

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 15th February 2023

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); R Blackaller; M Carter; S Hill; N Inzani; P Moran; C Sims and D Ventham.

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

22-23/128 Public Section

The member of public had an interest in item 22-23/141. The Chairman moved this item up the agenda.

22-23/129 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Crawford and Low.
Cllr Smith was absent.

22-23/130 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

22-23/131 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2023 were approved and signed.

22-23/132 Actions from Previous Meeting

22-23/110 – Landscaping at the Wheatleys Farm development. Cllr Berry is still awaiting a response from the Enforcement Officer. Carried forward.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/114b – Lake 82 ditch works carried forward. Cllr Berry has chased an update from Wiltshire Council but not yet had a response Carried forward.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/124 – Telephone Gallery expenses have been paid and contact has been made regarding the approval of the knitted nativity.

22-23/125b – Minutes of the Flood Resilience meeting held in Cirencester have been forwarded to Wiltshire Council Flood Resilience Officer.

22-23/125k – Ashton Keynes Charities were contacted regarding the approval of the Parish Council representative.

22-23/067 – An Oak tree will be planted in March and a plaque has been donated.

22-23/133 Chairmans Report

The Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum will be giving a presentation to Parish Councils at the Council Chamber at Monkton Park, Chippenham on 27th February at 6pm. The Footpaths and Cycle Routes working group chair is currently out of action, Chairman asked for representation.

Action: Cllr Ventham

22-23/134 Clerks Report

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. Renewal of membership to the Society of Local Council Clerks was approved at a cost of £139. Options for financial packages to replace the excel spreadsheet currently in use had been investigated. A free trial of Easy PC was approved with a review in 2 months.

New dog bag dispensers have been purchased and installed at the Village Hall (replacing the old metal unit) and at Bradstone.

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22-23/135 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Playing Fields Inv 455 £ 159.40

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 716.36
H Carter Grass Cutting	£ 220.00
O2 Mobile Phone	£ 13.40
Vet UK (Bag dispensers x2)	£ 27.85
Playing Fields Costs	£ 47.50
Village Hall Hire	£ 27.00

Closing balance: £ 37,629.02

The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

22-23/141 Happy Land Parking Issues

The Youth Football Club recognises that there is a parking issue and hopes to work with the village to find a solution. Following discussions, it was agreed that the Club will encourage shared lifts and ask the home teams to park further away making use of car parking at Bradstone. Other potential parking was suggested and may be an option following approval of owners. Cllr Moran to liaise with owners.

Action: Cllr Moran

It was suggested that the pedestrian access off the High Road, near the pavilion could be upgraded and used as vehicle access. A one-way system could then be put in place to the existing car park, this would allow for parking along the grass. It was agreed to discuss this option with the Open Space Maintenance Contractor and the Playing Fields Committee.

Action: Cllr Moran

The YFC have offered to place cones along Happy Land to stop the parking issues along this stretch. The legalities of this need to be explored.

Action: Clerk

Member of public left.

22-23/136 CPRE Best Kept Village Competition

Information regarding this year's competition had been received. There were concerns that the competition was not very eco friendly and this has caused us to lose points in the past. It was agreed to enter the competition and include in our write up that we are proud of being eco-friendly.

Action: Cllr Ventham

A neighbouring village run a Best Kept Gardens competition at the same time as the CPRE competition. Since an 'Open Gardens' event was held during the last AK Festival, it was agreed to explore the possibility of running something similar, perhaps by way of a competition, to coincide with the Best Kept Village Competition.

Action: Cllr Moran

It was noted that, in the past, a particular parishioner had organised litter-picking groups, on occasions, within the Village. It was agreed that this parishioner should be approached to see if she would do this again shortly before the judging of the Best Kept Village Competition

Action: Cllr Wingrove

22-23/137 Street Naming – Graham Carter

Paperwork had been received for street naming of the development on Happy Land. The suggested name of 'The Cider Press' was approved.

Action: Clerk

22-23/138 Highway Improvement Request 30MPH Sign

It was agreed to continue to push for 20mph throughout the village with signage starting before the development.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

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22-23/139 Highway Improvement Request Village Sign

The Parish Council were in favour of moving the sign. Cllr Berry will investigate if this is highways land and if there is any legislation involved in moving the sign.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/140 Riparian Owners Contact

A proposal had been put to the Parish Council suggesting writing to riparian owners twice a year, to remind them of their responsibilities and to offer assistance.

The Environment Agency along with the Flood Risk Working Group have found no evidence of any obstructions that would cause a backup of water in the village, there is a detailed report on the Parish Council website. It would not be practical to write to all riparian owners in the village. A notice to riparian owners is included in the newsletter before autumn. If a specific issue of significance arises then the Parish Council will follow guidance from Wiltshire Council.

The Parish Council voted against the proposal.

The notice to riparian owners will be included in the newsletter twice a year and also added to the website.

22-23/142 Acorn Biodigester Proposal

It was agreed to move this discussion to next months meeting due to the time.

2-23/143 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) Planning Committee (MS) – Minutes and Agenda circulated.
- b) Flood Risk Working Group (MC) – nothing to report.
- c) Internal Affairs Committee (CS) – nothing to report.
- d) Village Hall (PM) – nothing to report.
- e) Playing Fields Committee (SC/PM) –nothing to report.
- f) Cotswold Lake Trust (BL) – nothing to report.
- g) School Governors (SC) – nothing to report.
- h) Police (DW) – nothing to report.
- i) Highways (SC) – nothing to report.
- j) Footpaths and Cycle Routes (BL) – nothing to report.
- k) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – nothing to report.
- l) Parochial Church Council (BL) – nothing to report.
- m) Speed Mitigation (RB) – nothing to report.
- n) Millennium Green (NI) – nothing to report.
- o) B4696 Road Safety – nothing to report.

22-23/144 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.

22-23/145 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 15th March 2023 in the main hall of the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.