

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 19th April 2023

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); M Carter; S Hill; N Inzani; C Sims; M Smith.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk. One member of public.

23-24/001 Public Section

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was one member of public in attendance with an interest in agenda item 12, it was agreed to move the item up the agenda.

23-24/002 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blackaller, Crawford, Low, Moran, and Venham.

23-24/003 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23-24/004 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2023 were approved and signed.

23-24/005 Actions from Previous Meeting

22-23/110 – Landscaping at Wheatleys Farm development, Cllr Berry awaiting update from Enforcement Officers visit in March.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/114b – Lake 82 ditch works carried forward. Cllr Berry is still awaiting an update from Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/136 – The Best Kept Village competition entry is ready to submit pending addition of sentence from the Church. Clerk to submit.

Action: Clerk

22-23/136a – Running an Open Gardens Competition to coincide with the Best Kept Village Competition will not be happening.

22-23/138 – A couple of volunteers have come forward for the speed mitigation group. Action carried forward.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

22-23/154 – The Telephone box lease has been extended and signed by both parties.

22-23/158 – South Cerney Parish Council have been contacted regarding Acorn Biodigester.

23-24/006 Chairmans Report

Cllr Moran has given notice that he intends to step down from the council as of the annual meeting in May, he hopes to apply to re-join at a later date when his workload is lighter. The Chairman has already written to Cllr Moran thanking him for the work that he has done as a Councillor. This will leave 2 vacancies on the Planning Committee. There is an application for a new house on land at Kent End, we have been granted an extension to comment on this application to enable discussion at next months full council meeting. Councillors were reminded that next month's meeting will be the Annual Council meeting where elections for various positions and committees are decided, it is important that as many councillors attend as possible.

The Annual Parish Meeting is being held on 23rd May, whilst this is not technically a Parish Council meeting it is good to have a good number of councillors in attendance.

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23-24/007 Clerks Report

The clerk had reported that the Telephone Gallery has taken a booking from the Holy Cross Christmas Tree Festival who would also like to book again for next year.

23-24/008 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting. The addition of the Playing Fields Committee finances has distorted the Parish Council figures making it look like we have had a large overspend this year, this is not the case. The Clerk, Chairman and Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee have arranged to meet to discuss how to account for the PFC finances going forward.

Income since the last meeting:

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 527.05
OSM Contract	£ 1800.00
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 13.40
Playing Fields Costs	£ 1382.13
Website Costs	£ 42.15
Ashton Keynes Primary School	£ 20.00

Closing Balance: £ 31,332.35

The council approved the finance report, income and expenditure and also a request to pay £16.30 for rubbish sacks used during village litter picks.

23-24/009 Financial Regulations Review

The financial regulations were approved.

23-24/010 Asset Register Review and H&S Inspection of Assets

The asset register was approved. The 2 bus shelters have been visually inspected and photographed, it was noted that they could do with a clean.

23-24/011 Millennium Green Trust Bluebell Project

The Millennium Green Trust had requested an additional £880 donation this year to put towards its Bluebell project. The Parish Council had agreed subject to match funding. Match funding has been successful, Clerk to liaise with the trust regarding payment/purchasing Bluebells.

Action: Clerk

23-24/012 Indoor Bowls Club Grant Application

A grant application had been received from the Indoor Bowls Club requesting £300 towards a new mat costing £1200. Cllr Carter proposed approving the application, Cllr Smith seconded the proposal. The council voted unanimously in favour of the application. Clerk to arrange payment.

Action: Clerk

23-24/013 Highway Improvement Request Rixon Gate

A Highways Improvement Request had been received asking for 30mph speed limit repeater signs to be installed at a couple of places along the C69. Whilst the Chairman was initially in favour, he had found some legislation which suggests that this was not allowed. Alternative suggestions were put forward such as a 30mph sign painted on the road, 'thank you for driving carefully' signs or '20 is plenty' stickers on lampposts etc. Chairman will investigate further and bring findings to a future meeting.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

23-24/014 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) Planning Committee (MS) – Minutes and Agenda circulated.

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- b) Internal Affairs Committee (CS) – nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall (PM) – nothing to report.
- d) Playing Fields Committee (SC/PM) – nothing to report.
- e) Cotswold Lake Trust (BL) – nothing to report.
- f) School Governors (SC) – nothing to report.
- g) Police (DW) – nothing to report.
- h) Highways (SC) – nothing to report.
- i) Footpaths and Cycle Routes (BL) – A report was circulated prior to the meeting. The footpaths working group have agreed to include watercourses and try to walk as many as they can during the year. Stephen Leonard will be contacted regarding the boundary ditch between Ashton Keynes and Somerford Keynes which has been filled in. Paul Crichton will be welcomed as a new volunteer. The group will meet again in August.
An issue of Golf being played in a field containing 2 footpaths was raised. Although the land is crossed by 2 footpaths, the field is private land and would be a matter for the landowner.
- j) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – nothing to report.
- k) Parochial Church Council (BL) – nothing to report.
- l) Speed Mitigation (RB) – nothing to report.
- m) Millennium Green (NI) – nothing to report.
- n) B4696 Road Safety – nothing to report.

23-24/015 Matters for the next meeting

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda and to submit any reports for the Committees, Working Groups and Representatives section at least 10 days in advance of the next meeting.

23-24/016 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 17th May 2023 in the main hall of the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.02pm.