

# ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

*Date:* Monday 18 January 2016

*Councillors:* James Neil (Chairman), Eliza Lewis (Vice Chairman), Richard Fergusson, Mark Watkins, Elaine Ware (District Councillor)

*Clerk* James Greenham

*Apologies* Lorna Halford, Bill Spence, Yvonne Constance (County Councillor),

*Circulation:* As above plus minute file, village noticeboard and village website

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 November 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were formally approved at this meeting.

### **Matters arising**

#### Jubilee bench

The clerk reported that the bench has been moved from its current site and being prepared for installation at the new site. The new site will be prepared with a concrete base and made ready. Bill Spence to complete and advise. **Action: Bill Spence BS**

### **Planning issues**

#### *Approved*

Compton Beauchamp Estates	<i>Change of use of barn at Kingstone Winslow farm</i>
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#### *Pending*

Land adjoining Rectory Farm Cottage, Idstone	<i>Conversion of stables to residential</i>
Millstream Cottage, Kingston Winslow	<i>Construction of two storey side extension</i>
Telephone Box Cottage, Kingston Winslow	<i>Replacement of cottage with two dwellings - outline</i>

It was advised that the parish council has made contact with the Compton Beauchamp Estate (Richard Salmon) with regard to any planned residential development at Kingston Winslow Farm. The estate will contact in due course if necessary.

It was noted the parish council was not unhappy with the new pub signs, which have been installed on private land and no further action will ensure.

### **Wixes Piece**

The clerk confirmed there is a right of way for the parish council only, onto the main public space through the access gates (which are kept locked). No further action is needed.

### **Financial update for the parish council**

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position as at 18 January 2016. The estimated annual deficit is £866.05, which is largely due to the legal costs incurred during the recent shop legal work required.

It was confirmed by the clerk that the council's Santander business account will be closed on 1 March 2016. The account has a zero balance and has been unused for several years.

It was confirmed by the clerk that the council will continue to be externally audited, for reasons of good practice and transparency. There is likely to be no charge by the auditor for this work.

The council needs to update the mandate for signature on the Nationwide savings account and the clerk will action as appropriate. Eliza Lewis and Mark Watkins agreed to act as signatories. The clerk will also check with Bill Spence and Lorna Halford.

**Action: the clerk**

**JRG**

#### **Update from County Councillor**

The County Councillor updated by report on further cutbacks by the County Council to services such as highways services (grass cutting etc) to the local communities. Further discussions and consultations are planned.

The clerk will contact Tim Shickle from OCC with regard to the published 'Working Together' plan. **Action: The clerk**

**JRG**

#### **Update from District Councillor**

Stage 2 of the Local Plan 1 scheduled to be examined between 2-19 February 2016.

Elaine Ware will advise the parish with regard to responding in connection with the submission by the Western Vale Villages Consortium, which may have mistakenly compromised the validity of the Local Plan. **Action: Elaine Ware**

**EW**

It was advised the tip at Stanford will remain open until at least 2017, after which there is no definite plan to keep open. Further information to be supplied in due course.

#### **Community Communication plans**

James Neil and Mark Watkins will meet separately with Steve Treadwell to discuss how best to move forward with management and ownership of the Ashbury.org website.

**Action: James Neil and Mark Watkins**

**JN/MW**

Mark agreed to co-ordinate the drafting of an Emergency Action Plan for the village (including communication in the event of an emergency). Mark will organise a separate meeting, to encourage others within the village to contribute. **Action: Mark Watkins MW**

#### **Neighbourhood Plan development and update**

James Neil will implement an action to get this underway, including inviting others from the community to join and add to the development of the plan as well as contact Uffington PC for advice. *Outstanding since January meeting* **Action: James Neil**

**JN**

Eliza Lewis advised that ORCC has now become Oxfordshire First, and will be able to assist in developing Local Plans etc, but there would be a charge of several thousand pounds to consider.

James Neil to contact Uffington PC to discuss neighbourhood plan and how far they have got with it. **ACTION James Neil**

**JN**

Eliza Lewis will contact David Potter and Charlotte Colver ASAP from VWHDC who are the main co-ordinators for Community Led Plans and Neighbourhood Plans to obtain details of grants available and how the council designates their area to start the process.

**Action: Eliza Lewis**

**EL**

EL to update JN with reference to above and both to look at designating neighbourhood area ASAP to start the process. **ACTION James Neil and Eliza Lewis**

**JN/EL**

#### **Highways issues and update**

It was agreed the parish would prefer to have two sets of village threshold entry gates as opposed to an additional VAS sign (planned to be installed aside the existing VAS). The clerk will advise Highways as a matter of urgency. **Action: The clerk**

**JRG**

It was noted by all that OCC had recently voted to cut all subsidies to local bus services in the county. Further news and impact on the #90 bus service is expected in due course, sometime in March 2016. Richard Fergusson will continue to keep in touch with developments.

Richard Fergusson will look to move the temporary signage at the cross-roads – to improve road safety but not compromise the commercial objectives of the pub.

**Action: Richard Fergusson**

**RF**

#### **Village school update**

An update on the progress of the school in terms of numbers attending (71) and recent enjoyable events was provided during the meeting.

It was noted the school achieved the highest SATS results for a primary school within the Oxfordshire county area.

#### **Village Hall Update**

A number of fund raising events are planned in the coming months and it was agreed the hall is in good condition and is well used by the local community.

The village hall committee member present thanked the parish council for the contribution of £15 towards a new noticeboard.

#### **Any other business**

Andy England and Sara Loney have both advised they are no longer able to maintain the war memorial green. Therefore the clerk will place a notice requesting for volunteers. If none is forthcoming, this task will be added to the existing appointed contractor.

**Action: The clerk**

**JRG**

The council thanked both Andy and Sarah for their many years of voluntary work, it is much appreciated.

#### **Comments from the public**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

#### **Dates of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 21 March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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