

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Hughes, S Jefferson, R Thomas and E Tidmarsh, County Cllrs C Soden and C Berry.
15 members of the public attended

Public Representations

Ms Sarah Owenson said she is concerned about the state of rivers and ditches in the village and had contacted Mr Peter Collins of Thames Water to request that they be cleaned up. Mr Collins had replied that this was not the responsibility of Thames Water. She also contacted Highways at Wiltshire Council who said that it would be better dealt with by a volunteer group in the village and that they would provide suitable equipment. Cllr Jefferson said the Parish Council needs to recognise the problem and support the work.

Ms Emma Griffiths said that residents of Happy Land were concerned by the amount of mud and manure that a farmer from the Leigh was depositing on the road near the junction with the road through to Chelworth. The farmer had also caused significant damage to the curb. She felt that the loads the farmer was carrying were far too big and that this was adding to the problem. Ms Griffiths listed the number of ancillary issues which are impacting local residents, because of the farmers actions including having to clean up the pavements and replacing gravel on their drives which had been swept away by the movement of the tractor. The Chairman noted that this was an annual problem and that the farmer had been warned in the past. He asked County Cllr Soden to look into what legal remedies there might be. The Parish Council undertook to approach the farmer to discuss ways of solving the situation.

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th March 2013

2013/13 To accept apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Stefanovic, Cllr D Wingrove and Cllr M Seymour.

2013/14 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr J Hughes declared a prejudicial interest in an item to be discussed under Item 2013/36 paragraph 2 namely a planning application for change of use of the Horse and Jockey pub

2013/15 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th February 2013

The Minutes of the meeting were approved with minor amendments and signed by the Chairman.

2013/16 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said the following matters are arising, as follows:

1. The proposals for a footpath along the High Road were now officially on hold
2. The missing bollard outside Holy Cross Church has finally been replaced

2013/17 Co-option of Councillors

The Clerk explained that normally if there were more applicants than vacancies the new Parish Councillors would be elected by a poll of Parishioners, but because we were within 6 months of an election, this would not be the case. Instead the vacancies would be filled by co-option. The Clerk then detailed the process for the co-option of two new Councillors. Since there were four applicants for two vacancies the co-option would be decided by ballot among the Parish Councillors present. The ballot would be done in two rounds, the

first round would select one of the four candidates to fill one vacancy and then the second round would select one of the three remaining candidates for the second vacancy.

The results of the first ballot were:

Mr C Burton 0 votes
Mrs M Cooper 3 votes
Mr B Ellison 1 vote
Mr K Winstone 1 vote

Mrs M Cooper was therefore officially co-opted as a Parish Councillor

The results of the second ballot were:

Mr C Burton 0 votes
Mr B Ellison 3 votes
Mr K Winstone 2 votes

Mr B Ellison was therefore officially co-opted as a Parish Councillor

2013/18 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- The Best Kept Village competition was now open to applicants. Cllr J Hughes said he would be happy to take the lead. Cllrs S Jefferson and E Tidmarsh offered their support

Action: Cllr J Hughes

- We have had another request for financial support of the Bobby Van Trust. It was decided that we would not support this cause on this occasion.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk asked for any items which require action by the Highways Team. The following items were listed for action
 - The steps down to the river by Gumstool bridge have become overgrown and need clearing
 - The footpath from Church Lane to Holy Cross Church has become very mossy and is now quite slippery. It needs to be cleared of the moss.
 - Trees are overhanging the carriageway at the west end on Gosditch and need attention. The Chairman said that they have already been identified as potentially dangerous and in need of felling. Local residents should be informed of the plans to fell.
 - There had still been no action on the various potholes around the village and this should be addressed to WC Highways again

Action: The Clerk

2013/19 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Made:

The Parish Council noted that the following payments had been made:

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| ▪ AK Village Hall (Feb Room Rental) | £ | 17.00 |
| ▪ Malcolm Carter (PC website software) | £ | 39.51 |
| ▪ Kevin Ritchings (Two x Tree surgery) | £ | 132.00 |
| ▪ Clerk's Salary (Feb) | £ | 722.95 |
| ▪ Clerk's Expenses (Feb) | £ | 91.65 |

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| ▪ HMRC (Tax and NI) | £ 260.14 |
| ▪ Came and Company (tractor insurance) | £ 25.00 |
| ▪ AK Primary School (room rental) | £ 75.00 |

2013/20 Defibrillator

The Chairman opened the discussion saying that the WI had done considerable work on installing a defibrillator in Ashton Keynes. The defibrillator would be the latest generation which could easily be used by any adult since not only does the defibrillator give voice instructions but its use would be guided by the Ambulance Service. He said that South Cerney had already installed one outside the pharmacy and that it had already been used successfully on three occasions. The WI expect to raise the money from public donations but would like to be able to acquire the device now

Cllr S Jefferson asked if the Parish Council could pay for the device from S137 funds. Cllr Jon Hughes said he thought such defibrillators are a waste of time and in any case they should be bought with NHS funds. Cllr E Tidmarsh said it would be better for the funds to be raised before purchase.

Cllr Jefferson proposed that the Parish Council should underwrite the purchase of the defibrillator pending the collection of public donations. This was seconded by the Chairman. Cllr E Tidmarsh then proposed an amendment that the funds must be raised before any Parish Council involvement. This was seconded by Cllr M Carter. Cllr R Thomas then proposed that the Parish Council give £1,000 of S137 money to the project but found no seconder. A vote was then taken on the Cllr E Tidmarsh's amendment which was passed by three votes for and two against.

2013/21 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

Planning Committee

Planning applications that should be considered by full council

1. N/13/00518/FUL. Land at Clayhill Copse – change of use and provision of temporary dwelling. Because of the timing of this application it was considered desirable to hold the Planning Committee Meeting scheduled for the 18th March, with as many Parish Councillors as possible present.
2. N/13/00477/FUL. Horse and Jockey Gosditch – change of use from public house to private dwelling.

Before this item was discussed Cllr J Hughes left the meeting room but provided a written summary of his thoughts on the application to each Councillor

It was felt that the first step in formulating a response from the Parish Council was to gauge the mood of the parishioners about the loss of this amenity. The Parish Council is intrinsically opposed to the loss of any amenity unless there is a compelling case for its loss.

In order to give enough time to go through a consultation process the Clerk was instructed to ask for an extension to the end of April at the earliest. If no extension was forthcoming then we should ask Cllr C Soden to call the application in.

Action: The Clerk

It was agreed that we would leaflet parishioners on the matter with a questionnaire which could be either paper based or on the Parish Council Website. Cllrs S Jefferson and M Carter agreed to draft the questionnaire. The Chairman would draft a covering note and print the flyers.

**Action: Cllr S Jefferson
Action: Cllr M Carter**

Neighbourhood Planning Working Group

Cllr M Carter said that the final draft of the Malmesbury Neighbourhood Plan was available. He had been in contact with County Cllr S Killane who offered to bring the core team to make a presentation to us.

The Chairman was amenable to the approach but said it needed a specific objective if it was to drive the project forward. It was agreed that we would invite County Cllr S Killane's core team to make a presentation to a Village meeting with the objective of gaining support for the project from parishioners and additional volunteers to help. The meeting should be held in the near future, preferably before the end of April.

Action: Cllr M Carter
Action: Cllr E Tidmarsh

County Cllr C Berry said that funding was available from DCLG for up to £20,000 for each plan completed. The Chairman said he would follow this up

Action: Cllr I Woods

2013/22 S.106 Monies

The Chairman expressed some confusion about the amount of S.106 money that is currently ring-fenced for Ashton Keynes, in particular the money designated for affordable housing. Cllr S Jefferson volunteered to take this matter forward and get definitive answers to the value and purpose of the funds. Cllr R Thomas offered his support in getting to the answers. The Clerk was asked in the first instance to get a schedule of funds from Wiltshire Council

Action: Cllr S Jefferson
Action: Cllr R Thomas
Action: The Clerk

2013/23

The Clerk reported that the proposed changes to the High Road are now officially on hold. County Cllr C Soden said that the treatment of Martin Rose at the open meeting was grossly unfair. Mr Rose had spent considerable time developing the plans and he should have had the opportunity to explain them in a calmer environment. Cllr S Jefferson agreed that the treatment of Mr Rose was not acceptable, but he wished to point out that there were a number of obvious issues with the plan. The Chairman said an apology had been sent to Mr Rose on behalf of the Parish Council.

2013/24 Bus Shelter

The bus shelter is now in place at the corner of the High Road and The Derry. Cllr R Thomas asked if a new shelter could be positioned on the opposite side of the High Road to the village shop. The Chairman responded that he did not believe there was enough room to install one but he would look into the matter. The Chairman said he believed a better solution would be to look at a cantilever option on the side of the village shop.

Action: Cllr I Woods

2013/25 Cycle Routes out of the Village

No update

2013/26 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said that the turnover of the shop was up by 18% on last year. Since both sales and profits are up it is expected that the loans will be repaid on time, if not earlier. The AGM for the Village Shop is set for 6th April 2013.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 10.21pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7.45pm