

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th December 2011

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas, E Tidmarsh and D Wingrove
PC S Harvey, PCSO S Walsh, Laura Shack (Reporter) and Rachel Groves (Optimise)

2011/137 Optimise to Explain the Replacement Water Main

The Chairman welcomed Rachel Groves to the Parish Council meeting to talk about the replacement of part of the water main. Rachel began by laying out her diagrams and informing the members that the work would involve the closure of parts of the B4696 road from the 12th March to the 29th June 2012. The road affected will be between Gosditch and Three Bridges junction, which has a section of pipe that has sustained 30 breaks over the last 10 years; some of the breaks resulted in a few homes being flooded. Rachel said the pipe had been laid about 50 years ago and was now getting brittle. When the pipe bursts, Wootton Bassett loses all its water. The new pipe will be the same size as the one it will replace (12 inches), and will be less likely to burst. Rachel informed the meeting that Thames Water had decided that it would bury the new pipe under the road, rather than alongside the road, where the current pipe lays. She did not know why they had made that decision and the Chairman asked the Clerk to invite Thames Water to the next Parish Council meeting to explain it. There were a number of other questions she did not know the answer to, but said she would talk to those involved the next day to obtain the answer. The Chairman thanked Rachel for coming to the meeting and explaining as much as she could about the project.

Rachel Groves then left the room.

2011/138 Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC Harvey and PCSO Walsh to the meeting and invited them to give an update report on the local crime situation. PC Harvey said that crime within the village was non-existent at the moment. However, he said that Aggregate Industries at the Cleveland Farm site had some metal stolen recently. The PC said that they had received some good information and they are onto the possible perpetrators of the theft of metal in the area. He asked that everyone keep a good vigil for suspicious behaviour and to not hesitate to call "101" if seen.

PC Harvey said that Wiltshire Constabulary were now stepping up their 'drink and drive' campaign and targeting drivers of speeding vehicles. He said that he had been looking up the complaints against cyclists and found very little evidence of it; cyclists were now riding in small groups instead of the masses sited during the summer. Lastly, PC Harvey said the Church Lectern had been seen at a 'Fair' in Romania and a report had been received from Interpol to that effect. He wasn't sure how and when it would be returned to the village.

The Chairman thanked PC Harvey and PCSO Walsh for giving their time to attend and report on the local situation.

PC Harvey and PCSO Walsh then left the room.

2011/139 To accept apologies for Absence

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

2011/140 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

Declarations of interest were submitted by the Chairman on the Village Handyman, to be discussed under Agenda Item **2011/152**, and by Cllr R Thomas on the School Holiday Club, to be discussed under Agenda item **2011/151**.

2011/141 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9th November 2011

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2011 were approved after a small amendment had been made, and signed by the Chairman.

2011/142 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said that he had three matters arising. Firstly, the item on trees from last month, the High Road Playing Field Oak Tree will cost £1,180 plus VAT to fell, which was the cheapest of three quotes from reputable Tree Surgeons. Cllr E Tidmarsh was asked to recommend a replacement tree for the Oak Tree, which would be planted on the High Road Playing Field. The cost of the work on the two Ash Trees will be £300 Plus VAT, and the necessary work will be done in the New Year.

Secondly, on the subject of the two Ash Trees by The Lotts Play Area, Stephen Leonard of Wiltshire Council Rights of Way Section disagrees that the roots under the footpath close to The Lotts Play Area are a trip hazard.

Thirdly, now that the new shop has opened, an advert will be placed in there for a volunteer to be the Lollipop Lady.

2011/143 Recommendations from Grants & Finance Working Group

The Chairman asked if any member had any further questions on the Minutes of the Grants and Finance Work Group Meeting held on the 24th October 2011. After receiving no questions, the Chairman asked for a proposer to adopt the recommended 2011 Grants and 2012/2013 Precept. Cllr M Carter proposed the adoption of the recommendations and Cllr S Jefferson seconded the proposal, which the members unanimously approved. The Clerk said he would inform the village organisations and Wiltshire Council respectively.

Action: The Clerk

2011/144 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying there will only be one Area Board meeting next year that clashes with the Parish Council meetings, namely the one in May. For that reason, he did not canvas everyone to find a suitable alternative day of the month on which to hold the Parish Council meetings..
- He said he had two publications with him that might be of interest to the members. The first was the "Bulletin", a publication from the War Memorials Trust and the second was the CPRE publication "Fieldwork". He asked the members to see him afterwards if they would like to borrow either or both of them.
- The Clerk said that the Wiltshire Council document on Dog Control Orders proposed changes to the current Orders and he said he would place the item on the January Parish Council meeting Agenda. The Chairman added that he would like the members to discuss their recommendations in January.
- He said his last item, as usual, was to ask for the members' wish list of work for the Parish Steward to undertake next month. There were three items reported to him, which he will pass to the Highways Department.

2011/145 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Made:

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ AK Village Hall (Nov Room Rental)	£ 39.00
▪ Village Website (Hosting Renewal)	£ 235.00
▪ SLCC (Annual Subscription)	£ 123.00
▪ Clerk's Salary (Nov)	£ 627.44
▪ Clerk's Expenses (Nov)	£ 106.62
▪ HMRC (Tax & NI)	£ 223.31

Cllr R Thomas said he had refused to sign the cheque for the Village Website on the basis that the Parish Council now has its own website. The Chairman said we could not cancel the Village website payment without giving warning of doing so any more. The Clerk said a meeting will be taking place between the Village Website organisers and the Parish Council to resolve the situation.

2011/146 Cullimore's Gravels Ltd Dairy Farm Planning Application

Cllr S Jefferson said he had received nothing further from Moreton Cullimore and that he would send a reply to the letter Moreton had sent to the Clerk. Cllr Jefferson said he thought that Moreton would be conciliatory again after it was all over.

2011/147 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met and the outcome of their meeting would be reported by Cllr S Jefferson under Agenda item 2011/152. Cllr Jefferson mentioned an environmental project being raised to provide a heating system in the Bradstone Pavilion, and asked that an item be added to January's Parish Council meeting Agenda.

Action: The Clerk

Greener Village Working Group

Cllr M Carter said that now the colder weather was here he has seen some interest being shown in the use of the thermal camera and its ability to detect cold spots in properties. Cllr Carter said he had placed a form on the AK Heating Oil Consortium website for people to request their property to be checked. Cllr Carter also gave the Clerk a Poster advertising the use of the Thermal Camera and requested it be placed on the Parish Council Notice Board.

Cotswold Water Park

Cllr A Stefanovic reported that the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee meeting the previous week had been cancelled; she said the next meeting will be held on the 9th March 2012.

Lakes Project

Cllr E Tidmarsh reported on the investigation of the condition of the lakes carried out with Cllrs M Seymour and R Thomas. He said that they had toured all the lakes within the Ashton Keynes boundary and said they were mostly in good shape. Cllr Tidmarsh said he would send a written report to the Clerk for distribution to the members.

2011/148 Adoption of Village Areas by the Councillors

Cllr D Wingrove said that he and the Clerk had carefully split up the village into ten Communication Areas, which had been allotted to the members. After a short discussion, Cllr Wingrove proposed that the Areas be adopted, which was seconded by Cllr M Carter, and unanimously agreed by the members.

2011/149 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Chairman said a meeting of the Committee members had been arranged for Monday 19th December, which will be followed by another meeting for the general public in the Village Hall in January 2012.

2011/150 Cycle Routes out of Village

The Clerk was asked to place this item on the January Parish Council meeting Agenda.

Action: The Clerk

2011/151 School Holiday Club

Cllr D Wingrove said that the Head Teacher had written a letter to all the Gosditch residents involved in the complaint against the School Holiday Club. She had said that all schools were being encouraged to participate in the School Holiday Clubs, and that they would move the noisier activities away from the residents next year.

2011/152 Village Handyman

The Chairman handed over the Chairmanship of the meeting to the Vice Chairman, Cllr S Jefferson, for this Agenda Item only. Cllr Jefferson said that David Clover did not wish to renew the Aeshton Services Village Handyman contract at the end of February 2012. Aeshton Services had, however, quoted for the Job Requirement of cutting The Lotts Play Area grass and the hedgerows and verges for one year. Cllr Jefferson said the Playing Fields Committee was forming a Consortium to contract for the grasscutting of the two Playing Fields. The Consortium would be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Parish Council that would be extant from 1st March 2012 for one year. Lastly, Cllr Jefferson said the two contracts would not cost any more than the current contract, so there was no requirement to adjust the Precept. Cllr D Wingrove proposed the new arrangement, as discussed, was accepted for one year only, providing the overall cost was no greater than at present. Cllr M Carter seconded the proposal, which was agreed by seven Councillors, with two Councillors abstaining. Cllr M Seymour asked the Clerk how many quotations he had received for the work, to which he replied three, the cheapest of which, apart from the proposal now agreed, was £11,316 plus VAT.

2011/153 Duck Race Water Level

The Chairman said that the dry autumn had drastically reduced the water level in the River Thames, such that there was a danger that the Boxing Day Duck Race might have to be called off. The Clerk had contacted Thames Water and asked them to pump water into the River to raise the water level, but they said that it was up to the Environment Agency. Thames Water have passed our request to the Environment Agency and said they would get in touch with us if they received permission to pump water into the River.

2011/154 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes said the new Village Shop opened for business that afternoon and said a formal opening ceremony would take place in the New Year. Cllr Hughes said the November sales at the old site were normal; however, there was a large loss for the month as a result of several costs associated with the new opening being charged to the Profit and Loss Account. He said it was expected that normal trading would resume and that profitability should improve as there would be no rent payments for the old shop. He concluded by saying that the new shop will be operating with reduced stock levels over the first few days until the full product range was available

The Chairman agreed to the following subjects to be raised:

- Cllr R Thomas asked what was happening about the replacement of the Bus Shelter on the High Road. The Chairman said it would fit next to the Telephone Box and would be moved as soon as it could be arranged.
- Cllr R Thomas asked what was happening about the barrier outside the new shop to prevent children running out into the road. Cllr J Hughes said the current bollard arrangement was going to be upgraded.
- Cllr R Thomas asked whether the C.I.L. was going to be introduced in place of the Section 106. The Clerk said he would ask Wiltshire Council what their intentions were.

Action: The Clerk

- Cllr R Thomas said that the Cross opposite the White Hart had been damaged. Cllr M Seymour offered to repair it and get someone to put a metal wheel round it to protect it
- Cllr M Carter said website security was becoming a big issue nowadays. He said the Parish Council website was alright so far, but we should think about backup and security in the event of malicious attacks or server failures. Cllr Carter said he recommended that we add Akeeba Backup and Admin Tools to protect our website investment. It would take quite a while to rebuild it without a backup option. He said it would cost 50 Euros to buy these two software packs to build into our website. Cllr S Jefferson proposed the purchase of the packs and Cllr J Freeth seconded the proposal, which was agreed unanimously.
- Cllr R Thomas raised the subject of the Government Neighbourhood Planning Regulations Consultation, which invited replies by the 5th January 2012. After a short discussion, it was agreed that a small sub-committee of the Planning Committee would be formed and forward a response via the form provided. Cllr M Carter agreed to be a part of the sub-committee. The Clerk was asked to send the Consultation document to Cllr Carter and to speak to Clerks of neighbouring Councils and ask for their responses to the consultation.

Action: The Clerk.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.50pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th January 2012, commencing at 7.45pm