financial Report

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) £485.83
- Audit costs £240.00
- Open Space Maintenance £1,400.00
- Section 106 Playing Field Equipment £2,505.60
- Neighbourhood Planning costs £301.59

It was noted that the Clerk is to reclaim the VAT for the last 12 months at the end of July.

2014/090 Cotswold Community

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A meeting had taken place 30 June 2014 between available councillors and the property developer, Amita, concerning with the Cotswold Community site. Little progress had been made with no new proposals from the developers. However, the developers had assured those that attended, of their intention to prepare a paper outlining further propositions. The paper had not been forwarded in time for the meeting.

2014/091 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Minerals Liaison – it was noted that Cullimores have employed security personnel following recent trespassing by local youths. The working group should meet in the autumn.
 - Planning – the minutes from the latest meeting had been circulated previously with the next meeting due on 14 July. It was noted that the new farm access at Wagtail Barn, 3 Bridges, would not have been within the remit of the Parish Council and the felling of the trees at the Horse and Jockey had been included in the conditions of approval, which required landscaping, and would not have been forwarded to the Parish council for notification.
 - Emergency Planning – a meeting is due to be convened later in the month
 - Footpaths – Cllr Stefanovic had contacted Steve Leonard regarding the state of the footpaths, no response to date.
 - Grants and Finance – no report
 - Communications – no report
 - Hedges and Ditches – following the presentation on the WILD project, the working group and Neighbourhood Planning Environmental focus group are to meet with Helen Richardson of WILD to discuss the state of the waterways in the parish.
- Action: Cllr Tidmarsh**
- Cllr A Seymour is to continue dialogue regarding the safety of the trees to neighbouring properties to the High Road Playing Fields
- Action: Cllr A Seymour**
- School Governors – no report.
 - Ashton Keynes Charity – no report
 - Police – PC Harvey had forwarded a report noting one dwelling burglary where access had been attempted. But nothing taken; civil trespass on Cullimores lakes as reported previously; the community speed watch (CSW) have been active and PC Harvey had done his own checks, resulting in one vehicle clocked at 79mph in a 40mph zone, after failing to stop, the driver was chased and caught outside Cirencester with the likelihood of losing his licence.
 - Village Hall – there is to be a meeting to discuss the internal repairs to the damaged ceiling, at which point the AKVH committee will request the next part of their grant, which had been set aside for them earlier in the year.
 - Playing Fields Committee – no additional report
 - Area Board – a report due at the next meeting, following the attendance of Cllrs Tidmarsh and Winstone
 - Cotswold Water Park – the scheduled meeting had been postponed until September.
 - War Memorial – no report

2014/092 Neighbourhood Plan – update

The steering group had met the previous week with Geoff Winslow of Wiltshire Council in attendance and the group had been given a lead by the Planning Aid to assist in the development of the vision and to plan objectives from the original “wish-list” to achievable outcomes. The steering group members now consider there to be an achievable plan to take forward.

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

2014/093 Community Day, schedule of priorities

Councillors had been requested to make suggestions of work to be completed for the next “community day” scheduled for the Parish. The suggestions included:

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- to re-paint railings in the village
- gully clearance around the village, specifically along the High Road
- repair of the signpost at the High Road, Happy Land junction

Action: The Clerk

Cllr Carter requested that the purpose for transfer of the waste bin from the end of Harris Road to the fence of The Lotts, be explained to the residents. The Chairman will prepare a information leaflet with Cllr Carter to disseminate to the residents in The Lotts.

Action: The Chairman, Cllr Carter

2014/094 Road signage along the B4696

The roundels and addition signage along the B4696, had been scheduled for commencement during the summer. Parishioner, Jean Slaughter, had requested the Parish purchase "speed watch" waste bin stickers for residents along the B4696. The Council discussed the options of white gates as an indicator to the road users that they were approaching a village. The cost to the Parish Council would be in the region of £1,200 and there would be ongoing maintenance costs. The Council resolved to purchase the stickers c£60, but would not progress with the option of white gates. Cllr Seymour is to investigate the potential for the CSW group to monitor speeds along the High Road from Cox's Hill to The White Hart junction.

Action: Cllr A Seymour

2014/095 Update of Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated the WALC Model Standing Orders for comparison and continual review. Councillors discussed the proposal of scheduling working group meetings with a request for notes following from the meetings being made available to the full council. Due to the number of absentees at the meeting, the item was deferred to September.

2014/096 Matters for the next meeting

The Councillors were asked to put forward any items they would like to be discussed at the next meeting to the Clerk by Wednesday 3 September.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 10 September 2014 at 7:15pm

The meeting was concluded at 9:02pm

Signed:

Date:

Dave Wingrove, Chairman