

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; A Tindall; M Carter; M Cooper; A Levens; N Inzani; M Smith.

In attendance: The Clerk; Wilts Cllr Berry; 2 members of the public (names noted)

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

Chairman welcomed the 2 members of the public and invited them to address the council.

Members of the public spoke of the trees in Four Acre Close which are on public land, they are growing over the property boundary and are blocking out light. The roots of the trees are also getting close to the house. An email was sent to the clerk prior to the meeting and distributed to all, the matter is on the agenda for this evening.

Concern was expressed for the application to extract gravel at the Wheatley's Farm site, the application states that there is only one coach movement on the High Road per day, there are actually a minimum of 10 coach movements per day in term time. The application states that Ashton Keynes is a noisy village which it is not, what basis is it classed as a noisy village? What day, time and weather conditions were there at the time of inspection? The noise is of concern as it will potentially be 24/7 for 10 years. Concern was also raised as to the possible effect on house prices.

Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and explained that we have a comprehensive response to the planning application to ratify at tonight's meeting and requested that agenda item 41 Trees in Four Acre Close be moved up the agenda.

### **19-20/032 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ellison, Crawford and Low.

### **19-20/033 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **19-20/034 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12 June 2019**

The minutes of the Council Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

### **19-20/041 Trees in Four Acre Close**

The Parish Council has received requests for works to be carried out on tall trees in Four Acre Close. The ownership of the land that the trees are on is not clear, Wiltshire Council maintain the grass and shrubs, it is believed that the trees were planted by the Parish Council some years ago. Wiltshire Council have been contacted and have said that they will not carry out works to trees deemed to be healthy. After a discussion it was agreed to ask for 100% contribution from residents for the cost of the works, ask a qualified tree surgeon to provide a quote and advice. Clerk to look into legalities of getting contributions from residents. Parish Council to acquire planning permission to maintain control.

**Action: Clerk**

Members of the public left the meeting.

### **19-20/035 Parish Council vacancies**

There was no update on the current vacancy, Chairman asked that the item be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

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## 19-20/036 Actions from Previous Meeting

- 19-20/023 There are two holes in the grass bank between the tarmacked section of Church Walk and the river. Matt Perrott, of Wiltshire Council, has agreed that Wiltshire Council will repair these.

There is a sink hole, of about 40 cm diameter, in the grass bank adjacent to the footpath between Mill House and Brooke End Cottage. This is the second one to have appeared in the last year or so. On the first occasion the owner of Mill House had it repaired at his own cost as a gesture of goodwill although it is not on his land. This time round he is not willing to repeat this exercise.

We have checked with Land Registry and the bank does not fall into the curtilage of either Mill House or Brook End Cottage. Initially, Wiltshire Council told us that the verge is not maintainable highway and therefore not their responsibility to repair. Subsequently, we have found a letter from 2002 from the Principal Engineer at Wiltshire Council which had an attachment showing that the land in question is adopted highway. We also found a letter dated 2003 from a Peter Jeremiah, a North Wiltshire District Council solicitor, which talked about retaining walls also being the responsibility of the County Council. The Chairman and Clerk held a site meeting with Matt Perrott of Wiltshire Highways. At that meeting, Mr Perrott said that the Vic Andrews letter was inaccurate. He has gone back to the Wiltshire Council primary data sources and he produced a document showing that the land is not Wiltshire Council's responsibility. He also maintained in this instance, the 'retaining wall' factor does not come into play.

Chairman intimated that he was unhappy that Wiltshire Council should be 'judge and jury' on this matter and pointed out that:

- (a) Parish Councils have no statutory responsibilities
- (b) A hole like this is a safety hazard which simply cannot be left as it is.

Mr Perrott accepted that we, the Parish Council, needed help resolving this matter and he will ask colleagues within Wiltshire Council to advise on this. There has been no correspondence so far from Mr Perrott. Cllr Berry was asked to provide a definitive statement to support ownership responsibility.

**Action Cllr Berry**

- 19-20/025 Chairman to provide contact details of previous NS&I Certificate trustee.  
**Action: Cllr Wingrove**
- 19-20/025 Salt Bin survey will be carried out before the end of July.  
**Action Cllr Crawford**
- 19-20/029b Cllr Crawford will contact FP28 owners in September. It looks as if the footpath by Little Kent End has been cut back.  
**Action Cllr Crawford**

## 19-20/037 Chairman's Report

A finger post at the junction of The Derry and High Road has been uprooted it doesn't look to be damaged. Chairman proposed asking a contact to reposition the post, all Councillors agreed.

**Actions: Cllr Wingrove**

The phone box art gallery is no further forward, Chairman will liaise to get an update. There has been some question over the power supply to the phone box all agreed that we should be constrained to the existing supply.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

The SID is progressing, the pole issue has been resolved, CATG will erect the pole with the Parish Council paying a contribution of £172. The SID has been ordered and should arrive by the end of August.

The matter of Councillors declaring interests has come up recently. Clerk to draft an amendment to the Standing Orders covering Declarations of Interest to be ratified at the next meeting.

**Action Clerk**

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The Chairman attended the Area Board Meeting last night, breaches to planning were discussed, it is expected that the public or Parish Council notify Wiltshire Planning of any potential breaches. The Great West Way is a new touring route along the corridor west of London through to Bristol. Wiltshire Council have signed up to Adult MASH if you are concerned about a vulnerable adult you can contact Adult Mash, details to be put in the newsletter. A thank you letter has been received from the Parochial Church Council for this year's grant.

## 19-20/038 Clerks Report

Grass cutting was discussed following the receipt of a letter regarding Bees and wildflowers. The Clerk has replied to the letter. It was decided not to commit to leaving a border around the playing fields due to possible additional work for the contractor.

VAT and Village Grants, Chairman proposes to not pay a grant to the Village Hall or Playing Fields in future but to budget a sum of money to be spent instead, this would depend on what the money was spent on and the Clerk will need to check what we can do regarding Bradstone Playing Field as this is held by Fields in Trust and not owned by the Parish Council.

**Action Clerk**

## 19-20/039 Financial Report

### Income since the last meeting:

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| VAT Reclaim  | £ 572.12 |
| SSE Wayleave | £ 4.00   |

### Expenditure since the last meeting:

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Administration to Council  | £ 622.20 |
| Village Hall Room Hire May | £ 19.00  |
| Mobile Phone Contract      | £ 19.68  |
| Open Space Maintenance     | £ 900.00 |
| Clerks Expenses            | £ 80.73  |
| M Carter - Website Support | £ 105.15 |

Closing balance: £13,732.20

The Parish Council noted the financial report and approved the income and expenditure to date.

## 19-20/040 Wheatley's Farm Planning Application

The wording of Objection paper has been circulated prior to the meeting and also a draft letter for the local MP. Councillors thought it to be a good response, well worded and very comprehensive. Chairman proposed adopting the draft response Cllr Smith seconded the proposal the vote was unanimous in favour. Council also resolved to use the draft letter to local MP, Clerk to put on letter headed paper and send.

**Action Clerk**

Chairman has tried to make contact with the developer of the new homes near the site and has so far not received a response.

## 19-20/042 Winter Preparations

No requests for Gel Sacs have been received from parishioners. Cllr Crawford is to complete the Salt Bin survey by the end of July and Clerk to complete and send forms.

**Action Cllr Crawford**

## 19-20/029 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning** – At the last planning meeting the committee resolved to support the Schools application, it was also proposed that the Parish Council write a letter of support to Wiltshire Council.

**Action Clerk**

The committee received an objection from a neighbour of a Summer House application, it was discussed at the meeting and no objection was resolved, the neighbour has responded expressing disappointment at the Planning Committee

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decision. Where we have an objection we start by looking into whether the objection is justified if it is not then we look at the application as we would any application. A large lorry full of building material for the Wheatley's Farm development was seen yesterday coming into the village using the wrong road, a complaint has been received previously regarding this and the Chairman has spoken with the site manager, we need registrations and the name from the lorry to be able to deal with it.

- b) **Environment Committee** – A survey on Dog/Waste bins has been carried out, all bins on the map provided by Wiltshire Council are in existence. There are 2 bins close together in Park Place, one of these could possibly be re-sited. Clerk to look into original request and Liaise with Chair of Environment Committee. It was also suggested that we could ask the shop to take responsibility for the bin outside the shop and move the Council bin elsewhere if needed.

**Action:** Clerk

- c) **Internal Affairs** – Need to arrange Internal Controls Check with Clerk as we are coming to the end of the first quarter.

- d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.

- e) **Village Hall** – Meeting is being held tomorrow.

- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – No report.

- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – No report.

- h) **School Governors** – No report.

- i) **Police** – Chairman to inform of Village Hall closure.

**Action Cllr Wingrove**

- j) **Highways** – No report.

## **19-20/044 Matters for the next meeting**

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk before 3<sup>rd</sup> September with any items to be considered for the next agenda.

## **19-20/045 Date for the next meeting**

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The meeting concluded at 9.12pm