

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 12 September 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 11 July were read, agreed and signed.

Matters arising

Mr Treadwell (ST) confirmed that broadband will be available in Ashbury in due course, after much campaigning. The funding will be from Oxfordshire Broadband Partnership (OBP) and will be available until 31 March 2006.

ST will co-ordinate a petition of more than 40 signatories, the establishment of a co-operative, the issuance of a tender for installation companies to submit a competitive bid and then subsequent installation.

ST

All activities will be in co-ordination with OBP and will be fully funded by OBP.

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. *Still outstanding from July meeting, AFO'C will report back before the next parish meeting.*

AFO'C

Mr Reade agreed to the clerk's request for the planting of trees in front of the barn on Station Road. The trees are to be provided and planted free of charge by the Vale of the White Horse DC, with the parish council responsible for the maintenance. The clerk will obtain from the VWHDC details of the trees and the schedule of works.

JRG

The clerk will obtain from Oxfordshire Highways the definitive map of adopted highways in the parish. This query relates to Featherbed Lane and the responsibility for clearing the rubbish which has been fly-tipped.

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

There has been no response from Oxfordshire Highways concerning the request for three ramps in Pound Piece. The clerk will follow up and report back asap.

JRG

The clerk will find out those parish councils who have their churchyards maintained by the VWHDC. ST will then contact them for their views on the level of maintenance, with a view that Ashbury may do the same next year.

JRG/ST

The clerk noted there had been a few volunteers within the village who said they would maintain the churchyard, as long as the tools were provided by the council.

Planning issues

- Allowed: Mr/Mrs Jury, Featherbed Cottage, Idstone. *Alterations*
Ashdown Park pumping station. *Variation to allow for change to landscaping requirement*
- Outstanding: Mr & Mrs Johansen Brown, new house in Idstone. *Variation of existing planning consent.*
Westcot Properties, The Cottage, Kingstone Winslow,
Variation of existing planning consent.

Correspondence

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

The clerk will forward to Mr and Mrs Lovegrove details of volunteer group funding and action groups. JRG

The clerk will respond to Thamesdown Community Transport concerning the closure of the Dial-a-Ride bus service. It is thought three people from the village use this service and as it is their only form of transport, the close would represent a real hardship. JRG

Any other business and comments from the public

Mr Treadwell agreed to update the village website in due course. ST

The clerk advised that the audit for the financial year ending March 2005 was successfully concluded. There should be a more formal note next year of the approval by the parish council of the financial accounts. For info

Mr Treadwell will contact Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor concerning the expansion of Swindon and what can be actioned at a county council level, to restrict expansion towards Ashbury. ST

There has been a further request for shrubs to be cut back which overhang or obstruct public footpaths, particularly at this time of year. The clerk will ensure a notice is placed in the parish newsletter. JRG

It was confirmed the parish council has responded to the VWHDC concerning the issuance of a new licence, extending the opening hours of the Rose & Crown pub. However it was agreed no further action can be taken, unless local disturbance becomes an issue, and even then, it will probably be the responsibility of local residents (due to legal restrictions).

The clerk will forward the original notice of application to Yvonne Constance asap. JRG

Dates of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 7 November 2005 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approximately 8.20 pm.