

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held in the Bradstone Pavilion on Wednesday 12th October 2011

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

2011/107 To accept apologies for Absence

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

2011/108 Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

2011/109 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14th September 2011

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th September 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2011/110 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Clerk said that there were no matters arising.

2011/111 Clerk's Report

The Clerk gave the following report:

- He began by saying that he would like to give his report on the current financial position of the Parish Council; the figures have been rounded to the nearest pound. At the beginning of the financial year, there was £20,467 in the Bank Accounts and we have now received our 2011/2012 Precept allocation of £32,470, giving us a total of £52,937. This financial year, the Parish Council has so far received a further £1,683 and spent £14,220. As of 30th September 2011, therefore, there was £27,400 in the two Bank Accounts and a further £13,000 in the National Savings Bond, making a total of £40,400. I have carried out a reconciliation to the end of the financial year, based on the last half of last year and the forecast for the next six months, the Clerk estimated that we shall spend £15,400; he added a further 10% to make the figure £17,000. So, in the worst case scenario the Parish Council will end the year on £40,400 less £17,000, which will be £23,400 and amounts to approximately £3,000 more than we started the year. However, we have to take into account that we must keep back £3,000 for Asset Depreciation, so it could be considered that it will be a break-even year..
- He said he had distributed information about Constituency Boundaries, and would gladly send the comments of the members to the Boundary Commission. He said the one thing that they may not know about was that there is talk about renaming our Constituency from "North Wiltshire" to "Chippenham". The members were strongly against the change of name and the Clerk was asked to write to County Cllr C Soden with their objections.

Action: The Clerk

- The Friends of Ashton Keynes School (previously the PTA) requested the use of the field above Bradstone Sports Field to have their annual bonfire event. The Clerk said that he had checked their Insurance and compliance with the Code of Practice and everything was in order. The members gave their approval for the use of the field for the bonfire event.

- He said he had been in discussion with David Clover about removing the rubbish heap in the copse area between The Lotts and Four Acre Close that has got bigger. He showed a photo of the mess taken that day. David was going to remove the rubbish earlier, but before he could do so the pile was vastly increased. David has e-mailed him to say he would remove all the rubbish for £120; the problem is the rubbish has to be wheelbarrowed away to a trailer. The members agreed to David clearing the rubbish for £120.
- The Age UK Wiltshire Annual General Meeting 2011 is due to take place in the Corn Exchange Devizes on Wednesday 19th October from 1.15 to 4.30pm. The Clerk said he had the Notice of the AGM and would pass it on to any member who wished to attend.
- 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 no items reported to him.

PC Steve Harvey and PCSO Sam Walsh then entered the room and apologised for their lateness.

2011/112 Wiltshire Police Report

The Chairman welcomed the two Police Officers and asked them to update the Parish Council on their recent activities.

PC Steve Harvey said that in the last quarter of the year, unfortunately, there had been a couple of break-ins from farm buildings and one of an outbuilding of a private property, resulting in the theft of agricultural items. On the other hand, he said, there was good news about the brass Lectern that had been stolen from Holy Cross Church some weeks ago. A brass Lectern had been sighted at a Trade Fair in Romania recently and was positively identified from the engraving as that from Holy Cross Church. Interpol became involved when the Lectern was also posted on Google. PC Harvey went on to say that regrettably the case against the youth who threw a rock at a car a few months ago was dismissed by the Crown Prosecution Service. He said that people were still leaving valuables on view in their car that are being stolen, despite the poster campaign warning against doing so. The Police initiative to visit villages every three months seemed to be working well; they were in Harris Road two weeks previously, talking to those in the neighbourhood.

He concluded by reporting that Wiltshire Police will be concentrating on speeding vehicles and checking the alcohol level of drivers to make the roads safer for everyone over the Christmas period. Cllr D Wingrove told the Police that the attitude of Cyclists, who rode in large groups in the area was making many motorists frustrated. He enquired whether the Police could talk to the Cycling Clubs and invite them to ask their members to ride in smaller groups. The Police said the subject had not been raised before, but they made a note of the problem.

The Chairman thanked PC Harvey and PCSO Walsh for their attendance and for their update report.

2011/113 Financial Transactions

The Council noted that the following payments had been made:

▪ Aeshton Services (Sept Grasscutting)	£ 850.00
▪ AK Village Hall (Sept Room Rental)	£ 17.00
▪ Cllr S Jefferson (High Road Pavilion)	£ 677.16
▪ SLCC (Conference Fees)	£ 54.00
▪ Mr C Armitage (Greener Village Website)	£ 191.96
▪ Clerk's Salary (Sept)	£ 627.24
▪ Clerk's Expenses (Sept)	£ 51.74

2011/114 Cullimore's Gravels Ltd Dairy Farm Planning Application

The Chairman said the Planning Application had now been called in, but did not know when it would be discussed by Wiltshire Council. Cllr J Hughes said that a provisional meeting had been set up with Moreton Cullimore the following Wednesday. He said he would report the outcome of the meeting to the Chairman.

2011/115 Minerals Extraction Update

The Chairman said that he and County Cllr C Soden had been in discussion with regard to the restoration of some of the Cotswold Water Lakes. He said we need to know what lakes to restore and how to undertake the work, A good example of lake restoration was seen to be the lake on the corner of Friday's Ham Lane and the Spine Road. Cllr E Tidmarsh agreed to have a meeting with Cllrs M Seymour and R Thomas on the subject, and to circulate their collective knowledge before the next Parish Council Meeting

2011/116 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

The Chairman invited members to give their reports.

Footpaths Working Group

Cllr A Stefanovic reported that the Watermark are opposed to the intentions of Gloucestershire County Council to reinstate the footpaths in the Cotswold Water Park.

Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee

Cllr A Stefanovic reported that she had been re-elected as the Deputy Wiltshire Parishes Representative at the recent Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee Annual Parishes Liaison meeting. Cllr Stefanovic said that there are now 240 members of the CWP Society, which would indicate that local people are regaining their faith in the Society. She also gave each member a copy of part of the October edition of the Cotswold Life, in which there was an article about the Dennis Grant financial scandal.

Playing Fields Committee

The Chairman said that he had nothing to report from the Playing Fields Committee.

Grants and Finance Working Group

The Chairman suggested that the Working Group should comprise of four persons, himself, the Vice Chairman, the Responsible Finance Office and one other Councillor. The Chairman suggested that the fourth member should rotate each year; both suggestions were agreed. After a short discussion, Cllr M Carter agreed to be the fourth Working Group member for 2011/2012.

2011/117 Adoption of Village areas by the Councillors

Cllr D Wingrove explained why he wanted this Agenda Item included in the meeting. He thought that the members needed to get to understand how the Parishioners feel about various subjects that are raised from time to time in the Parish Council. Cllr Wingrove suggested that the best way to do so was by the village being split into eleven area, with each member being responsible for one of those areas. The Chairman suggested that the village might be split into functions rather than geographic areas, which to date is the case through the Working Groups, and appears to work. He also said that the Parishioners were aware that they could attend the Parish Council meetings, and when they do they were usually articulate.

The Chairman asked the members if there were any other potential solutions; to give the members time to think, he said the item would appear on next month's Agenda. He asked Cllr M Carter to raise a Forum on the issue on the Parish Council website. In conclusion, the Chairman thought it would help to disseminate information if the village had an e-mail directory but, as pointed out by Cllr R Thomas, 20% of the Parishioners do not have the means to receive e-mails.

2011/118 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The Chairman said he thought that most of the Parishioners would want to be involved with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations next year. He asked the Clerk to write to the principle groups in the village and invite them to a meeting as soon as possible to begin a dialogue on the best way forward. The Clerk said that it would be useful to know what the definitive date will be for the celebrations, and he agreed to find out and inform the members accordingly.

Action: The Clerk

2011/119 Village Shop Update

Cllr J Hughes gave an update on the Village Shop and said it continues to trade on a marginally profitable basis, a trend maintained since the shop opened. He said that donations and bonds continue to flow in and the total is now almost £34,000. With the recent delay in constructing the roof, Cllr Hughes said the target opening date of the Village Hall Annexe has been set for early December.

The Chairman agreed to the following subject being raised:

- Cllr R Thomas said that the Summer Camp that was set up in the Primary School Playing Field had been permitted throughout the whole of the School summer holiday. Cllr Thomas said that the noise from the Camp was unacceptable to the local residents. He said there had been a total lack of communications between the school with the adjacent residents before setting up the Camp. Consequently, a letter had been sent by the residents to the Chairman of the School Governors asking what actions the Governors are going to take about it. There was no early consultation, but a meeting between the residents and the School Governors has been arranged for the 18th October 2011.
As the newly appointed Council Representative on the Board of School Governors, Cllr D Wingrove said that the Governors were looking to see what could be done about it in the future; they want to rectify the problem, if possible. The Chairman said that if the problem cannot be resolved, then the Parish Council would need to step in and find a solution that would balance the needs of both sides.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.45pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 9th November 2011, commencing at 7.45pm