

# *Ashton Keynes Parish Council*

## **Minutes of the meeting held in Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

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

In attendance: Wilts Cllr Berry; Fiona Ryder – Clerk; 1 member of public (name recorded).

The meeting commenced at 7:15pm

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **21-22/132 Public Section**

One member of public addressed the council regarding ditches at Rixon Gate. The Chairman will take a look at the issue reported near the Bradstone field and the Clerk will report to Wiltshire Highways.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove, Clerk**

Now that the ditches in Rixon Gate have been cleared so far, the water is causing issues further up. It was noted that the area has been identified as a surface water flood risk. Wiltshire Council were looking at riparian ownership enforcement. The Flood Risk Group will contact Wiltshire Council for an update.

**Action: Flood Risk Group**

The member of public was thanked for bringing the issues to the notice of the council.

### **21-22/133 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hill, Low, Moran and Smith.

### **21-22/134 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **21-22/135 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved and signed.

### **21-22/136 Actions from Previous Meeting**

21-22/061 – An article has been published in the February newsletter explaining the Emergency Plan and asking for Community Volunteers. So far there have been no responses. Covid-19 Street Wardens will be contacted and asked if they would be interested.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

21-22/124 – A letter has been received today from Wiltshire Council confirming the recent decision regarding footpath 41. There is some confusion around the dates available to appeal the decision.

**Action: Cllr Wingrove**

21-22/116l – The Chairman has now received an updated welcome pack from the church.

21-22/127 – The Village Hall has been booked for meetings from April 2022.

21-22/101 – A group including representatives from various village organisations met in January to discuss potential plans to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Various events are planned for the 4-day weekend including a beacon at the Church, films in the village hall, bringing forward the Church Fete, Closing the High Road and encouraging street parties. It was asked if the group should be set up as a Parish Council working group, it was not felt that this was necessary. However, the Parish Council acknowledged the formation of this group and expressed its support for it.

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## 21-22/137 Chairmans Report

The Chairman has been approached by a representative from the local Scouts group. There is a small piece of land on the corner of Eastfield and Fore Street that the Scouts would like to tidy up. The Parish Council were in support of the proposal, however, as the Parish Council do not own the land and have no ownership details, they could not actually give permission.

## 21-22/138 Clerks Report

Work has recently been carried out to tidy up the area of trees in Kent End/Harris Road. It is not clear who has carried out the works and the Clerk is awaiting a response from Wiltshire Council and Green Square Accord. Quotes have been put on hold until it is clear who has carried out the works and if they are intending to carry out further works to the trees.

The Parish Council approved the renewal of SLCC membership.

The Parish Council approved the slight increase in monthly printing costs.

A concern had been raised by a parishioner regarding damage to the verge in Church Walk. On investigation it was found that building works have been taking place in the area meaning an increase in vehicles including lorries. Due to heavy vehicles mounting the verge, large stones that had been put in place to protect the drainage pipes from the highway to the river have been moved, the pipes have been broken and soil has been pushed in. It was also reported that the bank on the river side has caved in. These issues need to be addressed by Wiltshire Council Highways. Clerk to respond to concerned resident to inform them that this needs to be reported to Highways. Clerk will also report the drainage issues to Wiltshire Highways.

**Action: Clerk**

A call had been received regarding the possible purchase of a piece of land just outside the village near Ellisons coach park. It was asked for clarification as to where exactly the piece of land was.

**Action: Clerk**

## 21-22/139 Financial Report

The finance report was circulated prior to the meeting.

### Income since the last meeting:

### Expenditure since the last meeting:

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| H J Carter (Phone Box Ground Works)    | £ 360.00  |
| H J Carter (Tree Works High Rd PF)     | £ 2150.00 |
| Admin to Council                       | £ 498.20  |
| O2 Mobile Phone                        | £ 20.48   |
| M Carter (Phone Box Lighting Expenses) | £ 131.19  |
| Village Hall Room Hire January         | £ 27.00   |

Closing balance: £22,855.13

The council approved the finance report and income and expenditure.

## 21-22/140 Playing Field Committee

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was explained that the Parish Council owns the High Road and The Lotts playing fields and holds a long-term lease with Fields in Trust for the Bradstone Field. The Playing Fields Committee are doing a great job in running the sites. However, the current constitution, dated 2007, has not been set up legally and the committee are currently unregulated. Because of the obvious financial and liability issues, it is imperative that this is sorted out as soon as possible.

Advice has been taken and we have been given two options: either the Playing Fields Committee is set up as a committee of the Parish Council or they apply for Charitable status. Prior to 2007, it is understood that the committee did have charitable status but it

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became too onerous. If the committee came under the auspices of the Parish Council the Playing Fields AGM would be abolished, the reporting and appointment aspects would be covered at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council respectively. Whatever line is taken, it was agreed that the current committee supports the change. Representatives of the Parish Council are due to meet with the committee next week to discuss. It was felt that any proposed change should be put to a Playing Fields EGM.

It was resolved that the Parish Council agreed in principle to take over the committee as a Parish Council committee subject to agreement with the Playing Fields Committee and an EGM.

## **21-22/141 Request to Fell Tree on High Road Playing Field**

A request had been received from a parishioner to fell a tree on High Road Playing Field land. The request had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair of the Playing Field Committee is happy for the tree to be felled at the expense of the parishioner as per Parish Council Tree Policy. It was agreed to allow Sycamore tree no112 to be felled at the expense of the parishioner.

**Action: Clerk**

## **21-22/142 Electric Vehicle Public Charging Point Survey**

The survey questions were distributed prior to the meeting. Responses were agreed.

**Action: Clerk**

## **21-22/143 Committees, Working Groups and Representatives' Reports**

- a) **Planning**  
Minutes and Agenda for planning meetings continue to be circulated to all.
- b) **Flood Risk** – Report circulated prior to the meeting. The Environment Agency confirmed that no permit had been applied for in the Oaklake House area and that one would not have been given. The Flood Risk Group are due to meet with the Environment Agency and will raise the issue of enforcement.  
**Action: Flood Risk Group**
- c) **Internal Affairs** – Committee have met and will have a Communications and Media Policy ready for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.
- d) **Village Hall** – Nothing to report.
- e) **Playing Fields Committee** – Nothing to report.
- f) **Cotswold Lake Trust** – A deal has been agreed with a filming company to use Cleveland Lakes until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Permissive paths will need to be closed at times during filming, notice will be given in advance of any closure.
- g) **School Governors** – Nothing to report.
- h) **Police** – Nothing to report.
- i) **Highways** – Nothing report.
- j) **Footpaths & Cycle Routes** – Footpath 14 has now been sorted. A visit from Stephen Leonard has been arranged. Mike Seymour has agreed to become a member of the working group.
- k) **Ashton Keynes Charities** – Nothing to report.
- l) **Parochial Church Council** – Nothing to report.
- m) **Phone Box Project** – A lock is to be fitted to the door. A launch day has been planned for 12<sup>th</sup> March.
- n) **Speed Mitigation** – After direct contact from a parishioner, Cllr Berry raised the issues of the Thames Path crossing at the last CATG meeting and will be pushing Highways to take action as there is currently no signs warning motorists of pedestrians crossing and they have a statutory duty.

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Pedestrians cannot see far enough to cross safely, a mirror has been suggested and also the removal of some trees.

## **21-22/144 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 8 days in advance of the next meeting.

## **21-22/145 Date for the next meeting**

The date for the next Parish Council meeting will be 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Ashton Keynes Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9pm