

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13 July 2016

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

In attendance: The Clerk; Miss H Richards (WILD Project Officer); Sam Crawford; (parishioner).

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Prior to the meeting Helen Richards, WILD Project Officer, presented the Parish Council with an update of the dataset and management plans for the future improvement of waterways along the Thames basin and the Cotswold Water Park. Working with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and the Cotswold Water Park, the project is looking to improve the water quality in the area. Phase 1 of the 3 year project has been completed and the initial mapping data and reports have been produced. An electronic version will be forwarded so it can be circulated to all interested parties. Most problems that occurred in the area involved overzealous river clearance in the Victorian era and, more recently, over shading of rivers which damages the habitat. It was noted that water vole had been seen close to the settlement area of Ashton Keynes, which is a good sign of water quality, also that the quality in the Thames had been upgraded from poor to good over the period of the project.

Miss Richards was thanked for the presentation and left the meeting.

2016/070 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council

Apologies for absence accepted by the Parish Council were received from Wilts Cllr Berry

2016/071 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

2016/072 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 June 2015

The minutes of the Council Meeting 8 June 2016 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

2016/073 Parish Council vacancy

Mr Sam Crawford had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and his resume had been circulated. Cllr Carter proposed that Mr Crawford be co-opted, seconded by Cllr Jordan. Voted in favour unanimous. Mr Crawford signed the Declaration of Acceptance and Cllr Wingrove welcomed Cllr Crawford to the Parish Council.

2016/073 Matters to Report not included on the agenda

- Following the presentation by Kathryn Gray at the previous meeting regarding the siting of a Hare from the Cotswold Hare Trail in the village, Ms Gray had been informed that the Parish Council had no objections to the idea as the project carried its own insurance and all that would be required would be to find a suitable location. Cllr Wingrove will contact the residents by the Best Kept Village post to see if there would be any objections to locating the Hare opposite the High Road Playing Field.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

- The clerk had notified the Ashton Keynes Tennis Club that the Parish Council was disappointed that the Club was not in a position at the moment to assist in the installation costs of the Multi Use Games Area, but hoped that the Tennis Club may be able to assist in maintenance costs at some point in the future.
- 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

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

- 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

- It was noted that the appeal by the applicant for 14/11928/OUT for 18 dwellings at Wheatleys Farm, had been successful.
- Green Square has not contacted the clerk regarding the transfer of the footpath between the new build at The Mead and The Lotts. Green Square are still waiting on their legal department for documentation. The clerk advised the Parish Council that there may be legal costs involved as it would be probable that the Parish Council would need a solicitor to complete the transfer of the land.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2016/074 Chairman's Report

- The Chairman had nothing specific to report.

2016/075 Clerk's Report

Since the last meeting, the re-site of the bin from Rixon Gate to the Waterhay bridle path has been completed. The reclaim of the VAT for £8,721.64 has been received. It was noted that, during the previous administration, £13,000 had been placed with NS&I Index-Linked Saving Certificate. The then clerk, the late John Marsh, along with former councillor Ian Wood were the named trustees for the Parish Council. At the date of the maturity of the Certificate the fund stood at £14,961.90. The clerk is negotiating with NS&I to update the records. The Parish Council had been asked if the funds should remain for a further period of 5 years, 3 years or should be released. The Parish Council resolved to re-invest the funds for a further 3 years.

A qualified volunteer has been found to site the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs); however Wiltshire cannot confirm that Ashton Keynes can have a device until the end of the month. The devices have been earmarked for other parishes, but should any parish fail to collect their device, then Ashton Keynes is on the list.

The clerk had prepared a letter absolving the Parish Council from Pension Contributions liability for the present employee. This is in accordance with the Pension Regulations.

2016/076 Financial Report

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

Income since the last meeting:		Expenditure	
VAT reclaim	£8,721.64	Clerk's salary (May)	£413.60
SSE wayleave	£4.00	Room Hire	£19.00
Interest	£3.23	OSM Contract	£816.00
		Website	£84.01

Closing balance: £41,784.78

2016/077 Footpath 20 – by Lake 82 and recent excavation works

Cllr Jordan reported that over 100 forms of evidence for the re-instatement of the footpath to the north of Lake 82 have been issued from the shop and forwarded to the school and the Women's Institute. Currently, only one has been completed and returned. The Parish Council agreed to attend the Outreach Post Office for the next two Tuesday mornings and hand out more forms of evidence for completion. Cllr Jordan will remind those who have agreed to complete the forms that they need to be returned by the end of August and a sign will be placed in the shop.

Action: Cllrs Jordan, A Seymour, M Seymour, Wingrove

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Cllr Jordan was thanked for her efforts to date.

Concerns regarding the excavations along Lake 82 had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council and the Council is working alongside relevant organisations to ascertain the legality of these excavations. It was noted that the historical ditch for draining the land had been left unattended, whilst the new diggings could interrupt the current water flow and potentially cause flooding from the Waterhay to the Millennium Green and the Bradstone Playing Field. Furthermore, it was feared that the excavations were draining a natural wetland area. Cllr Wingrove will contact the Cotswold Water Park for an update of the situation. A motion was proposed for the Parish Council to inform the press of the potentially illegal excavations, proposed by Cllr Wingrove, seconded by Cllr Tindall, voting 7 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions. Cllrs Wingrove, Jordan and Tindall will prepare a press statement.

Action: Cllrs Jordan, Tindall, Wingrove

2016/078 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- Planning – minutes had been circulated from the last two meetings and there was nothing further to report
- Open Space to include footpaths, hedges and water courses – Cllr M Seymour had contacted the owner of River House for verification of the ownership of the hatches in the river to the front of the property. The hatches are not included in the title deeds to River House. Cllr M Seymour will check with Groom's Cottage to ascertain if the hatches are within the title deeds of the property. If it is evidenced that no one has the responsibility of the hatches, then the Parish Council will look to re-instating working hatches to improve the water flow along the river.

Action: Cllr M Seymour

It had been reported that Footpath 19, from Happy Land to the Thames Path, had been impassable due to the crop in the field. It was confirmed that route would be re-opened as soon as the weather would allow. The trees in the Bradstone Playing field along Rixon Gate had been reported as overgrown; members of the Playing Fields Committee are checking out the situation. There had been a report that since the tree which fell recently in Kent End, the others along the road were also in need of attention. The Clerk and Cllr Tidmarsh will follow up the report.

Action: Cllr Tidmarsh, the Clerk

- Village Hall – it was reported that the Hall had been in need of much repair work in recent months. The floor had been patched recently, as a temporary measure, as the entire floor will need to be replaced within the next two years. To ensure the continuation of the branch surgery, following a review by the Care Quality Group, there had been additional refurbishment required to the rooms used for that purpose. Quotes are being sought for repair work to the car park and replacement slabs for the pathway around the Hall.
- Playing Fields Committee – it was noted that the fence, removed for the installation of the Multi Use Games Area, would be replaced once the excess earth has been removed from the Millennium Green. The refurbishment of the Bradstone Pavilion continues and quotes are being sourced for improvements to the changing rooms and toilets.
- Minerals Liaison – no report, however Cllr Jordan, Carter and Wingrove had met up with the Cotswold Water Park to ascertain the future plans behind its recent landscaping applications to the Cleveland Lakes 68 and 74. The plans for future use are at a conceptual stage and the possible uses for the area by the Cotswold Water Park are for a Nature Reserve with a bird hide and water sports for the lakes, but these would involve non-mechanical sports like rowing and canoeing. With the phased closure of the Cleveland Lakes nearing completion, Aggregates Industries are to be asked if they could remove the signage at the junction of Friday Ham Lane and the Spine Road as it appears to confuse lorry drivers.

Action: the Clerk

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

- Cotswold Water Park – no further report as there have been no meetings
- School Governors – the Primary School has had another busy and successful term ending the academic year for 2015-16. During the last month, there have been residential trips to London and the Forest of Dean, a Sports day, a visit from the Bishop of Swindon and an Open Day for prospective pupils and parents. Friends of the School ran a sell-out social fund raising event, indicating the strength of parental support behind the School. The SATS results, subject to final scrutiny, are well in line, and in several subjects above, with the national average. It was noted that pupil numbers in September 2016 are expected to rise to 210 and the School is concerned that with recent approval for a further 18 dwellings at Wheatley's Farm, the absolute limit may soon be reached and there would be a need for further capacity unless village families send their children elsewhere. The School requested the Parish Council to ask Wiltshire Council when the situation would be reviewed. Cllr Wingrove agreed to ask the question and refer Wiltshire Council back to the School.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

- Police – there was no report.

2016/079 Neighbourhood Planning update

The collation of the final documents, in preparation for submission to Wiltshire Council, with the assistance of a consultant, is nearing completion. It is expected that the documents would be submitted in August for Wiltshire Council prior to their placement on their website for a 6 week consultation period. The next steps will be for the Plan to undergo an Independent Examination, which would then be followed by a Referendum. The timescale for all this should be in the region of 3 months.

Action: Cllr Carter

It was noted that the report did make reference to the school capacity affected by future development both in the parish and surrounding parishes.

2016/080 Response to the Somerford Keynes Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Cllrs Carter and Wingrove had attended the recent public consultation event for the Somerford Keynes Neighbourhood Plan and had been requested to make a response to the Plan. It was agreed that Cllr Wingrove, as Chairman, should respond to confirm that Ashton Keynes Parish Council is supportive of the Somerford Keynes Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

2016/081 Review next Section 106 project

Councillors were reminded that there are no funds available at this point; however the projects proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan are to be circulated so Councillors can prioritise once new funds become available.

Action: Cllr Carter

The Parish Councillors were reminded that with the recently approved Community Infrastructure Levy, funds from this source have more scope for use by the Parish Council.

2016/082 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to inform the Clerk by 7 September should any additional items be required.

2016/083 Date for next meeting 14 September 2016.

The meeting was concluded at 09:51pm