

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 11 June 2005

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

Apologies: Steve Bunce

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 9 May were read, agreed and signed.

Matters arising

Mr Treadwell (ST) has contacted the new local MP concerning broadband. The new MP stated he had contacted BT and the various local councils. To date, Mr Treadwell has not had a response or update from Mr Vaizey.

ST also reported he had contacted the director of BT responsible for the implementation of broadband, about why Ashbury had been omitted from the broadband plan and what alternative solutions may be available. To date, ST has not had a response. ST to follow up.

ST

The clerk reported on progress with Oxfordshire Highways department. The road markings will be refreshed during August. The broken bollard at the main crossroads will be replaced soon and the road outside the Rose and Crown may be renovated during the next financial year.

The clerk reported that Oxfordshire Highways has offered to contribute a third of the costs of installing six wooden protective posts on the triangle of grass at the junction of Chapel Lane with the B4000. The likely cost to the parish council will be £340. It was agreed that Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor will contact the relevant individual at Oxfordshire Highways to see if full funding would be available, on the grounds of public safety.

AFO'C

The Vale of the White Horse District Council is making available a tree planting scheme, which could be used on the land in front of Mr Reade's barn

on Station Road, with Mr Reade's permission. The clerk will contact Mr Reade with a view to seeking permission. JRG

Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor reported contact with Oxfordshire Council concerning the state of Malthouse Ditch (on the B3057) and they are aware of the problem with flooding etc. AFO'C will continue to chase for a definite reply. AFO'C

Steve Treadwell will find out who has responsibility for Featherbed Lane as there has been rubbish dumped there recently. *Outstanding from May minutes* ST

Steve Treadwell also agreed to speak with the landlady of the Rose & Crown to find out who may have been dumping bags of dog mess on the fire escape steps alongside Church Lane. *Outstanding from May minutes* ST

Planning issues

Allowed: The Cottage, Kingstone Winslow, *demolition and building of an extension*

Outstanding: Mr/Mrs Jury, Featherbed Cottage, Idstone. *Alterations Ashdown Park pumping station. Variation to allow for change to landscaping requirement*

Correspondence

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

BT is proposing to make the two phone boxes in the village cashless calls only. The parish council will not be objecting to this proposal and the clerk will reply accordingly. JRG

It was noted to ensure the village shop sells BT phone cards for use. JRG

The clerk has received a copy of application from the Rose and Crown for the erection of two brown tourism signs within the village. The council did not have an objection and as such the clerk will advise the Highways Department. JRG

Any other business and comments from the public

Comments have been received about the poor state of the churchyards (grass and weeds etc). It was agreed after some discussion to undertake the following:

Marion Turner will research evidence of a specification provided to the contractor at the time of the appointment. MT

Mrs Leonie Knott will see from her minute book of the PCC if she can advise when the contractor was appointed.

The parish council will draft a specification in September and look to put it to tender in time for a revised appointment before next season.

In the meantime, Mr Reg Smith will ask Vic and Edgar Tombs if they can carry out some remedial work to improve the look of the churchyard.

RS

There were discussions concerning the status of planning levels in small villages – Ashbury being level H11 – following contact from Bourton Parish Council. 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.

ST/JRG

The clerk will contact the Highways Department to ask for the provision of three pavement ramps in Pound Piece. (Following a request from a resident who has recently become wheelchair bound.) This should be within the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and also Health and Safety.

JRG

Mr Treadwell will respond to a recent letter from Cliff Hamilton-Davies and confirm that the green at Kingstone Winslow is as per the definitive plan.

ST

Reg Smith requested that the path down to Upper Mill be widened back to its original width. The clerk to contact Highways Department.

JRG

A notice should be placed in the newsletter requesting residents to cut back any overhanging shrubs and trees which block footpaths etc.

JRG

Reg Smith also noted that residents in Local Housing Association dwellings will need to obtain planning permission for the erection of satellite dishes with immediate effect. It is thought this ruling now applies to all households.

Dates of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 12 September 2005 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approximately 8.40 pm.