

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th June 2011

Present: Cllrs I Woods (Chairman), M Carter, J Freeth, J Hughes, S Jefferson, M Seymour, A Stefanovic, R Thomas and E Tidmarsh
Seven members of the public

2011/70 Cullimore's Gravels Ltd Dairy Farm Planning Application

In view of the number of members of the public who had attended to speak about this Planning Application item, the Chairman decided to move it to the first item on the Agenda.

The Chairman began by outlining the Planning Application proposal. He said that Cullimore (Gravels) Ltd proposed that they recycle inert construction and demolition waste without compliance with 'Condition 8' of a previous Planning Permission. He said that *Condition 8* restricted the processing of material to 33 working days per calendar year and Cullimore's want to extend the number of processing days to 60. He went on to say that the Parish Council were unhappy with the proposal and have asked County Cllr Carole Soden to call in the Planning Application. Wiltshire Council have extended the consultation period end date from 9th to 16th June to allow for further comments to be made.

The members of the public were then invited to comment on the Planning Application; they raised a number of points in no order of importance, as follows:

1. They complained that the Quarry operations had not been monitored by Wiltshire Council for a number of years.
2. The inert materials are being moved all around Wiltshire, with the consequent increase in Lorry traffic. They wondered just how much of the Inert material going into the site was coming out again.
3. Driving up the A419 from Blunsden towards Cricklade, one sees a nature reserve where the land has been properly reinstated. When you then take a left onto the Spine Road, all one sees is a scarred landscape needing to be in-filled.
4. The dust, air pollution and noise coming from the Quarry, especially near the school, are unacceptable now, let alone what it would be like if the number of operational days was nearly doubled.
5. If the operations are going to continue, they would like the bunding between the Quarry equipment and the road to be made much higher.
6. They thought that because the Quarry is tucked away, Cullimore's can bend the rules set by the Planning Section of the Council.
7. They felt that both Cullimore's and Wiltshire Council had broken their promises since the Quarry recycling operations began.

On the subject of noise, the Chairman said he had received a sheet with three loggings of noise measured when the plant was, and was not, operating. The figures he extrapolated were a measurement of 39db's of background noise when the plant was not working, and an average measurement of 47.86db's when it was working. This latter figure exceeds the 45db's laid down in *Condition 7*.

The Chairman concluded by saying that the Parish Council would be submitting their objections to the Planning Application and asked as many Parishioners' as possible to send in their objections. He asked that they also write to County Cllr Toby Sturgis, as an individual, stating their objections to the Application.

The seven members of the public then left the room.

2011/71 To accept apologies for Absence

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

2011/72 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

A declaration of interest was submitted by Cllr S Jefferson on the Industrial Units to be discussed under Agenda item **2011/79**.

2011/73 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meetings held on 11th May 2011

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting and May Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2011/74 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said that due to pressure of work, Geoff Winslow, who is dealing with Minerals Extraction in Wiltshire Council, was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting this evening to discuss mineral extraction site options, but he is hoping to attend in July. As the Site Option Consultation does not start until September, there will still be plenty of time to know what sites are being considered. The Clerk said he would let the members know if he could get here in July.

Action: The Clerk

He said he had sent a Parish Council cheque for £13,000 to the NS&I to purchase a 5 year Index Linked Savings Certificate, which should give a good interest rate, as long as it is left invested for one year.

The Clerk reported that as from 1st June, the Parish Council Insurance Company is now Aviva. He said he had sent everyone a copy of the breakdown, which showed the individual insured items.

2011/75 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by reporting that he had given each of the members a copy of 'The Good Councillor's Guide' booklet, which he recently obtained from WALC. He said that those members with the previous edition of the booklet, with a blue printed cover, can either retain it or throw it away.
- He said the SLCC Annual Conference and AGM 2011 are scheduled to take place at Reading from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th October. He had made an early bird booking, as an SLCC member, for £345 + VAT for full board and entrance to all Conference sessions; otherwise it would have cost £395 + VAT if booked later.
- He had received the annual letter from the Bobby Van Trust asking for a donation. He said that for several years the Parish Council had given them £50 and asked if it was their agreement to give the same amount this year. It was proposed by Cllr R Thomas and seconded by Cllr A Stefanovic that the Parish Council again gives the Bobby Van Trust a £50 donation, which was carried unanimously. Cllr J Hughes suggested that in the light of the current straitened times we should review whether we give to charities. The Chairman asked the Clerk to place the item on the Agenda for the July Parish Council meeting.

Action: The Clerk

- The Clerk said he had received a letter from The Campaign to Protect Rural England inviting a member of the Parish Council to their AGM at 2.30pm on Saturday 18th June in Bowood House. He said any member wishing to attend should contact him afterwards.
- 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. A number of items were reported to him, which were recorded and would be passed to Wiltshire Highways Partnership.

2011/76 Financial Transactions

a. Payments Made (by Cheque):

The Council noted that the following payments had been made by cheque:

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| ▪ Aeshton Services (May Grasscutting and Tree Surgery) | £ 940.00 |
| ▪ AK Village Hall (May Room Rental) | £ 17.00 |
| ▪ CPRE (Annual Subscription) | £ 29.00 |
| ▪ Community First (Annual Subscription) | £ 36.00 |
| ▪ Viking (Stationery) | £ 46.54 |
| ▪ Clerk's Salary (May) | £ 646.04 |
| ▪ Clerk's Expenses (May) | £ 58.67 |
| ▪ HMRC (Tax & NI) | £ 661.90 |

2011/77 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes gave an update report and said that the May sales were slightly below the Business Plan forecast, and the year to date was showing a small loss. He said the start date for building the Village Hall Annexe is scheduled for 21st June.

The Chairman said that the Village Hall have been allocated £20,000 from the Plunkett Foundation provided they secure a £20,000 loan from the Co-operative Bank. On top of that, they have requested a Land-fill Grant of £17,000 and are now seeking a grant/loan of £10,000 shared between the Parish Council and Ashton Keynes Charities. He said the cost of building the Annexe was quoted by the Builder to be £53,500 if the building materials are supplied. The Chairman said that both Aggregate Industries and Cullimore's have agreed to supply the building materials, and the roof tiles have already been supplied free of charge. He said that one of the other major costs to the shop would be the replacement EPOS system, which is a computer oriented means of stock control and would cost in the region of £4,000.

Cllr R Thomas said the Ashton Keynes Charities would be meeting on 22nd June to consider the request from the Village Hall; he thought that the AK Charities might grant or loan the sum of £6,000. The Chairman asked the members if they saw fit to make up the difference to £10,000, by increasing the current loan to the shop by £4,000. After a short discussion, Cllr S Jefferson proposed that the loan to the shop be increased by £4,000 without caveats. Cllr E Tidmarsh proposed an amendment that £4,000 be made available as a loan to the shop, if required, under the same terms as the original loan. Cllr A Stefanovic seconded the proposal, which was agreed unanimously.

2011/78 Minerals Extraction

Cllr J Hughes said he had nothing to report, but he was drafting a letter to be distributed to every dwelling in Ashton Keynes. He said he would send the draft to Cllr A Stefanovic to approve/amend and then pass it to the Clerk, who would print off the requisite number of copies. The Clerk said that he had sent a copy of the updated Distribution List to every member, which was not to be confused with the areas that the Chairman is asking members to adopt to discuss the minerals extraction issues on the doorsteps with Parishioners.

2011/79 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 voted to install CCTV at the Bradstone Sports Field, for which they would be paying. The reason for this drastic action was because already in the past year three fence panels and three wooden benches, one of which commemorated the life of a prominent Parishioner, had been broken up and set fire to. The members gave their approval for the Committee's action.

The Chairman said that the High Road Playing Field surface was in a bad state and required extensive attention. He said the Playing Field was originally sown with meadow grass and had deteriorated during the ensuing years and would probably not last more than one more year. The Chairman said he was approaching Companies to provide a quote for replacing the top soil and re-seeding of the two pitches.

Footpaths Working Group

Cllr M Seymour said that the Chairman, Norman Ames, the Clerk and himself had met with Barbara Burke, the Wiltshire Rights of Way Officer, and discussed a number of footpaths that were giving concern. He said that she had not yet sent any correspondence since the meeting

Emergency Planning Working Group

Cllr M Carter reported that Wiltshire Councillor had reorganised their Emergency Planning Organisation. He said they had produced a new Emergency Plan template, which he would be discussing with the Working Group and send it back when completed.

2011/80 Industrial Units

Cllr S Jefferson said he and the Clerk would be having a meeting on 15th June at Monkton Park with Colette Mallon and Simon Smith from the Wiltshire Planning Department. They would be discussing the possibility of extending The Old Brickyard to enable more Industrial Units to be erected. His other report was to say that the Cleveland Lodge outbuildings were being sold as Workshops, but they were very close to the house.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.50pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th July 2011, commencing at 7.45pm