

# ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

*Date:* Monday 10 September 2007

*Councillors:* Steve Treadwell (Chairman), Marion Turner (Vice Chairman), Andy England, Peggy Leon, Bill Spence. Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor (County Councillor), Yvonne Constance (District Councillor)

*Apologies* Christopher Prentice

*Clerk* James Greenham

*Circulation:* As above plus minute book and village website

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

Minutes of the last meeting held on 2 July 2007 were read, agreed and signed.

### **Closure of the village shop**

With to the imminent closure of the village shop, which is considered to have a negative impact on the village, the meeting was opened to include comments and suggestions from members of the public.

It was agreed that the following activities would be implemented as soon as practical:

1. A specific meeting would be held week commencing 17 September, to consider the options for the way forward – the main consensus was to consider the setting up of a village shop co-operative.
2. Steve Treadwell agreed to produce leaflets, to be distributed in advance of the meeting, which would be circulated to advertise the meeting to all villagers.
3. Out of that meeting, it was suggested a committee be formed, with the specific task of putting together a firm business proposal which can be presented to the shop owners and indeed members of the interested public.
4. The clerk will contact Jane Barker, who is the Village Shop Worker from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council for assistance. Jane has already been contacted by Stuart Wilson (an interested resident). It is hoped Jane can attend the meeting.

The Chairman stressed that once the co-operative has been formed, the parish council can have no further official involvement in the project.

### **Matters arising**

#### Defibrillator

Following a presentation of a discussion document by the clerk, it was agreed not to purchase a parish defibrillator unit.

#### 30mph speed limit through Idstone

Further modifications to the original proposal need to be made by Steve Treadwell and then resubmitted to Oxfordshire County Council.

ST

#### Ashbury website

Steve Treadwell will ensure the new website is up and running very soon. All documents are now ready for uplifting to the website.

ST

#### Churchyard grass cutting specification

There has been no progress since the last meeting. Andy England will liaise with Roger Simons of the PCC to draft the specification.

AE

#### Pavement in Berrycroft

Bill Spence reported that Oxfordshire Highways will send a report to the clerk concerning the reinstatement of the pavement in Berrycroft.

#### Upper Mill pond

Peggy Leon will obtain permission from the Penser Estate for Ashbury Parish Council to be responsible for the strimming and cutting back around the mill pond and the path leading up to the allotments.

PL

Marion Turner will then ask Eddie Bailey to undertake this work.

MT

It was then suggested the bench could be replaced. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **Planning issues**

Allowed: There have been no outstanding planning applications receiving consent since the last meeting

Outstanding: Lower Mill House, Kingstone Winslow. *Porch and internal alterations.*

#### **Correspondence**

Marion Turner and Peggy Leon will request to residents that any overhanging shrubs and branches are cut back, following a letter from a member of the public.

MT/PL

Marion Turner will also draft a request for inclusion in the newsletter.

MT

The clerk will contact Oxfordshire County Council concerning the status of the pavement outside no.1 Malthouse, following a request from a member of the public.

JRG

It was agreed Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor would also contact OCC about this matter, in her role as Councillor.

AFO'C

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

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position. This was agreed and signed by the chairman and vice-chairman.

It was agreed that the parish council would re-submit the annual audit to BDO Stoy Hayward, as the original had been mislaid in the post. It was also agreed that a photocopy of the internal auditor's report would be sufficient for inclusion on the new copy. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

#### **Any other business**

##### On-going subsidy of current bus service

The results of this enquiry will be published in November 2007. The clerk will follow up on any progress to date and also advise the committee of the implications of the village shop closure.

JRG

##### War memorial

The clerk will obtain a quotation for the relettering and general improvement to the war memorial, by a stonemason associated with the War Memorial Stone Masons Association.

JRG

## **Comments from the public**

### Swindon expansion

Steve Treadwell updated on the public enquiry into the expansion of Swindon. No further action is expected and the report is due to be published in October 2007. There being no further business, the meeting closed at approximately 8.50 pm.

### Metalled footpath to Idstone

It was confirmed the project will take secondary consideration to the request for a 30mph limit through Idstone. There will be no further action in the immediate future.

### **Dates of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 29 October 2007 at 7.00pm.