

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8 June 2016

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman) M Carter; Y Jordan; A Seymour; R Thomas;
E Tidmarsh; A Tindall.

In attendance: The Clerk; Wiltshire Cllr C Berry; Kathryn Gray (Community Artist); Sam Crawford (parishioner); Mark Chadwick (Hunter Page).

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Prior to the meeting Kathryn Gray addressed the Parish Council to introduce the Cirencester March Hare Festival for 2017. Following the successful Hare Trail in Cirencester held during 2015, the organisers are looking to extend the trail to around the Cotswolds. The idea is to encourage visitors to follow the trails to find the Hare models, which are approximately 5 feet in height and 2 feet in width at the base and will be decorated with an historical theme relevant to the area. The festival will run from March to September 2017 and once completed, the Hares will auctioned off and, after expenses have been redeemed, the net profit to go to the Star College. Expressions of interest have been received from the Holy Cross Church, the Village Hall, the Community Shop and the White Hart, however further sponsorship is required. The models cost in the region of £850 and it is intended that the decoration of the model would be included in workshops held at the Village Hall whilst the Post Office is operational. It was confirmed that Cricklade and Malmesbury have signed up to the project already. The Parish Council agreed that sponsorship should be encouraged from commercial enterprises as well as the community based enterprises. Cllr Wingrove agreed to liaise with the organisations that have expressed an interest in the project and will respond to Kathryn Gray in the near future. Cllr Wingrove thanked Kathryn Gray for the presentation.

Kathryn Gray left the meeting.

2016/057 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Apologies for absence accepted by the Parish Council were received from Cllrs Cooper; Ellison and M Seymour.

2016/058 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2016/059 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 May 2015

The minutes of the Council Meeting 11 May 2016 had been circulated previously and were agreed, with the inclusion of Cllr A Seymour as present, and signed as a true record.

2016/060 Matters to Report not included on the agenda

- The clerk had emailed the Ashton Keynes Tennis Club (AKTC) through the website attaching the letter sent to the Chairman on 18 February to explain the history behind the request for a contribution towards the Multi Use Games Area and had received a response from the club earlier in the day. The AKTC had stated that it regretted that the club is in no position to make a donation towards the Multi Use Games Area due to an ongoing commitment to a court maintenance plan and junior coaching which leaves little or no annual surplus. The Parish Council noted the reasons and was disappointed that the club is not in a position to make reparation at this time, however it would hoped that the club will be in a position to assist in the MUGA maintenance in the future. The club is to be notified of the Parish Council's decision.

Action: The Clerk

- Mr Ollie Phipps, the Community Engagement Officer of Wiltshire Council, is continuing to negotiate with the bus company regarding the inclusion of Ashton Keynes on route 51. This will continue to be monitored.

Action: The Clerk

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- Wiltshire Rights of Way Officer, Steve Leonard, has been contacted with the details of the condition of Footpath 7 on land leased by Cirencester Ski Club. Cllr A Seymour will check the footpath to ascertain if further action is required.

Action: Cllr A Seymour

- Cllrs Carter and Wingrove attended the appeal for application 14/11928/OUT, as yet no decision has been determined nor has a decision date been confirmed. Cllr Wingrove will continue to monitor the appeal.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

- Green Square has not contacted the clerk regarding the transfer of the footpath between the new build at The Mead and The Lotts. Cllr Wingrove will contact Green Square again, as the last correspondence indicated that the transfer would be in the near future. It was noted that the completion of the footpath by 8a The Mead was shorter than anticipated, however Green Square had responded that it was within the Highways regulations. The roadway had been repaired and the spoil had been clear from the ditch opposite The Mead.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2016/061 Chairman's Report

- It was noted that The Somerford Keynes Draft Neighbourhood Plan had reached the Regulation 14 stage and there will be open consultation events in the near future. Councillors were invited to attend to view the progress made by Somerford Keynes. Cllrs Carter and Wingrove will attend.

➤ **Action: Cllrs Carter and Wingrove**

2016/062 Clerk's Report

Since the last meeting, the clerk has been in negotiation with Wiltshire Council regarding the re-site of the bin at Rixon Gate to the exit of the bridle path from Waterway to Rixon Gate. This has now reached a successful conclusion and the bin by Rixon Gate will be re-sited by the Cotswold Water Park warden. There has been negotiation with the Cotswold Water Park regarding unauthorised tree work along the Thames path by Lake 82. The Cotswold Water Park are following up.

The reclaim of the VAT for £2,129.00 has been received and the next reclaim for £8,721.64 has been forwarded.

Wiltshire Council has been notified of the resignation of Cllr Winstone and waiting for notification of any need for an election to be held.

Wiltshire Council were advised, through the "My Wilts app", of the recent fly tipping, which has now been resolved. It should be noted that Wiltshire Council is trying to make a concerted effort to clamp down on fly tipping by Wiltshire Council is stepping up its camera operations in a bid to catch fly tippers in the county. Cameras will be deployed at known hotspots to help tackle this anti-social and criminal activity.

2016/063 Financial Report

The accounts for 2015-16 have been received by the external auditors, Grant Thornton.

In 2016-17, the invoices for the Multi Use Games Area have been received and the section 106 funds received from Wiltshire. To date, there are no Section 106 funds available to the Parish Council. It was noted that the National Joint Council have agreed the cost of living increase, to which the clerk's salary is linked. The increase will be £3.20 per month, until the next incremental rise due in September.

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| Income since the last meeting: | | Expenditure | |
| Section 106 | £37,610.01 | Multi Use Games Area | £52,329.84 |
| VAT reclaim | £2,129.72 | Clerk's salary (May) | £410.40 |
| Interest | £2.07 | Room Hire | £19.00 |

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| Clerk's expenses (3 months) | £58.20 |
| Internal auditor | £25.00 |
| OSM Contract | £816.00 |
| Website costs | £114.00 |

Closing balance: £34,389.16

It was noted that correspondence has been received from NS&I regarding a bond which has reached maturity. The clerk will make further investigations.

Action: The Clerk

2016/064 Footpath 20 – by Lake 82

Cllr Wingrove had written to Wiltshire Officer Barbara Burke regarding the footpath on the northern side of Lake 82. Mrs Burke, who heads up the mapping team, has said that she can find no record of a formal agreement to dedicate a footpath to the north of this lake, even though the Parish Council has evidence that this had, in the past, been the intention. If the Parish wants the footpath upgraded to a Public Right of Way, it needs to apply to Wiltshire Council for an order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to add the path to the definitive map. Evidence of use of the path by members of the public is required, which can be provided by users of this northerly route completing the relevant forms and forwarded them to her department with a covering letter. The Parish Council agreed to make the forms available at the Village Shop. These forms will need to be completed and returned to the shop before the end of August. Cllr Jordan will then forward them to Wiltshire Council. Notification regarding this process will be put in the next Parish Newsletter.

Action: Cllr Jordan, The Clerk

Footpath 20 is currently routed to the south of Lake 82. It was noted that several parishioners had said that they had received abuse, presumably from the landowner of Lake 82 (or his representatives), whilst walking along this route. The Rights of Way team at Wiltshire Council needs to be notified if anyone has been prevented or discouraged, in this manner, from using this route.

2016/064 Land at Cox's Hill

Following the presentation at the previous meeting consultants preparing possible areas for development at Cox's Hill, the Parish Council discussed the options that had been presented. Amongst other issues, it was noted that the land is outside the settlement boundary. It was therefore agreed that it should not be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed, however, that should there be any application for planning, this would be reviewed on its merits.

2016/064 Village gates along B4696

The Parish Council is fully behind the work of the local Community Speed Watch (CSW) Group, and has actively supported in the past, both financially and in other ways. The Council, though, has previously rejected the Group's request to have white village gates purchased and installed on the B4696. At the request of the Group, the Council considered this matter again. Having discussed the issue at length, the Council still agreed that it was against such gates. The cost, both in terms of installation and on-going maintenance is a concern but not the primary factor in the decision. The Council still feels that the evidence for the long-term effectiveness of such gates is inconclusive and that such gates are unsightly and not in keeping with a rural setting. Therefore, the decision made 3 years ago remained unchanged. Requests have been made to find a local "Street Works" licence who might be willing to deploy Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) as these would appear to be a more effective method to reduce speeding.

Action: The Clerk

2016/065 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Planning
Application: 16/02765/WCM

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Proposal: The extraction of sand and gravel, installation of a ground conveyor and ancillary buildings and activities with progressive restoration to two landscaped lakes and pasture field.

Address: Land at Cotswold Community

Decision: No objection

- Open Space to include footpaths, hedges and water courses – it was noted that Cllr M Seymour will be asked if he has contacted Mr Page regarding the hatches along the Thames.

Action: Cllr A Seymour

- Village Hall – no report
- Playing Fields Committee – the Playing Fields Committee will be asked when the fence, removed to allow lorries to access during the installation of the Multi Use Games Area, will be replaced.

Action: Cllr A Seymour

- Minerals Liaison – no report
- Cotswold Water Park – Cllrs Wingrove, Carter, Jordan and Tidmarsh will be meeting with Cotswold Water Park Representatives to discuss the proposed uses for Cleveland Lakes on 17 June.

Action: Cllrs Carter, Jordan, Tidmarsh and Wingrove

- School Governors – no report
- Police: an update had been received from PC Poole incidents noted included: poaching in Ashton Keynes lakes; a robbery at Oaksey Post Office. A different area but local officers attended Ashton Keynes shop in the morning, reassuring the staff that the offenders had been caught. An abandoned caravan in The Derry; normally dealt with by Wiltshire Council, but it was perceived as a potential risk if local children accessed the vehicle, it was removed by the police and the police have been assisting the Community Speed Watch Group.

2016/066 Neighbourhood Planning update

Cllr Wingrove outlined recent developments in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Following publication of the Draft Plan, various interested parties, including Wiltshire Council, responded and made representations. Wiltshire Council's response made it clear that the Council had serious reservations about the Cotswold Community site be allocated in the Plan for housing because of the location of the site being away from the village, its inclusion being at variance with policies in the Wiltshire Core Strategy, the Swindon and Wiltshire Minerals Strategy and the need, or otherwise, for such housing. The Steering Group of the NP had extensive discussions with Wiltshire Council on this matter but it remained clear that if the village persisted in retaining the Cotswold Community as an allocated site, the whole NP process would be subject to lengthy delay and indeed the Plan itself might never be successfully adopted. The Steering Group therefore agreed that this allocation should be removed from Plan. The Group also noted that Wiltshire Council had said that there is no need for additional housing sites in addition to the other allocated site, the AB Carter land, together with windfall land. Therefore, no additional sites outside the Settlement Boundary will be considered as allocated sites. The Steering Group agreed that this stance should be ratified by the Parish Council.

Immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting, Hunter Page Ltd, who are representatives of the company looking to develop the Cotswold Community site, asked that Councillors should delay ratifying this stance, questioning the Steering Group's interpretation of the Wiltshire Council stance and asking for a further meeting with the potential developer, Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council, to discuss the proposal further. This request was discussed at length and the motion to delay making the ratification decision was refused 4 against, 1 in favour and 2 abstentions.

The Parish Council then considered the motion that:

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- The Cotswold Community allocation be removed from Neighbourhood Plan
- There is no need for any housing sites in addition to the other allocated site, the AB Carter land, together with windfall land.
- No additional sites outside the Settlement Boundary will be considered as allocated sites

This motion was passed 4 in favour and 3 abstentions.

Mark Chadwick left the meeting.

2016/067 Review next Section 106 project

Councillors were reminded that there are no funds available at this point, however all Councillors were encouraged to review new initiatives when the next funding became available to the Parish Council.

2016/068 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to inform the clerk by 6 July should any additional items be required.

2016/069 Date for next meeting 13 July 2016.

The meeting was concluded at 09:20pm