

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

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

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry; The Clerk; 1 member of the public (name recorded)

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

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

It has been suggested that there is a need for a Watercourse sub-committee to be set up within the Parish Council, to include members of the public and Councillors. The member of public in attendance was present to provide an update on the water levels in the village. As a trustee of the Cotswold Water Park the member of public had contacted the Environment Agency with concerns regarding the high water levels and the yellow local warning for tonight. We need to understand why the water is not draining out of the village. Environment Agency reminded that it is riparian owners responsibility to keep one third of the river clear of vegetation. The Environment Agency did visit the village and found that trees have been put in the watercourse downstream. The river needs clearing, mechanical devices are not allowed to be used without prior permission and land owners permission is also needed, the land owner is liable if no action is taken.

Gravel extraction at Wheatleys Farm would dam the waterflow making the situation worse, member of public has passed this information onto the planning officer and will keep the Parish Council Chair informed.

Environment Agency need to carry out a wider survey looking at all areas and ditches. The Chairman asked that, as part of this, they should provide specific advice as to how whether the current water diversion structure at Copse Hatch is appropriate, and whether any parts of the river in our Parish would benefit from dredging. Once we have received guidance from the Environment Agency action needs to be taken.

Chairman thanked the member of the public for providing an update to the Parish Council. Clerk was asked to check if the Gel Sacs offered in the summer were still available.

**Action: Clerk**

### **19-20/073 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Ellison.

### **19-20/074 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **19-20/075 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The minutes of the Council Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

### **19-20/076 Parish Council Vacancy**

The Clerk has received an expression of interest in the Parish Council vacancy, details have been forwarded to the Chair who will make contact.

### **19-20/077 Actions from Previous Meeting**

- 19-20/067 No further update on transfer of land at The Mead
- 19-20/067a Chair contacted NAG to reiterate continued support.
- 19-20/067b Chair has spoken to Penny Bell regarding Auto Speed Watch Camera, the board are talking to the police but there is no update yet. Police will not convict but may send letters to offenders. Cllr Berry will chase up an update and report back.

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**Action: Cllr Berry**

- 19-20/067c The Parish Council had agreed in principle to make a donation to the Telephone Box project. The lady running the project will be applying for a £13,000 grant which will pay for 24 workshops over a 3 year period, co-ordinator fee, replacing broken windows, installing a new floor, cleaning up the outside area and much more, the Parish Council have been asked to donate £500. Following a vote the Parish Council agreed to a donation of £500 subject to the grant application being successful. Chair to request a copy of the application.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

- 19-20/068 A new noticeboard has now been installed.
- 19-20/068a Clerk has begun forwarding copies of the monthly parish steward visit sheets to the Chair.
- 19-20/070c Letters have been sent to village organisations regarding grants.
- 19-20/070f Following a discussion with village organisations the message raising awareness of the need for more members on committees in the village was amended.
- 19-20/070g An email update regarding the Gateway Centre was sent out to all prior to the meeting, there is no indication that anything will change.

## 19-20/078 Chairman's Report

On 31<sup>st</sup> October contractors cut maize in the field adjacent to Happyland, lots of mud was left on the road and several parishioners complained. Chairman raised a formal complaint with Wiltshire Council and they visited and wrote to the land owner and will take further action if it happens again. Following the complaint a countywide note went out reminding farmers/contractors of their responsibilities regarding mud on roads.

## 19-20/079 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was sent out prior to the meeting and noted by the Parish Council. The advertisement for affordable housing is to be included in the newsletter.

**Action: Clerk**

## 19-20/080 Financial Report

### Income since the last meeting:

Village Shop Loan Interest	£ 53.01
VAT Reclaim	£456.06
HMRC PAYE Refund	£106.23

### Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 478.05
Open Space Maintenance (September)	£ 900.00
Display Wizard (Notice Board)	£ 209.27
RBL Poppy Appeal Wreath	£ 25.00
Mobile Phone Contract (September)	£ 19.68
Village Hall Room Hire October	£ 19.00
M Carter Website	£ 146.67

Closing balance: £21,429.58

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

## 19-20/081 Highways Improvement Request

The Parish Council were asked to consider a Highways Improvement request regarding the cross roads at the Spine Road West B4696. The issues raised by the parishioner who had sent in the request have caused concern for many years. A previous Parish Council Clerk was instrumental in getting the 40mph zone put in place. The main issue raised was of the restricted visibility coming from the Somerford Keynes direction due to the bend in the road. The Parish Council voted in favour of contacting Wiltshire Council to request a Highways Officer to look at the junction and make recommendations as to what actions could be taken and at what cost. Clerk to contact Wiltshire Council and also look into archives to see if any discussions have already taken place.

**Action: Clerk**

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## 19-20/082 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning** – There have been a couple of times that we have not been able to hold meetings due to issues with Wiltshire Council Planning website. When paper copies stopped we were told to rely on the electronic version. Cllr Berry informed the Parish Council that this is a big issue that is currently being worked on but will probably take 12 months to sort. Clerk to request that, until this problem is solved, Wiltshire Council reverts to sending out paper copies of all applications, or that they send electronic copies to the Clerk via e-mail.

**Action: Clerk**

A decision has been made regarding the 3 applications relating to the mineral works at Dairy Farm. The Chairman of the Parish Council read out an extract from the case officers report. It was noted that Wiltshire Council had agreed to an extension of the time by which the site should be restored (to which the Parish Council had had no objection). However, Wiltshire Council did not agree with the crushing and concrete batching processes being made permanent and only agreed to a further extension of these processes by 5 years, which was in line with the recommendations by the Parish Council.

Cllr Berry had requested an update on the Wheatleys Farm Gravel Extraction application; the response was circulated prior to the meeting. There are still a set of questions to be answered and it is unlikely to go to Strategic Planning until at least February next year. Hydrology and Environment Agency issues are causing a concern. It was felt that there had not been a significant problem with ground water flooding in the village in recent times, but it may be a problem in the near future. Furthermore, the proposed quarrying at the Wheatleys Farm site, which is immediately down-stream of the village, is likely to exacerbate the problem. Cllr Berry to report back to planning officer re ground water issues.

**Action Cllr Berry**

- b) **Environment Committee** – As the environment committee covers a wide area, Chairman would like to form a Watercourse Sub Committee. The Parish Council has, in the past, had working groups addressing water course matters, and the need to re-address these matters has been highlighted by the current flooding. The Parish Council agreed to the formation of the Watercourse Sub Committee. Since members of public can be on sub committees, it was agreed that Cllr Low & Mr Low be part of the Sub Committee. It was also agreed that others could be co-opted in the future as appropriate.

The Environment Agency have stated that there is not much money available at the moment. Any solutions proposed might well need to be supplemented by money to come from other sources. Following discussion and debate the Parish Council voted to increase this year's precept to raise additional funds which could be spent in this manner, if appropriate. The Finance Committee will recommend a precept figure to be approved at the next meeting.

A Litter Pick is being arranged for 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 .

- c) **Internal Affairs** – A meeting has been arranged for the Internal Controls check to be carried out.  
d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.  
e) **Village Hall** – Meeting being held next week.  
f) **Playing Fields Committee** – No report.  
g) **Cotswold Water Park** – No report.

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- h) School Governors** – The building works have started and an internal fundraising committee is set up for phase 2, Link Atrium requiring around £100,000 to £130,000.  
Staff parking on private drives initiative has started, over 40 offers of spaces on drives in the village were received. Chair would like the Parish Council to formally express appreciation for the parking initiative.
- i) Police** – It was requested that as part of the Police report every month a list of crimes committed in the parish be included. Chair will speak with PCSO and Neighbourhood Watch.
- Action: Cllr Wingrove**
- j) Highways** – The SID is now out of Spy Mode, data for Spy Mode was circulated prior to the meeting. Live Mode data for comparison will be available at next month's meeting. Most traffic is travelling at 40mph; however there are some worrying speeds being recording coming into the village. The maximum speed on the display is set at 50mph to discourage competitive speeding. The minimum speed on display will be 25mph. It is hoped that those travelling at 55-60mph will reduce their speed as they are reminded that it is a 40mph zone. The SID can be set to display more than just speed, it can be used to warn of a bend etc.  
The Community Speed Watch are still active, they have requested data from the SID.

## **19-20/083 Matters for the next meeting**

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk at least 10 days prior to the next meeting with any items to be considered for the agenda.

## **19-20/084 Date for the next meeting**

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

The meeting concluded at 9.51pm