

Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.35pm

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove (Chairman); M Carter; S Crawford; S Hill.

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

23-24/075 Public Section

The meeting started late due to not being quorate until the arrival of a fourth councillor. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were two members of public in attendance. One member of public reported that some of the street name signs in the village are looking worn and need repainting. The Parish Steward has been in the village this week and has been repainting some signs, member of public was asked to email the Clerk details of any signs needing attention.

The Council were asked if they could arrange for the bridge over Gosditch to be painted. This is also something that the Parish Steward can be asked to do.

One member of public was attending as a spectator with a view to joining the Parish Council at a later date.

23-24/076 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Inzani and Ventham.

Cllr's Low and Smith were absent.

23-24/077 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23-24/078 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19th July 2023

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

23-24/079 Actions from Previous Meeting

23-24/032 – Condition of the road near Downs Cottage has been reported to Wiltshire Highways.

23-24/062 – Temporary closures of footpaths around Cotswold Community have been included in the newsletter.

23-24/063 – The Playing Fields Committee are liaising with a local contractor and discussing options for improvements to the Happy Land verge.

23-24/065 – Parish Emergency Assistance items have been ordered and are due to be collected at the beginning of October.

23-24/066 – Clerk has liaised with the Telephone Gallery regarding the decision on funding.

23-24/045 – The new noticeboard has arrived and is awaiting installation.

23-24/071 – Weekly inspections of play equipment are due to be discussed at a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee tomorrow.

23-24/080 Chairmans Report

Cllr Blackaller and Cllr Sims have both resigned from the Parish Council we thank them for their contributions over the years and wish them all the best for the future. There is currently one vacancy to be filled by co-option and two notices of vacancy will be published on Friday 22nd September. An advertisement has been placed in the newsletter. It was asked if the number of councillors needed could be reduced. The number of councillors required is determined by the number of parishioners.

Recently, several cars were broken into in one night, the local Neighbourhood Watch are collating information, and a report has been sent to the police.

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There have been some issues with AKPC emails this week, this should now be resolved and all emails working correctly thanks to Malcolm.

The recent resignations mean that the following roles need to be filled:

Village Hall Representative, Parochial Church Council Representative and Internal Affairs Committee member. This will be an agenda item for our next meeting. Cllr Crawford will not be present at the next meeting but has put himself forward for the Internal Affairs committee.

Action: Clerk

23-24/081 Clerks Report

Details of work carried out by the Parish Steward on his latest visit were given, these included:

Cutting of grass verge at Happy Land and strimming footpath entrance into playing field from Happy Land.

Filled Potholes outside Cotswold Country Park & Beach, on the bend in Back Street, outside The Mead and at the Coxs Hill junction.

Cut back verge on B4696 Ashton Road from Swan Lane.

Tidied up weeds and strimmed along the wall opposite the shop.

Filled dip in footpath to Churchyard.

Richmond Court – Parish Steward has requested a wire brush attachment to enable him to clear some of the moss.

The annual subscription to Wiltshire Association of Local Council and National Association of Local Councils was approved by the council at a cost of £482.62 plus VAT.

Works on Fridays Ham Lane into the village – An answerphone message was received regarding the road works. No phone number was left to call back. Works were advertised on the Parish Council Facebook page and in the newsletter. The Parish Council are not responsible for informing individuals of upcoming works/road closures.

Gosditch Blocked Drain – Email received reporting a completely blocked drain in Gosditch. A vehicle had been in the area clearing drains but had not visited the one that was completely blocked. I visited and took photos, reported via MyWiltshire and advised resident to do the same.

23-24/082 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

Income since the last meeting:

Playing Fields Invoice 460	£ 801.00
Wiltshire Council CIL	£ 1923.84
Playing Fields Invoice 461	£ 36.30

Expenditure since the last meeting:

Clerks Expenses	£ 105.26
Bradstone Cleaning	£ 229.24
Village Hall Hire	£ 54.00
OSM June/July	£ 1980.00
Spot On Supplies	£ 68.50
JH Fitting Services	£ 3139.20
HJ Carter	£ 550.00
Admin to Council	£ 1030.94
Q2 Mobile Phone	£ 13.20
Castle Water	£ 45.95
JACs Noticeboard	£ 662.56

Unity Income: Aviva Insurance Claim: £4150.00

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The insurance renewal has been received rather late this year due to amendments to conditions following the recent claim. The long-term understanding has not been applied due to the claim. The Parish Council agreed to renew the policy at a cost of £1442.89 if no alternative could be sought prior to the 1st October. The Clerk has approached another broker who were reluctant to quote due to the recent claim.

Action: Clerk

The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

23-24/083 Councillor Vacancy

This item has already been covered in Chairs Report.

23-24/084 Public Access to Village Hall Toilets

A request for the Village Hall toilets to be made available to the public was discussed. The main user of the hall is the playgroup, additional costs would be incurred, and the cleaner would need to check the hall every day. It is the Parish Councils view that it is not feasible to make the Village Hall toilets accessible to the public.

23-24/085 20MPH Zone

Three parishioners came forward to make up a working group, Cllr Blackaller was going to coordinate, Cllr Wingrove will now act as facilitator. Cllr Berry advised that if roads were identified by the group, they could ask LHFIC to investigate the feasibility of making them a 20mph zone.

Action: Cllr Wingrove

23-24/086 Clerks Salary

The council approved a rise in NJC Scale for the Clerk.

23-24/087 Playing Fields Committee

The bulk of the flood damage insurance works have been completed and the claim has now been finalised. Payment has been received for flooring and sports equipment. There is a small job outstanding and discussions are being held regarding further improvements to the pavilion.

Further progress has been made on the mound at the High Road, there is still orange tape around the recently seeded grass.

Discussions with Playdale are ongoing regarding the Zip-wire and professional support is being provided, it is still hoped that Playdale will agree to make improvements to the Zip-wire.

The Lotts slide is 95% complete, there is a large lump of concrete from the old slide that needs removing as it is near the landing zone for the new slide. Volunteer help is being arranged.

Action: Cllr Crawford

The large tree in the middle of the field at the High Road has been taped off due to large branches having come down in recent bad weather. The fallen debris has been cleared and an assessment of the two large trees is to be arranged.

Action: Clerk

23-24/088 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.

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- d) Cotswold Lake Trust (BL) – Nothing to report.
- e) School Governors (SC) – Nothing to report.
- f) Police (DW) – Nothing to report.
- g) Highways (SC) – Nothing to report.
- h) Footpaths, Cycle Routes and Waterways (BL) – Nothing to report.
- i) Ashton Keynes Charities (NI) – Nothing to report.
- j) Parochial Church Council (CS) – Nothing to report.
- k) Speed Mitigation (RB) – Nothing to report.
- l) Millennium Green (NI) – Nothing to report.
- m) B4696 Road Safety – Nothing to report.

23-24/089 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.

23-24/090 Date for the next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 18th October 2023 in the main hall of the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 8.31pm