

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 17th May 2023

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); S Crawford; S Hill; N Inzani; C Sims; D Ventham.

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry, Fiona Ryder – Clerk. Six members of public.

23-24/017 Election of Chairman for the council year 2023-2024

Dave Wingrove was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Hill. Cllr Wingrove agreed to stand as Chairman, there were no other nominations. Cllr Wingrove was elected as Chair and signed the declaration of office.

23-24/018 Public Section

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were six members of public in attendance, two members of public had attended to give a presentation on agenda item 31, two members of public had attended with a list of items to put to the council and two members of public were in attendance as observers.

The agent for planning application PL/2023/02347 provided a Design and Access Statement and gave a short presentation on the application.

One member of public raised the following issues:

A delivery van had hit a lamppost late last year and the lamppost had not been replaced. *It was explained that this is a highways issue. Cllr Berry agreed to chase.*

Action: Cllr Berry

School parking is a hazard and is causing a danger especially on the High Road. *The school are aware of the issue and have tried in the past to raise the issue and have arranged for staff to park on driveways in the village. The Parish Council are not complacent about the issues, however, there are no powers that we can use to stop parking on a public road.*

An apparent 'land grab' issue within the village: why have the Parish Council not done anything to stop it?

The Parish Council spent a lot of time and effort objecting to what happened in 2020 and were very active at the time, unfortunately, Wiltshire Council make the final decision.

One member of public made the following comments:

The village is looking a tired mess. The grass verge by Ellisons is an eyesore. A wall opposite Ellisons has been knocked into the river. The pavement is appalling. The monument outside the White Hart is crumbling and is a danger. Speeding in the village is an issue, 20mph limit works in Oaksey. The weeds in the river are the worst they have ever been this year.

Litter picks are arranged in the village periodically with the last one having taken place on 15th April. The Parish Council has plans to address the issues of speeding and the state of the monument outside the White Hart. The Parish Council have been addressing river issues and have walked the river with the Environment Agency. The EA advised that

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vegetation is not a flood risk, the weeds have grown due to the river being dry but are slowly dying off as the water levels have risen.

The member of public was thanked for her comments which will be looked into.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

All members of public were thanked for their contributions, it was agreed to move agenda item 31 up the agenda, it will now come after item 20.

23-24/019 Apologies for absence

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

Councillor Smith was absent.

23-24/020 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23-24/031 Planning Application PL/2023/02347

Proposal: Erection of a self-build residential dwelling house on garden land at Fox Cottage.

Address: Fox Cottage, Ashton Keynes

Comments: No objection

A Councillor proposed that the Parish Council object to the application on the grounds of it being outside the settlement boundary. However, after a lengthy discussion, the Parish Council voted to not to object to the application.

All members of public left the meeting.

23-24/021 Standing Orders

The Parish Council approved the Standing Orders.

23-24/022 Election of Vice Chairman

Sam Crawford was proposed by Cllr Wingrove and seconded by Cllr Inzani. Cllr Crawford agreed to stand as Vice Chair, there were no other nominations. Cllr Crawford was elected as Vice Chair.

23-24/023 Appointment of Members to Committees and Working Groups

Members were appointed to the Planning Committee, Playing Fields Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, Grants & Finance Committee, and Footpaths & Cycle Routes Working Group. Details of members are attached.

23-24/024 Appointment/Confirmation of Representatives to Outside Bodies

Representatives to outside bodies were agreed as follows:

Cotswold Lakes Trust – Cllr Low

Police – Cllr Wingrove

School Governors – Cllr Crawford

Village Hall Management Committee – to be decided at the next meeting.

Highways – Cllr Crawford

Ashton Keynes Charity – Cllr Inzani

Parochial Church Council – Cllr Sims

Millennium Green Trust – Cllr Inzani

23-24/025 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th April 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th April 2023 were approved and signed.

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23-24/026 Actions from Previous Meeting

22-23/110 – Landscaping at Wheatleys Farm development, Cllr Berry has forwarded an email update, the issue is currently at a standstill, Cllr Berry will continue to press the matter.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/114b – Lake 82 ditch works carried forward. The drainage office at Wiltshire Council has asked for further details, these have been passed to Cllr Berry to forward.

Action: Cllr Berry

22-23/114i – Wiltshire Council have agreed to fund and install a Happy Lands sign, they have stated that this will not be done as a priority.

22-23/138 – Three volunteers have come forward for the Speed Mitigation Group. Terms of reference need to be formed for the group.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

22-23/011 – The Parish Council will be purchasing Bluebell Bulbs and donating them to the Millennium Green Trust.

23-24/012 – Payment has been made to the Indoor Bowls Club for the agreed donation.

23-24/013 – The resident who submitted a Highways Improvement Request at the last meeting has been informed of the outcome.

23-24/027 Chairmans Report

Cllr Moran has given notice that he will be stepping down from the Council from today. This leaves us with a vacancy. A notice of vacancy will be published.

Action: Clerk

An email complaint has been received regarding the bank at Happyland. Since the ditch has been cleared the bank is unsightly and impossible to maintain. Quotes will be obtained to improve the bank.

Action: Clerk

Acorn Bioenergy have now submitted an application for an anaerobic digester, an extension for comments has been granted to 23rd June to allow for the application to be discussed at next month's meeting. Potential text to be used in response is to be circulated prior to the meeting.

Action: Cllr Sims

Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan runs to 2026, with regards to planning it does need to be reviewed.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

All councillors were reminded that the Annual Parish meeting is being held next Tuesday evening.

23-24/028 Clerks Report

The Internal Controls Check was carried out on 25th April. The Internal Audit was completed on 9th May.

The Clerk reported that an invoice had been received for works at Bradstone, this cannot be paid as this is the first the Parish Council have been informed of the works. A sum has been received relating to an insurance claim, there is currently no paperwork to support this payment.

£25,000 has been transferred into the savings account from the current account.

The Clerk has taken on an additional role of Clerk for another Parish Council.

A request had been made for a parishioner to use Bradstone parking, this has been passed on to the Playing Fields Committee.

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23-24/029 Annual Governance Statement

The Annual Governance Statement was distributed prior to the meeting. The council approved the statement and agreed that it could be signed.

23-24/030 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Wiltshire Council Precept £18,167.50

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 649.04
Mobile Phone Contract	£ 13.40
Village Hall Hire	£ 27.00
Litter Pick Bags	£ 16.30
Indoor Bowls Club Grant	£ 300.00
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 76.00
SSE High Road	£ 2.45

Closing Balance: £ 48,413.34

The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure. The Council approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and agreed that it could be signed.

23-24/032 Highways Improvement Request

A request had been received for speed reduction and resurfacing on the Ashton Road near the boundary with South Cerney. This is a designated HGV route with hardly any development; therefore, a speed reduction would be very unlikely. The Parish Council already has a working group looking into potential improvements further along this stretch. The condition of the road needs to be reported to Wiltshire Council.

Action: Clerk

23-24/033 Health and Safety Policy

The policy was approved.

23-24/034 Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk was asked to write back to the Chairman of Oaksey stating the support of the Council.

Action: Clerk

23-24/035 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports

- a) Planning Committee (MS) – Minutes and Agenda circulated.
- b) Internal Affairs Committee (CS) – nothing to report.
- c) Village Hall (PM) – nothing to report.
- d) Playing Fields Committee (SC/PM) – minutes of recent meeting circulated.
- e) Cotswold Lake Trust (BL) – nothing to report.
- f) School Governors (SC) – nothing to report.
- g) Police (DW) – Police Community Report circulated.
- h) Highways (SC) – nothing to report.
- i) Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Watercourses (BL) – nothing to report.
- 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.

23-24/036 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.

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23-24/037 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 21st June 2023 in the main hall of the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.29pm.