

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 13th May 2020

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; S Crawford; M Carter; M Cooper; M Smith; N Inzani; B Low; R Blackaller; B Ellison; D Wain.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry; The Clerk.

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

There were no members of the public in attendance, however, one Cllr had an observation from a parishioner to put to the Parish Council: A fountain and slide have appeared in the river on the High Road.

20-21/014 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

20-21/015 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20-21/016 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11th March 2020

The minutes of the Council Meeting 11th March 2020 had been circulated previously and were agreed and signed as a true record.

20-21/017 Parish Council Vacancy

One vacancy remains on the Parish Council, due to the current situation it was felt that it is not the right time to try to fill the vacancy. Item will stay on the agenda.

20-21/018 Actions from Previous Meeting

- 19-20/120 Cllr Berry has received a reply from Matt Perrott regarding the faded signs, arrangements were being made for the signs to be replaced. It was reported that one sign has been removed but not replaced. Cllr Berry to chase up. **Action: Cllr Berry**
- 19-20/130a Thames Path Crossing: CATG meeting was cancelled.
- 19-20/131 Best Kept Village competition has been cancelled this year.
- 19-20/132 Wiltshire Council Open Space and Green Infrastructure survey has been completed and returned.
- 19-20/132a Village Shop AGM was postponed and will now be held remotely on 18th June.

20-21/019 Chairman's Report

The Street Warden Scheme is going well and Cllr Wingrove is in regular contact with the volunteer wardens.

Wiltshire Shield have been in contact regarding PPE provision for local communities and have asked for a volunteer community champion for the parish. Cllr Low volunteered.

Action: Cllr Low

20-21/020 Clerks Report

The clerks report and Risk Assessment were distributed prior to the meeting. The Risk Assessment was discussed and agreed with slight amendments. Cllr Crawford to liaise with The Playing Fields Committee regarding weekly Playground Equipment Checks.

Action: Cllr Crawford

Roles and Responsibilities would normally have been discussed at the May meeting.

Internal Affairs Committee is fine. Environment Working Group needs more volunteers and

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there are a few gaps such as Footpaths. Councillors were asked to think about roles and responsibilities for the next meeting. New Councillors do not have details of the committees, Clerk to email information.

Action: Clerk

20-21/021 Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement was approved for signing. Clerk to create PDF and send to Cllr Carter to publish on website.

Action: Clerk

20-21/022 Financial Report

Income since the last meeting:

Wiltshire Council Precept £17,725.00

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Clerks Salary	£ 518.50
Mobile Phone Contract	£ 20.21
Payroll Admin (Mnth 12)	£ 11.40
M Carter – Website	£ 119.09

Closing balance: £28,162.60

The Parish Council noted the financial report and approved the income and expenditure to date.

The Parish Council approved the Annual Return.

20-21/023 River Thames Work

A statement from the Environment Agency, giving advice on the best way to alleviate the flood risk to the village, had been circulated, by email, to Councillors by a particular Councillor, on 16 April 2020. It was also noted that, prior to the March 2020 meeting of the Parish Council, a quote from Cotswold Water Park Estates and Ranger Services Ltd (part of the Cotswold Water Park Trust), for works to clear the river, had been circulated to Councillors.

Any works carried out would need the permission from the riparian owner prior to starting. Cllr Berry stated that riparian owners are responsible for any flood damage deemed to be caused by failure to keep up with responsibilities.

Following a lengthy discussion the Parish Council resolved to pursue all alternative options to clear the river to improve flow and help alleviate potential flooding. Following the decision a councillor resigned from the Waterways Committee.

Action: Cllrs: Inzani, Carter & Wingrove

20-21/024 Land at Ashfield

Issue 1: Infilling of Watercourse.

Following a discussion, the Parish Council agreed not to pursue the infilling of the ditch on land adjacent to 1 Ashfield.

Issue 2: Enclosure of Land.

Following the enclosure of land adjacent to 1 Ashfield the Parish Council agreed to pursue the matter of land ownership, in respect of both this land and other common areas of land in the village.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

20-21/025 Clerks Remuneration

The Parish Council agreed for the Clerk to be moved up a spinal point in the pay scales backdated to 1st August 2019 and also an increase in the use of home allowance.

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20-21/026 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

- a) **Planning** – The Planning minutes are to be circulated to all councillors once they have been approved by the Planning Committee Chairman.
- b) **Environment Committee** – No report.
- c) **Internal Affairs** – No report.
- d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.
- e) **Village Hall** – The Village Hall is currently closed until further notice. The committee have applied for a 'Community Funds' grant.
- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – The Playing Fields Committee can apply for a 'Community Funds Grant', Clerk to email details to Cllr Crawford.

Action: Clerk

Maintenance works are being carried out whilst the playgrounds are not in use. 13 trees have been planted. A grant has been received for a new boiler and toilets.

- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – The Trust need to ensure an income to keep them going and have made available land for sale off the Spine Road as a potential Hotel site.
- h) **School Governors** – There are currently a low number of children in school and work is being set for home schooling. There is resistance to the planned phased reopening on 1st June. Building works stopped for 4 weeks but is now moving forward.
- i) **Police** – No report.
- j) **Highways** – The SID data shows that there has been a decrease in traffic from 75000 vehicles to 25000. The data also shows an increase in speed in both directions, however, it does show that the SID is having a positive effect on speeding vehicles with fewer vehicles speeding on approaching the SID. Cllr Crawford would like to progress putting another pole elsewhere in the village or possibly purchasing a second device. Cllr Crawford to produce a proposal paper prior to a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Crawford

There have been discussions on Nextdoor regarding the Happylands/Waterhay bend. Cllr Crawford will ask Wiltshire Council to look into options and costs.

Action: Cllr Crawford

20-21/027 Matters for the next meeting

This meeting would have normally been the 'Annual Meeting'. However, due to the current situation there is no requirement to hold the Annual Meeting this year. Cllr Wingrove had previously stated that he was looking to stand down as Chair as he had been in the post for a number of years now and others might want a change. Since then we have been through unprecedented times and Cllr Wingrove is happy to continue in the post if everyone else is happy. It was agreed to not hold an Annual Meeting this year and for Cllr Wingrove to continue as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The June meeting will be a normal meeting but will include filling of posts. Councillors were reminded to contact the clerk prior to the next meeting with any items for consideration for the next agenda.

20-21/028 Date for the next meeting

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 10th June 2020 to be held remotely via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 9.38pm