

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13 September 2017**

Present: Cllrs M Carter; M Cooper; S Crawford; B Ellison (for part of the meeting);  
A Levens; M Smith; A Tindall; A Wheatley; D Wingrove.

In attendance: The Clerk; Wiltshire Cllr C Berry; (6 members of the public)

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Prior to the meeting, Mr Bull addressed the Parish Council. He commented that there appeared to be no site notification about the revised planning application for a coach park at Three Bridges Quarry. He then asked how this application complied with the Neighbourhood Plan's conservation policy. Mr Bull was informed that the application was an agenda item and issues would be discussed in full at that point and was thanked for his observations.

Mr Phillips had written to the Parish Council to complain about the use of flood lights in the High Road Playing Field as the use impacted on many properties around the playing field and such use could escalate from the occasional hour to consistent use by all users of the playing field. Mr Phillips was informed that the letter had arrived too late for inclusion at this month's agenda. However, there would be a discussion with the Playing Fields Management Committee to discover the facts behind this issue.

Mr Phillips left the meeting

Mr Simpson asked the Parish Council why he had not been notified of the planning application at Three Bridges Quarry as he had been informed of the previous application at the site. Mr Simpson also said that he had concerns that the coaches would use unsuitable accesses to enter the village for maintenance work, along the Derry and Gosditch, both unsuitable for coaches of heavy goods vehicles. Mr Simpson was informed that the notifications of the application were to be issued by Wiltshire Council. When a check was made on the list of consultees, it transpired that notifications had been only sent to 9 The Derry and above, and therefore those at 1 to 8 The Derry had not been notified. Mr Simpson was thanked for his observations. The members of the public were reminded that the Parish Council receives notification of planning applications in order to make observations, but it is Wiltshire Council that makes the decisions having noted all observations logged.

Mr Seymour addressed the Parish Council to ask if the notice at the end of Friday Ham Lane advertising the café at Wheatley's Barn had been given planning permission. Mr Seymour was informed that the junction of Friday Ham Lane and the Spine Road is outside the county boundary and this would be the responsibility of the South Cerney Parish Council, who will be asked if planning permission had been obtained. Mr Seymour asked if it would be possible to obtain more dog waste bins, since dog walkers are leaving bags hanging along the barbed wire fence along the Thames Path, from Church Walk to the B4696. Mr Seymour was informed that Wiltshire Council would not provide additional bins, however, should there be one in the village under used, Wiltshire Council would move the bin to a more appropriate site, providing the bin was placed by the road so that the removal of the waste is easy to access. The Parish Council agreed to review the situation to see if any of the bins could be re-located. Mr Seymour was thanked for his observations.

Mrs Sheppard addressed the Parish Council to ask why the Speed Indicator Device had not been working for the last few months. Mrs Sheppard was informed that

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the device was an old model and the batteries, once drained, would not re-charge. Cllrs Crawford and Ellison are looking at how to adapt the machine so that it could be turned off prior to draining the batteries. It was noted that Cricklade Town Council had met with the same problems and that Council is looking to purchase an improved version, possibly solar powered. The Parish Council agreed that this could be the way forward. Also, it was noted that when Mrs Sheppard attended a recent seminar for Community Speed Watch groups, Ashton Keynes is the only one of the 96 representatives attending, which does not have a member of the Parish Council active in the Speed Watch group. Mrs Sheppard was thanked for her observations.

## **2017/102 Apologies for absence accepted by the Council**

Apologies for absence accepted by the Parish Council were received from Cllr Tidmarsh and a delayed attendance from Cllr Ellison

## **2017/103 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Crawford declared an interest in planning application 17/09336/FUL.

## **2017/104 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 September 2017**

The minutes of the Council Meeting 13 September 2017 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

## **2017/105 Parish Council Vacancy**

There have been no applications received for the vacancy

## **2017/106 Matters to Report not included on the agenda**

- It was noted that Cllr Berry had already requested a call in of the application for the Cable Ski Centre should the case officer at Wiltshire Council consider approving the application without confirming the conditions forwarded by the Parish Council. However, it was noted that as the queries put forward by the Parish Council had been addressed by the applicant the call in would be rescinded.

**Action: Cllr Berry**

- Cllr Wingrove has contacted the other Chairs in the Minety ward to arrange a meeting regarding the Community Bus Service. The response has been that they are prepared to discuss the subject to ascertain if it is worth pursuing. A date is to be arranged.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

- Cllr Ellison has agreed to oversee the repainting and repair work to the telephone box so that the defibrillator can be housed in the box.

**Action: Cllr Ellison**

- The response to Wiltshire Council's Draft Housing Site Allocation Plan had been completed and sent to Wiltshire Council

## **2017/107 Chairman's Report**

- The Chairman had nothing specific to report.

## **2017/108 Clerk's Report –**

The report had been circulated previously and it was noted that since the last meeting The Ashton Keynes Badminton Club has been informed of the Parish Council's decision to only part fund the grant application for £200.00 and has been advised to request the remainder from the area Board, the club has confirmed that it is pursuing other sources of funding.

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The Environment Agency has been advised of the blocked gully at lake 83, unfortunately due to annual leave, the site cannot be visited immediately, but the Environment Agency has agreed to investigate the matter.

Wiltshire Council has advised the Parish Council that for the pavement and footway Improvement scheme, it has devolved £150k to the area boards. The funding will be incorporated into the budgets managed by the Community Area Transport Groups (CATG). The process for considering and approving projects will be the same as that used for the CATG funding. In summary:

- Proposals will be submitted to the Area Board using the online community issues system, in the future this will be incorporated into the My Wiltshire App.
- Parish and town council will be required to confirm that they support the proposal before it is taken further.
- Parish and town council's will be requested to contribute to the cost of schemes they support.
- Schemes supported by the parish or town council will be assessed and then considered by the community area transport group (CATG) who will prioritise schemes and make recommendations to the area board.
- The area board will consider all proposals and decide which schemes are implemented.

The Parish Council noted the report

## **2017/109 Financial Report**

Income since the last meeting:		Expenditure:	
Precept	£16,825.00	Clerk's salary	£440.80
VAT reclaim	£573.62	OSM Contract	£900.00
Water rates rebate (playing fields)		Room hire (Sept)	£19.00
	£558.78		

Closing balance: £53,088.01

It was noted that the Grants and Finance working group will be meeting to discuss the draft budget to be presented to the Parish Council in November.

## **2017/110 Neighbourhood Planning Project review**

The Parish Council had been given the opportunity to consider the next actions following the adoption of the Neighbourhood plan. The initial areas for consideration were the Environment and Historic Conservation projects. Cllr Levens forwarded progress reports for the Environment project which included: a litter picking project along the road out of the village towards Cricklade, after 5 November; a footpath clearance project, possibly number 38, over the next few months, while vegetation is low and a hedgehog protection/ encouragement/ survey project. Hi-viz jackets are to be made available. Nationally, hedgehogs are in decline, but a group member has several visiting his garden every night to feed, so they can be helped. Other issues noted were insurance cover for litter picking, covered by the Parish Council and powers regarding landowners not compliant with maintaining rights of way. It was clarified that there are procedures in place, as recommended by Wiltshire Council. The Historic Conservation Group raised the issue that the Conservation area statement 2015 was not formally adopted by Wiltshire Council and only carries weight as a supporting document to the Neighbourhood Plan, which may weaken its influence. A meeting is to be arranged of this group.

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**Action: Cllr Levens**

## **2017/111 Best Kept Village Competition**

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) organises the Best Kept Village competition with Hills Waste Solutions Ltd annually. The village has been successful in the competition previously, however not so much in recent years. The Parish Council was asked if an entry for 2018 would be appropriate. Notification of the event is to be placed in the Parish Newsletter to ascertain interest.

**Action: The clerk**

## **2017/112 Gravel extraction Wheatley's Farm to Three Bridges**

An open meeting in the Village Hall, to enable parishioners to express their views on the probable application for gravel extraction at Wheatley's Farm across to Three Bridges, has been arranged for 7:30pm on 25 October. Following meetings with the developer and representatives of Earthline, who agreed to forward more technical detail, discussions were had regarding potential public access and how the company had benefitted communities in other areas where it had undertaken gravel extraction. This has enabled the Parish Council to have an understanding which it can impart to those attending the open session.

## **2017/113 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report**

### **• Planning**

Cllr Crawford withdrew from the meeting

Application: 17/09336/FUL

Proposal: Partial change of use of land at Three Bridges to form a coach depot with improved access and enhanced landscaping

Address: Land at Three Bridges

Decision: The Parish Council, having discussed previously raised comments, resolved that it would support the application with the caveat that the traffic management of the coaches accessing the village, would be restricted to those indicated in the application. To allay concerns of addition lighting in the area, the Parish Council would prefer dark sky lighting to be used at the site.

The resolution was proposed by Cllr Tindall; seconded Cllr Cooper; voting in favour 6; against 0; abstention 1.

There was a proposal to call in the application should the case officer be minded to refuse, proposed by Cllr Wingrove; seconded Cllr Levens; voting in favour 5; against 1; abstention 1

Cllr Crawford returned to the meeting

Cllr Ellison joined the meeting

Mr and Mrs Bull, Mrs Sheppard and Mr Simpson left the meeting

### **• Open Space to include footpaths, hedges and water courses –**

A list of 28 riparian owners, 12 of which have been surveyed or contacted has been collated. Richard Williams, the Wiltshire officer concerned with waterways, provided a map of the Back street area which had been scanned as a pdf document, and annotated, copy of the map had been circulated. The map is particularly useful as it details property borders and open waterways simply without a mass of other irrelevant data. Future actions include obtaining similar maps for the village and to ascertain the direction of water flow along Back Street. It was further reported that the river from Cullimores Bridge to the end of Church Walk runs freely but with some vegetation at Mill House needs to be cleared. From Church Walk turning left down High Road and out to Stone Bridge the river

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flows freely but there is some vegetation outside River House/ Thames House, neither areas impede the flow of water as such. From Church Walk, under the main road, is fully blocked and will need intervention from the Environment Agency. Richard Williams will sort this with the EA but only when the rest of the watercourse is clear. All of the properties from the road junction down to Guest Farm, that have a boundary with the watercourse, have been surveyed, a total of 29, with 12 riparian owners having either cleared their stretch of their own volition or have responded to our request to clear. The remaining 16 properties will be approached as the process moves forward. It was agreed to approach the drainage engineers from Wiltshire Council to obtain a full report.

**Action: The clerk**

- **Review of tree work – footpath 18 (The Lotts to Park Place)** – Cllr Carter had raised the issue of felling all the conifers along Footpath 18 as it made the footpath dark and blocked light from the street light, the trees being on Parish Council land. However, several Councillors were opposed to the felling of all the trees and considered crown reduction may be more appropriate. Cllr Wingrove agreed to approach the relevant neighbours for their opinions as they would most affected by any tree surgery undertaken.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

- **Village Hall** – no report
- **Playing Field Committee** – Cllr Wingrove confirmed that he would discuss the issue raised prior to the meeting with the Playing Field Management Committee

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

- **Minerals Liaison** – there is to be a meeting with Aggregates Industries on 20 October.
- **Cotswold Water Park** – Cllrs Carter, Smith and Tindall had met with Ben Wellbourn of the Cotswold Water Park (CWP), to be given a briefing of the landscaping at Cleveland Lakes. Mr Wellbourn has a vast experience of biodiversity and the Councillors were informed that CWP would not be looking to sell land for holiday homes at the site, however it would not be averse to camping.
- **School Governors** – no report
- **Police** – PCSO Bordiss has completed a speed check along the High Road and intends to do further spot checks in the future. The Parish Council was reminded that PCSO Bordiss held drop in sessions at the village hall with next session due in the morning of 31 October.

## **2017/114 Matters for the next meeting**

Councillors were reminded to inform the clerk by 1 November should any additional items be required.

## **2017/115 Date for next meeting 8 November 2017.**

The meeting was concluded at 09:49pm