

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Present: Cllrs G Bridge (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, S Jefferson, Y Jordan, M Seymour, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh and I Woods  
PC S Akers, PCSO S Walsh and Mrs A Stefanovic

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Angela Stefanovic and introduced her to the members and said that she was the applicant for the vacancy on the Parish Council. He said he hoped she would find the meeting useful in deciding whether or not she would like to continue to apply for the vacancy.

## **2010/1 Update from Wiltshire Constabulary**

The Chairman welcomed PC Simon Akers and PCSO Sam Walsh to the Parish Council meeting and invited them to give an update on recent Police activity in and around the village. PC Akers began by mentioning the white lines in the road by the White Hart pub and said that Wiltshire Council will be re-painting them, which the Clerk confirmed. PC Akers said that although there was no listing of an accident in that area of road, he would be asking Wiltshire Council to move the 'Give Way' sign back from the White Hart pub along the High Road. He went on to report there had been no burglaries in the area, but mentioned the theft of tiles from the Church roof. Cllr R Thomas said the replacement tiles alone were going to cost £20,000. PC Akers rounded off his report by mentioning the fact that Foxes were being killed in the area and thrown into gardens.

Cllr R Thomas asked if an official letter had been sent to the School about parking. PCSO Walsh said they had been to the School instead and were told that the School was looking to produce a travel plan, which included parking. PCSO Walsh concluded by saying a number of parking options were being considered, which included painting double yellow lines, restricted parking times etc.

Cllr J Freeth said her granddaughter had reported to her that a man had been seen hanging around the School; PCSO Walsh said she would check the situation the following day.

The Chairman thanked PC Akers and PCSO Walsh for their update and they then left the room.

## **2010/2 To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr C Soden and Cllr M Jackson.

## **2010/3 Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2010/4 To confirm the Minutes of Council Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

The Minutes of both meetings were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **2010/5 Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk said he had two matters arising from the Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> December meeting. The first was about the damage to the grass verge in Church Walk. He said that the Chairman, Cllr M Seymour and he had a meeting on the subject at the end of January with Stephen Matthews, the Waste Officer for Wiltshire Council. A number of feasible options for reducing the likelihood of further damage to the grass verge in Church Walk were considered, including the installation of a stylized type "tourist" map at the junction of Church Walk and the High Road, which would show, among other things, where the Car Parking facilities are situated in the village.

A number of other issues to do with 'waste' were discussed, including the provision of two more Dog Bins. On the subject of damage to grass verges, a Lorry belonging to a company called 'Gerrish' was seen to do a three point turn over the grass triangle at the top of Cox's Hill. The Clerk was asked to find out who the company were and to write and ask them to repair the damage.

**Action: The Clerk**

The second matter arising was that he had received the Debit Card and had used it to purchase some replacement printer cartridges with the Chairman and Vice Chairman's approval. He said that Cllr Y Jordan and he would shortly be discussing the rules for the continued use of the Card.

**Action: Cllr Y Jordan and the Clerk**

#### **2010/6 Vacancy on the Parish Council**

The Chairman said that following the resignation of Cllr Diana Wain, the vacant position of Councillor had been advertised widely and Mrs Angela Stefanovic was currently the sole applicant to fill the post. The Chairman said that failing the receipt of any further applications, and the continuing desire of Mrs Stefanovic to be a Councillor, she would be considered for the position at the March Parish Council meeting.

#### **2010/7 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He said he would like to begin by giving his end of January 2010 report on the financial position of the Parish Council. In his last report, he reported that as of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept there was £39,553.07 in the three Bank Accounts. In the last four months we received the modest sum of £498.42 and over the same period £13,552.35 was spent, much of which was for the Village Facilities Grants. So, as of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010, there was £26499.14 in the three Bank Accounts. Of that sum of money £4,000 has been pre-allocated for the Church Path, the Greener Village WG and the Playing Fields Committee Signs.
- He had received a Questionnaire from Wiltshire Council about the feasibility of transferring assets and delegating services to Town and Parish Councils. It followed on from the work carried out by Richard Munro and the meeting held in the Clerk's house to discuss the subject 18 months ago. The Questionnaire contains 29 subject headings, which he was prepared to complete. Cllr I Woods said he thought that Wiltshire Council should pay Parishes for the cutting of grass verges. The Chairman asked the Clerk to send the Questionnaire on to all the members for their consideration.

**Action: The Clerk**

- A letter had been received from Victim Support requesting a grant to help support their services. After a short discussion, Cllr E Tidmarsh proposed the Parish Council should send them the usual £50 donation, which was seconded by Cllr Y Jordan and unanimously agreed.

**Action: The Clerk**

- He said that there was undivided agreement by the members that the payphone service should not be removed from the Telephone Box on the High Road, which he had passed on to Wiltshire Council.
- He reported that the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting had been set for 21<sup>st</sup> April in the Main Hall of the Village Hall. He said he was attempting to get a prominent speaker to come and give a 10 minute keynote presentation. The Chairman would be offering wine, beer or orange juice to all attendees.

**Action: The Clerk**

- He said his last item was, as usual, to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month, which would be recorded and passed on to Wiltshire Highways Partnership. There were two items reported, namely pot holes in Rixon Gate by Guest Farm and the repair of railings at Waterhay. He read out a list of the work the Parish Steward had undertaken earlier in February.

## 2010/8 Financial Transactions

### a. Payments Made (by cheque):

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ PCC (Facilities Maintenance Grant)	£ 1,000.00
▪ Village Hall Committee (Facilities Maintenance Grant)	£ 1,500.00
▪ Playing Fields Committee (Facilities Maintenance Grant)	£ 2,800.00
▪ Millennium Green Trust (Facilities Maintenance Grant)	£ 700.00
▪ Pre-School Committee (Facilities Maintenance Grant)	£ 525.00
▪ Village Hall (December Room Rental)	£ 34.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (December 2009)	£ 585.20
▪ Clerk's Expenses (December 2009)	£ 35.42
▪ Aeshton Services (Happy Land Hedge Cutting)	£ 200.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (January 2010)	£ 585.40
▪ Clerk's Expenses (January/February 2010)	£ 270.00

### b. Payment Made (by Debit Card):

The Council noted the following payment had been made by Debit Card:

▪ DELL (Printer Cartridges)	£ 94.41
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## 22010/9 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

Cllr I Woods reported that the Playbuilder equipment had been ordered and there was an ongoing discussion with Wiltshire Council to have Section 106 money pay for the cost over the £30,000 grant from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Woods' only other item was that he was winning the war against the rabbits.

Cllr S Jefferson gave an update on the provision of a Skate Park; he said he had received some replies from the consultation in support of the Skate Park and for it to be sited at Bradstone Sports Field. He said the parents and children were organising a fund raising event in one of the pubs. Cllr Jefferson said a letter was required to be sent to Gilly Riddington to assist her with the grant application process; the letter should indicate the project is supported by the Parish Council. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write the letter.

Cllr R Thomas said he did not agree to such a large sum of money being spent on such a project and asked whether an area of tarmac on Bradstone Sports Field Car Park would suffice for the children's needs. Cllr I Woods said the cost of tarmac the Car Park would be £20,000, but he was currently more interested in the refurbishment of the pavilion at a cost of about £180,000.

**Action: The Clerk**

Cllr Y Jordan said she did not go to the recent Cotswold Water Park meeting, but Cllr M Seymour confirmed that he had attended. Cllr Seymour reported that the problems with obtaining the Rights of Way through the Park remained ongoing.

#### **2010/10 Resharpener of Gangmower**

The Clerk reminded the members that he brought two pieces of metal to the Parish Council meeting last year and said that they had been picked up from the Football Pitch and handed in by David Clover. David also said the metal had damaged the Gangmower, which needed resharpener and setting. He had obtained two quotes for doing the work and the cheapest was for £650 plus VAT, which came to £763.75. After a short discussion about whether David should be asked to raise the Gangmower blades or be more vigilant in the future, the latter course of action was agreed. If further damage was occasioned the PFC would be asked to arrange for the fields to be 'trawled' prior to cutting to low level. Cllr I Woods said he had written to all the sports clubs and asked them to use plastic pegs in the future. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Woods that the Gangmower should be repaired at a cost of £763, which was agreed unanimously.

#### **2010/11 Parish Council Dinner**

The Chairman said there was a unanimous agreement to have a Parish Council Dinner on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010 and he had sent everyone the administrative details, including the menus from the two pubs. He asked that the members let him know their choice of menu before or at the March Parish Council.

**Action: All Councillors**

#### **2010/12 Road Gritting**

The Chairman said there had been a problem with gritting in the village as usual during the recent cold weather and said it was possible to obtain further 'Grit Bins'. It was suggested that a Grit Bin be obtained and placed in Kent End near Rixon Gate, where there had been a number of incidents in the icy conditions.

**Action: The Clerk**

The Chairman continued by saying that if the Parish Council were to buy a Grit Spreader, David Clover had agreed to tow it behind the Parish Council tractor. The Chairman also mentioned that Aggregate Industries sell 25Kg bags of grit for spreaders. The members agreed in principle to the purchase of a spreader depending upon the costings, which the Chairman said he would obtain.

#### **2010/13 Consultation Options for Collection of Household Rubbish and Recycling**

The Chairman said this item had created a considerable amount of e-mail communication and the leaflet on the Consultation had still not been received. After some discussion, the members agreed that there should be an Option 4, which should state that collection of household rubbish and recycling should remain as it is now. The Clerk was asked to write to Wiltshire Council and request that Option 4 be included in the Consultation document, and that AKPC were not prepared to accept any of the options offered.

**Action: The Clerk**

#### **2010/14 Electronic Voting**

The Chairman said that if the Clerk required a decision from the members between Parish Council meetings, without an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting being called, the current system of asking for a vote by e-mail is cumbersome. After a short discussion, the Chairman asked for volunteers to form a Communications Working Group to look at all aspects of communications within the Parish Council. Cllrs S Jefferson, M Carter and I Woods agreed to form the Working Group and they would give an update of their progress at the March Parish Council meeting.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.32pm.

**The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 7.45pm**