

# Ashton Keynes Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Present: Cllrs D Wingrove; S Crawford; M Carter; N Inzani; M Smith; B Low; R Blackaller; P Moran; D Ventham.

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

The meeting commenced at 7:16pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was one member of public in attendance as an observer.

### 20-21/134 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cooper and Ellison.

### 20-21/135 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 20-21/136 To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved and signed. One Councillor requested for it to be noted that they had proposed 2 additions to the minutes, the proposal was not approved.

### 20-21/137 Actions from Previous Meeting

20-21/127 – Cllr Crawford has yet to submit the CATG request regarding Highway Improvements to the B4696.

20-21/130 – The proposal regarding the telephone box is an agenda item.

20-21/131j – Cllr Crawford will report the signs damaged due to recent RTC at the Spine Road junction.

20-21/131k – Cllr Low has provided a report which includes an update on the footpath to the Church.

### 20-21/138 Chairman's Report

Ashton Keynes Primary School replied to the recent letter sent by the Chairman to say that they appreciated the gesture.

### 20-21/139 Clerks Report

The Parish Council resolved to renew the SLCC membership.

**Action: Clerk**

The Parish Council resolved to enter the CPRE Best Kept Village Competition, to be coordinated by Cllr Ventham.

**Action: Cllr Ventham**

### 20-21/140 Financial Report

#### Income since the last meeting:

#### Expenditure since the last meeting:

Admin to Council	£ 454.60
Zoom Video Comms	£ 14.39
OSM December	£ 900.00
Website Support	£ 467.49

Closing balance: £19,767.06

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

The report was approved.

## **20-21/141 Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders had previously been updated and were awaiting formatting, this has now been done. The Parish Council resolved to adopt the standing orders.

## **20-21/142 Financial Regulations**

The updated Financial Regulations had been circulated with a covering note to all prior to the meeting. The Chairman highlighted amendments made to sections 4.2 and 11.1. The Parish Council resolved to adopt the Financial Regulations.

## **20-21/143 Open Space Maintenance Contract**

The Clerk has spoken with the existing contractor who is happy to continue and has also obtained a comparison quote from another local grounds maintenance company. The existing contractor is local, reliable, has close links to local organisations that use the open spaces and provides excellent value for money, he has recently been spotted around the village carrying out extra works to benefit the parish and is highly recommended. The Parish Council resolved to continue to use the existing contractor.

**Action: Clerk**

## **20-21/144 Cotswold Water Park SSSI**

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the case to oppose the blanket SSSI designation of the Cotswold Water Park. All Councillors were given the opportunity to speak on the issue. The Parish Council were broadly supportive of the SSSI designation with some reservations of the blanket coverage and voted in favour of submitting a comment on the current consultation. The Parish Council then resolved to submit a general statement that the boundaries have been drawn some way from the existing lakes and suggest that they are reviewed. Precise wording to be drawn up and reported back to the council.

**Action: Cllrs Wingrove and Crawford**

## **20-21/145 Telephone Kiosk**

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Phone box is not in good condition and is in need of renovation and a general tidy up of the surrounding area. Land ownership had been brought up before, but this was not being questioned here – it was merely an issue of how to best tidy up the land. It was agreed the shop needs to get a separate shelter to use as storage rather than the phone box. The Parish Council agreed that there is a need to make the phone box and surrounding area look better. A specific proposal and costs to be brought back to a future meeting.

**Action: Cllr Blackaller**

## **20-21/146 Overflowing Water/Sewerage in Fore Street**

It has been noted that if there is significant rainfall for a day or two a man hold cover in Fore Street/Saddlers Field overflows creating an 80ft long puddle. This has not happened previously and causes 2 houses to have sewerage backing up. Thames Water have been contacted and said that they would investigate the pumping station and stated that no more houses should be built as the sewers already cannot cope. Cllr Berry reported that there was a similar issue in Crudwell and suggested that resident of properties with an issue should contact Thames Water to request non return valves be fitted. As the issue involves both foul water and surface water, residents could also request that these are separated.

# Ashton Keynes Parish Council

Concern has been raised previously about whether the existing sewage system can cope with more housing, when planning applications have been considered, but has seemingly not been regarded as an issue by Wiltshire Council. The matter will be raised again when faced with development applications. Residents need to put pressure on Thames Water to solve the problem.

## 20-21/147 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Report

### a) **Planning**

#### **Application 20/10383/FUL**

Proposed change of use of land to residential garden.

Land to rear of Alinbert, 5 Ashfield.

This application follows a recent similar application from a neighbouring property to which the Parish Council objected. The Parish Council resolved to object to this application on the same grounds as the objection to the neighbouring application.

**Action: Clerk**

Clerk to look into identifying land and protecting it using Assets of Community Interest. Land would need to be mapped out and listed.

**Action: Clerk**

The Planning Committee Chairman has been in contact with Wiltshire Council regarding a document entitled: 'Wiltshire Local Plan – Looking to the future: Empowering Rural Communities' and also a possible update to the Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan. These discussions are on-going.

**Action: Cllrs Wingrove & Smith**

- b) **Flood Risk** – A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were 4 main areas of flooding identified. Rixon Gate – Wiltshire Highways are already involved and measures proposed include gully and ditch clearance. Wiltshire Highways have met with landowners today but we have not yet had an update. The main cause of flooding is extensive rainfall and surface water so there is not a great deal that can be done. Drone Footage has been circulated to show the extend of flooding in the area. Swill Brook – As the drone footage shows, the flood plains contain surface water flooding and the rivers cannot cope. The Happyland Playing Field ditch has been dug out by the Open Space Maintenance contractor. Wiltshire Highways have discussed additional remedial action but can only help water flow from the road they cannot stop the road flooding. Lack of flood warning signage was discussed. Cllr Berry will speak with Matt Perrott regarding signage.

**Action: Cllr Berry**

- c) **Internal Affairs** – No Report.

- d) **Minerals Liaison** – No report.

- e) **Village Hall** – The Velux windows are leaking. The Village Hall Committee are investigating this matter.

- f) **Playing Fields Committee** – No report.

- g) **Cotswold Water Park** – The Gateway Centre has been bought by Relish. Cleveland Lakes visitor centre plans are moving along, they are likely to come and talk to us in March. There has been some interest in the Spine Road hotel proposal, it is likely to be a lower end hotel towards Clayhill Copse. The CWPT are keen to involve multi agencies i.e. Police and both Wiltshire and Gloucestershire agencies. They are going to be looking at parking restrictions and potential areas that could be problematic and are planning to police the area more.

- h) **School Governors** – Despite lockdown the school are still preparing for Ofsted. The school are part of the 'Challenge Partner Review' and have chosen 'Global Advocacy', they were able to have a 3 day review with examiners and achieved the highest grade. There was such positivity shown by all involved and this is another example of the school going above and beyond.

- i) **Police** – No report.

- j) **Highways** – No report.

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

- k) Footpaths & Cycle Routes** – A discussion was had with the landowner of the footpath up to the church, although he owns the land he is not responsible for the maintenance of the footpath surface. Wiltshire Senior Rights of Way Warden has confirmed that this is correct. Clerk has been looking into the Parish Council archives and will pass on information to the FCR liaison who will provide a proposal for the next meeting. The Parish Council may have been involved with the maintenance of the path in the past and need to decide whether to take on the responsibility in future. It was also suggested that the Parish Council approach CATG regarding the footpath fund. The path provides safe travel to the church and currently disability access is a problem.

**Action: Clerk, Cllrs Crawford & Low**

- l) Ashton Keynes Charities** – No Report

## **20-21/132 Matters for the next meeting**

Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk with any items to be put forward for the agenda at least 10 days before the next meeting.

## **20-21/133 Date for the next meeting**

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm