

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

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

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry; The Clerk.

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

### **19-20/085 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Low.

### **19-20/086 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Carter declared an interest in agenda item 95 – Website Support Contract.

### **19-20/087 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

The minutes of the Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

### **19-20/088 Parish Council Vacancy**

The Chairman has spoken to a interested party who will observe our next meeting.

### **19-20/089 Actions from Previous Meeting**

- 19-20/067b An update on Auto Speed Watch had been received from Malmesbury Area Board, the trial will be discussed at the January meeting of the board.
- 19-20/067c A copy of the grant application regarding the Telephone Box will be sent to the Chairman of the Parish Council as requested.
- 19-20/082 Clerk made a request to Wiltshire Planning for paper copies (via email) of planning applications, Cllr Berry informed the Parish Council that the planning department has suggested that the documents are downloaded when the system is working. It was agreed that if the website is unavailable between Friday am and Monday am this would be an unacceptable outage that would require the meeting to be cancelled and extensions requested if necessary. Councillors need to be able to look at the data on the day of a Planning meeting to see the most up to date comments.
- 19-20/082i Chairman has spoken to the local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and sent out an email prior to the meeting, the local PCSO has promised improvements in communicating crimes to the community. Chairman will continue to liaise with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

### **19-20/090 Chairman's Report**

There have been some robust discussions at the last couple of Parish Council meetings, which is right and proper, however, some Councillors have felt that some comments may have become personal. The Chairman reminded everyone that polite discussions were needed and that all Councillors should conduct themselves in an orderly manner.

The Chairman has received a request from 'Celebs go dating' to film in the area and take pictures of the local countryside. The Parish Council do not have any responsibility as long as there is not filming or photographing of individual property there is no objection.

A request to support the 'Local Electricity Bill' has been received, this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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Clerk is to meet with Matt Perrott Wiltshire Council Highway Engineer in the new year regarding the Parish Steward visits.

**Action: Clerk**

## 19-20/091 Clerks Report

The Clerks report was sent out prior to the meeting, however, there were some updates to be shared. The Clerk read out a report from a Wiltshire Council Drainage Engineer who had visited to look into flooding concerns near the Thames Path and Lake 82.

Quotes were provided for tree works at the High Road Playing Field, the Parish Council approved the suggested works and opted to go with the cheapest quote.

**Action: Clerk**

An email had been received regarding the Mud on Road article published in the local newsletter, no names have been shared between Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council and the write up in the newsletter was purely factual.

## 19-20/092 Financial Report inc Budget

### Income since the last meeting:

### Expenditure since the last meeting:

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Admin to Council                 | £ 518.50 |
| Open Space Maintenance (October) | £ 900.00 |
| Village Hall Room Hire November  | £ 19.00  |
| Outreach Post Office             | £ 780.00 |

Closing balance: £19,212.08

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

The Grants & Finance Committee met to discuss Grants and Budget and proposed a slight increase to the grants to the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committees. We are lucky that both committees are proactive and with lots of works going on it is only right that we give them some extra support. There were no objections to the proposed grants.

The Grants and Finance Committee proposed an increase of 5% to the precept, the Grass Cutting contract will be up for renewal soon and an increased spend on Parish Projects was proposed. The precept has not been increased for a number of years and we have only added slightly to the reserves over that past 5 years. Following discussions regarding the precept, a Councillor offered to work with a group of people on spending the Parish Projects money within the village so parishioners could see improvements. The Parish Council voted in favour of the 5% increase to the precept.

## 19-20/093 Standing Orders

The Standing Orders had been restructured and sent out to all prior to the meeting. Most of the content is from the NALC model and the mandatory elements are in bold for ease of use. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the restructured Standing Orders.

**Action: Clerk**

## 19-20/094 Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations are not yet ready, Chairman would like to meet with Clerk to discuss further and we need to wait for the online banking facility to be up and running before finalising.

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## 19-20/095 Website Support Contract

Cllr Carter left the room for the following discussion. The Council voted unanimously in favour of renewing the Website Support Contract for another year.

## 19-20/096 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning** – no report
- b) **Environment Committee** – Chairman has met with the Environment Agency who have come up with recommended actions. Chairman will circulate notes from the visit to all. The Environment Agency are prepared to coordinate works further afield. Copse Hatch – Environment Agency have confirmed that the replacement of damage such as the damaged board is acceptable. This would increase flow during summer but would need someone willing to manage it in the winter to stop excess flow. If a riparian owner has a hatch they are responsible for opening and closing the hatch. The Mill – There is a build up of residue and sludge that has not been cleared out over the years. Down the river near High Bridges (Ragmans Lane) trees have been felled, seemingly to dam the river. The Environment Agency will write to riparian owners to remind them of their responsibilities. The Parish Council will see a copy of the letter being sent, Chairman will ask if we can be copied in on all letters.  
**Action: Cllr Wingrove**
- c) **Internal Affairs** – Internal Controls check has been carried out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.
- d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.
- e) **Village Hall** – A list of works is being drawn up. Replacement chairs are being looked into.
- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – No report.
- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – No report.
- h) **School Governors** – Ashton Keynes Primary School is ranked at joint 212 out of the top 250 State Primary Schools which puts them in the top 1.5% of English Primary Schools. Building work is well underway and Governors have just signed off for Phase 2. A new fundraising committee has been set up to raise the £110,000 needed in the next 18 months. A recent event raised £1200. Ashton Keynes Charity have made a donation towards the fund raising. A Fun Run is planned for 22<sup>nd</sup> December.
- i) **Police** – Following a recent review a number of improvements will be made to the Community Policing Model in the new year. Improvements include an uplift in the number of officers at PC, Sergeant and Inspector ranks working within the Community Policing Teams.
- j) **Highways** – The latest SID data report was circulated to all prior to the meeting. Since the SID display has gone live it has shown an increase from 90% of vehicles travelling under 45mph to 96% of vehicles now travelling at under 45mph. The SID seems to have had a positive effect on all drivers with a reduction showing for all speed groups. The speed of vehicles travelling in the opposite direction (where the display is not shown) has not changed. The battery is holding its charge. A short synopsis of SID data will be included in the February Newsletter.  
**Action: Cllr Crawford**

## 19-20/097 Matters for the next meeting

The Clerk will get documents out on 30<sup>th</sup> December for the next meeting.

## 19-20/098 Date for the next meeting

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

The meeting concluded at 9.04pm