

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 7 November 2005

Councillors: Steve Treadwell (Chairman), Peggy Leon (Vice Chairman), Steve Bunce, Reg Smith, Jim Spence, Marion Turner.

Clerk James Greenham

Circulation: As above plus, Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor (County Councillor), Yvonne Constance (District Councillor), minute book and village website

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 September were read, amended, agreed and signed.

Matters arising

Mr Treadwell (ST) updated and confirmed that progress was being made on the installation of broadband throughout the village. A further update will be provided in January 2006.

ST

It was reported that Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor was unable to obtain further funding from Oxfordshire Highways Department towards the cost of installing six posts in the triangle of grass on Chapel Lane. It would seem no further action will be needed.

The clerk advised that the Vale of the White Horse is unable to provide amenity tree planting in front of the new barn on Station Road and no further action will be planned at the moment.

The clerk will obtain from Oxfordshire Highways the definitive map of adopted highways and footpaths in the parish.

JRG

Mr Treadwell and the clerk will draft a letter to the local planning authority stating that Ashbury should remain as H11 status on the emerging Local Plan. In addition, a maximum number of houses allowed for development should be suggested in the letter. *Still outstanding from July meeting, ST agreed to draft letter asap.*

ST

The clerk reported that a decision concerning the installation of two ramps in Pound Piece by VWHDC will be made and advised before the next parish council meeting in January 2006

JRG

It was agreed by the parish council that the VWHDC would be contacted by the clerk, requesting that responsibility for the closed churchyard maintenance change from the parish council to the VWHDC with effect from 2006. Feedback from those parishes that have their churchyards maintained by the Vale would indicate a very satisfactory service is provided.

JRG

Planning issues

Allowed: Westcot Properties, The Cottage, Kingstone Winslow,
Variation of existing planning consent.

Outstanding: Mr & Mrs Johansen Brown, new house in Idstone. *Variation of existing planning consent.*
Mr J Spence, Manor Farm. *Demolition of modern agricultural buildings*

Correspondence

Correspondence of interest since the last meeting was distributed for general reading and information.

The clerk advised that the Dial-a-Ride bus service provided by Thamesdown Transport may not close after all. The issue is whether Oxfordshire County Council continues to part-fund this service. A decision is due after 22 December 2005.

The parish council agreed not to take on responsibility for any highway arrangements from Oxfordshire County Council and the clerk will advise accordingly.

JRG

Any other business and comments from the public

Mr Treadwell agreed to update the village website in due course. *Still outstanding from September meeting.*

ST

High-speed traffic coming down Ashbury Hill is still considered to be an issue. The clerk will contact Shrivenham Parish Council concerning the recent installation of their own real-time digital speed indicator. (It may be appropriate for Ashbury PC to consider such a similar move in the near future.)

JRG

The clerk will also write to Oxfordshire Highways requesting that they consider the installation of such a device, especially because of the nearby primary school.

JRG

It would be appropriate for the headmistress and Friends of Ashbury School to write as well to Oxfordshire Highways. The clerk will contact as appropriate.

JRG

There is also a requirement for a new road sign before entering the village from the hill, warning of a turning into what is Chapel Lane.

JRG

The clerk will also contact the local authorities with regard to advice on dealing with a pandemic of bird flu or general influenza as well as severe cold weather provisions (such as school closures, postponing public meetings etc). This will be forwarded to the chairman asap such that the parish council can develop its own emergency plan in time for the winter.

JRG/all

It was thought that signs warning motorists of children playing in the road from the B4057 to Kingstone Winslow could be installed by appropriate residents of KW. Mrs Leon will co-ordinate and advise.

PL

The clerk will write to Oxfordshire Highways concerning the poor state of Station Road and the surface water which collects every time it rains and also the state of Drews Hill (fallen leaves).

JRG

The clerk will provide more detailed information concerning the blocking-off of the alleged footpath behind Berricroft Farm. This will be at the next meeting in January 2006.

JRG

Dates of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 16 January 2006 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approximately 8.10 pm.