

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 14th October 2020

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; S Crawford; M Carter; M Cooper; N Inzani; M Smith; R Blackaller.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry and the Clerk.

The meeting commenced at 7:20pm

20-21/077 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Moran, Low & Ellison.

20-21/078 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20-21/079 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 9th September 2020

The minutes of the 9th September meeting were approved and signed.

20-21/080 Actions from Previous Meeting

20-21/054 – The wording for the Breach of Code of Conduct section of the Code of Conduct has been completed. Councillors agreed to adopt the Code of Conduct with the proposed wording.

20-21/072 – The Tree Maintenance Policy has been adopted as an Interim policy at a previous meeting and is still being worked on.

20-21/074k – The wording of the Footpaths and Cycleways working group needs some clarity it was agreed to include this as an agenda item at next month's meeting.

20-21/081 Parish Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Diana Wain there is now a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Interest in the post has already been expressed and the Chairman will make contact to discuss. The Parish Council would like to thank Diana for the work she has carried out during her time as a councillor.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

20-21/082 Chairman's Report

The Chairman has continued to participate in WALPA regarding planning matters. There are currently two main concerns; Wiltshire Councils land supply figure being below the 5-year level and the fact that the Government has seemingly decreed that Neighbourhood Plans more than two years old are not particularly relevant. At present the Chairman recommends that we continue to work with other councils to get better clarity on what is happening and what should be done. Cllr Berry confirmed that an announcement will be made on addressing the shortfall very soon and that Councillors were lobbying hard to protect the concept of local plans under the suggested new zonal system. Wiltshire Council are consulting on the White Paper which has to be voted through in Parliament. WALPA have contacted all Wiltshire MPs. Chairman will continue to update the council.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

Fly Tipping has been reported at Highbridge South of High Road. The Chairman will write to volunteer Street Wardens to see how they want to proceed.

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

20-21/083 Clerks Report

A report was sent out prior to the meeting.

The Waste bin at Church Walk has been replaced. The annual inspection of play areas in the village have been carried out on behalf of the Playing Fields Committee. An initial site visit of the B4696 crossroads has taken place and it has been ranked at 58 out of 100, no remedial action was taken at this time, road marking renewal will be considered. The Parish Steward is aware of the poor visibility at the junction and has requested the hedge trimmer visit to cut back the hedge to the left (on approaching from Oaksey).

The Parish Council noted the report.

20-21/084 Financial Report

Income since the last meeting:

Good Will Gesture NS&I £75.00

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin costs September	£ 561.99
Payroll Admin	£ 11.40
Zoom Video Communications	£ 14.39
Mobile Phone Contract	£ 20.21
Clerks Expenses	£ 46.56
BHIB Insurance	£ 934.61
Community Heartbeat VETs	£ 120.00

Closing balance: £35,341.43

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

20-21/085 Trees at The Lotts Play Area

A request has been received from a resident whose property backs onto The Lotts Play Area to have 2 trees in the play area felled. The Parish Council Policy is that remedial works will only be carried out where the trees pose an unacceptable level of risk to public safety, however, we will consider a request for works to be carried out at the parishioners expense. The Parish Council have received correspondence opposed to the felling of the trees which was read out. The trees are in good health as reported on a recent survey and are part of the environment of the area. The Parish Council voted against the felling of the trees and agreed to a 30% crown reduction. Clerk to contact resident.

Action: Clerk

20-21/086 Grant Proposal for Cotswold Water Park

A grant proposal paper was circulated to all prior to the meeting.

The CWPT was significantly funded by CDC and Wiltshire Council when it was first set up, this financial support has now been cut back. Details of 3 specific projects were given. The Parish Council agreed to a grant of £500 to be given now to go towards the Volunteer Hub at Cleveland Lakes. Grants and Finance Committee to look at awarding a further grant in the next financial year whilst preparing the budget.

Action: Grants & Finance Working Group

20-21/087 Priory Pizza Van

The proposal of a mobile pizza van from The Priory Inn to trade in the Village Hall Car Park was discussed. The Village Hall Management Committee have been consulted and are happy with the proposal. It was proposed that the van could only trade early/mid evening to accommodate families and not at all on a Friday as there is already a company in the village providing pizza on a Friday night. It was agreed to allow a trial of The Priory Inn Pizza van subject to not being on a Friday and that they finish by 9pm.

Action: Clerk

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

20-21/088 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning**
Nicole Gillett has responded to the Gravel Extraction Plan, environment experts are held up due to Covid restrictions.
- b) **Flood Risk Management** – A visit was made to the village by Wiltshire Council Drainage Engineer who found that maintenance is required to the ditch from Eastfield to Ashfield on land belonging to Wiltshire Council, funding is currently limited so it may take some time to instruct the contractor. 3 other areas were inspected during the visit and the engineer is looking into records. The Derry Ditches showed no signs of problems, some are narrow and deep, others are broad and shallow, there may be some benefit of digging some of the ditches deeper. Little Kent End was inspected following concern that a recently made entrance into a field may have blocked a culvert or pipe leading into the 'Old Thames', no evidence could be seen. This would be a Highways issue and not down to Drainage.
Riparian/volunteer work has been carried out at Mill House which has left a massive bank of silt, a mechanical digger would be needed to remove the silt.
Riparian/Volunteer work has been carried out at The Derry and the channel from the ditch is looking clear. Other ditches in The Derry will be problematic as field entrances and culverts that have been neglected over the years are possibly blocked. Some work has been carried out at Derry Bridge but the silt build-up would need to be dealt with by a mechanical digger.
The Environment Agency have been contacted regarding the build-up of silt, however, they will only dredge the Thames as far as Cricklade. They have been asked if they can carry out some works in Ashton Keynes as mechanical clearance requires a permit at a cost. A dispensation of charges has also been asked for to allow for riparian owners to do the works if the Environment Agency are not willing. The FRM area of the Parish Council website has been updated to include some photos of works carried out so far.
A member of the public had sent a question prior to the meeting asking when the next working party would be set up and will it tackle The Derry, the relief ditches in Happyland and the remaining High Road stretch to Oaklake Bridge. Also the Willows need removing downstream? The Working Group had been considering clearing more of Thames on the High Road near Oaklake Bridge, should volunteers and conditions allow. However, rising water levels and deep silt in some parts, makes this work very difficult. Also, with Covid19 safeguarding practices, a Parish Council Working Group organising a group of volunteers could be a liability issue, so for now it is recommended that any volunteer clearance group be organised directly by riparian owners."
The working group was thanked for the good work carried out so far.
- c) **Internal Affairs** – An Internal Controls check for the first half of the year was carried out this week all was good. The Code of Conduct has been agreed. The Grants and Finance group will be meeting soon to prepare the budget.
- d) **Minerals Liaison** – A complaint was received about reversing beepers on pit trucks causing a nuisance due to the close proximity of their works last month. This was passed onto the correct people who took steps to reduce the volume. The works are almost completed but were held up due to the weather.
- e) **Village Hall** – The Management Committee have a meeting arranged for tomorrow.
- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – A grant has been awarded from the Area Board towards a new hot water tank.
- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – Cleveland Lakes is progressing slowly.
- h) **School Governors** – No report.
- i) **Police** – No report.
- j) **Highways** – The 7.5t sign at Fridays Ham Lane has still not been replaced although it was first reported a year ago. The signs are not a priority and there are a shortage of signs. 40mph signs have also been reported but again are not classed as a

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

priority. The B4696 crossroads have been ranked 58 out of 100 worst accident spots following an inspection, when looked at again in the future further improvements other than hedge cutting and improved signage will be considered.

- k) Footpaths & Cycle Routes** – Following the resignation of Diana Wain, Beverly Low will now be the main contact for the working group. A report was sent out prior to the meeting which proposed works to be carried out to a broken stile in The Derry. More information would be needed before a decision could be made. It was agreed that the first step in resolving the matter would be that the owner of the land is approached by the working group.
Footpath 28a has been partially strimmed following a request by the working group and the landowner has agreed to attend to the fallen tree. A fallen tree on the Thames Way footpath is to be removed by the landowner.
- l) Ashton Keynes Charities** - Nothing to report.

20-21/089 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda at least 10 days before the next meeting. Also if anything needs addressing it is not be brought to the meeting last minute.

20-21/090 Date for the next meeting

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 11th November 2020. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm