

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th January 2013

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Hughes, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas and D Wingrove

2013/1 One Minute Silence in Memory of Cllr Jacqui Freeth

The Chairman asked the members to stand in silence for one minute in memory of Cllr Jacqui Freeth who died a few days ago.

2013/2 To accept apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden and Cllrs M Jackson and E Tidmarsh.

2013/3 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2013/4 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th December 2012

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th December 2012 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2013/5 Matters arising from the Minutes

The following Matters Arising were raised:

- The Clerk said that Martin Rose had sent him an e-mail on the High Road pavement situation, which said the time had come if we are to move the High Road footway scheme forward in this current financial year. He asked for a meeting with a Councillor in the next couple of weeks. Cllr M Seymour said he would try and be available and the Chairman said he too would attend a meeting if the date was suitable. The Clerk said he would arrange the meeting in his house to suit.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk said he sent an e-mail to Matt Perrott in Wiltshire Highways asking when the Bollard would be replaced outside Church. He was awaiting a reply.
- Cllr A Stefanovic said that she was meeting a representative with Greensquare the following Monday to get an update on the housing development at the end of The Mead. She said that she will get the representative to come to the February Parish Council meeting to explain what Greensquare are proposing. The chairman said that would be a good thing, because they haven't been in contact for some time.

2013/6 Recommendations from Grants and Finance Working Group

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had amended some of the Precept figures from the original document; this had been necessary due to the proposed increase in the Clerk's salary as a result of the change in role to work for the Planning Committee. Cllr D Wingrove proposed the adoption of the new figures, which was seconded by Cllr S Jefferson. At this point, the Chairman asked the Clerk to leave the room while this was debated. Cllr S Jefferson assumed the role of the Clerk in his absence.

After considerable discussion, the increase of two hours a week in the Clerk's salary, from 1st January 2013, was proposed by Cllr S Jefferson and was seconded by Cllr A Stefanovic. The members voted four in favour and three abstentions. For the increased number of hours, namely from 18 to 20 a week, the Clerk would be asked to take on the added

responsibility for maintaining an "Issues Log", which would provide more visibility and traceability of the wide array of actions covered by the Parish Council. The Clerk then re-entered the room.

Action: The Clerk

2013/7 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he would like to begin by saying that, unfortunately, the law does not allow the Council to replace a Councillor if within 6 months of an Election, so the Council would remain at 10 members until after the May Election.
- The Clerk said he would now like to give the members his end of 2012 report on the financial position of the Parish Council; as always, the figures had been rounded to the nearest pound. He said that in his October statement there was £26,856 in the two Bank Accounts and a further £13,000 in the National Savings Bond, making a total of £40,400. In the last three months the Council has received the modest sum of £11.70 in interest and over the same period has spent £9,639, the great majority of which was for the Village Facilities Grants. So, as of 31st December 2012, the Council had £17,217 in the two Bank Accounts together with the £13,000 Savings Bond.
- He said his last item was to ask for the member's wish list of work for the Local Highway and Streetscene Community Team to undertake this month. Pot holes at the end of The Mead, in Four Acre Close and Park Place were again reported and will be passed on yet again. Cllr M Carter said the "Welcome to Wiltshire" sign had been removed from the roadside between Siddington and North End Crossroads. A drop had occurred in the road within the same part of the road, which the Clerk will also report.

Action: The Clerk

2013/8 Financial Transactions

Payments Made

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ AK PCC (Annual Grant)	£ 1,000.00
▪ AK Village Hall (Annual Grant)	£ 1,000.00
▪ AK Playing Fields Committee (Annual Grant)	£ 3,000.00
▪ AK Millennium Green Trust (Annual Grant)	£ 500.00
▪ AK Pre-School (Annual Grant)	£ 500.00
▪ Direct Window Suppliers Ltd (Bradstone Pavilion Door)	£ 767.88
▪ AK Village Hall (Dec Room Rental)	£ 17.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (Dec)	£ 647.80
▪ Clerk's Expenses (Dec)	£ 26.79
▪ HMRC (Tax and NI)	£ 228.38

2013/9 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports:

Footpaths Working Group

Cllr M Seymour said the Footpaths were in a satisfactory condition, but he didn't know when the Working Group would meet.

Planning Committee

The Chairman said following the death of Cllr J Freeth, there is a requirement for another member of the Council to fill the gap. Cllr S Jefferson proposed and Cllr M Carter seconded the inclusion of Cllr D Wingover into the Planning Committee, which was agreed unanimously.

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman explained what had happened to the Bradstone Pavilion front door and that the youth who broke it would be assisting with its replacement. The Chairman said he would like to replace the wooden fence alongside the Bradstone Sports Field drive, but the cost would be £2,300. He was, he said, going to put 50 tons of gravel on the drive, in the spring, at a cost of £500. The Chairman concluded by saying that the bids for the grasscutting contract must be in for February, so that the grasscutting can be started in March.

School Governors

Cllr D Wingrove reported that the Horse and Jockey pub forecourt was no longer available for parents to park their cars while taking their children to school.

2013/10 Bus Shelter/Telephone Box

The Chairman said that it has been discovered that the Bus Shelter, which was removed to make room for the Village Shop, cannot be replaced in its previous location. He is looking to have it installed near the High Road/Happy Land crossroads. In the meantime, another form of Bus Shelter will attempt to be erected between the Shop and the Telephone Box.

2013/11 Cycle Routes Out of Village

Cllr S Jefferson said that he and Cllr A Stefanovic had no update to give at that time.

2013/12 Flood Risk

The Chairman said there was a need for a cohesive plan, which Cllr M Carter said should be part of the Neighbourhood Planning process.

2013/13 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes reported that the year to date sales in the first six months were up on last year by more than 40%; profit is also substantially ahead of last year. The shop has one small problem, which is a stock variance that is being investigated.

The Chairman agreed to the following subject being raised:

- Cllr R Thomas asked for the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association to be added to the Agenda for the February Parish Council meeting, and asked for the Clerk to invite a representative to attend and go through the process of providing low cost and sheltered housing.

Action: The Clerk

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.55pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13th February 2013