

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 13 January 2014

Councillors: Marion Turner (Chairman), Eliza Lewis (Vice Chairman), Andy England, Barbara Rayner, Steve Treadwell, Yvonne Constance (County and District Councillor)

Clerk James Greenham

Apologies Bill Spence

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

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4 November 2013 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were formally approved at this meeting.

Matters arising

First Aid training

There was no further progress on the demand from parishioners to become First Aid volunteers. MT will advise if any volunteers are forthcoming.

MT

Website update

ST advised that design samples are underway for a revamped website and will be circulated for comment in due course in time for the March 2014 meeting. *Outstanding since November meeting.*

ST

Planning issues

Approved

Land adjoining Tilling, Berrycroft

Construction of new dwelling (copy submission of existing approved application)

It was confirmed the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against the decision to refuse permission for the Idstone Road development was refused.

A formal note of thank was made to all concerned, but especially to Fiona Jury who had drafted and submitted a comprehensive reply to the appeal, free of charge. The clerk will arrange for a gift of flowers to be delivered as a gesture of appreciation.

JRG

Update on Walnut Trees Hill development

Construction is now underway.

MT and ST will draft a letter to be sent from the Clerk to the new managers of the new shop, confirming a lease will be issued in due course, to begin commercial operation. MT/ST

Financial update for the parish council

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position as at 13 January 2014. The estimated annual surplus is £681.48.

It was agreed to renew membership of CPRE for 2014-2015 and the clerk will implement in due course.

It was also agreed to contribute a further £250.00 towards the Vale Villages Fighting Fund. This was proposed by MT and seconded by ST. The clerk will issue and submit a cheque for payment in due course.

JRG

Annual Precept 2014-2015

It was agreed by all present to increase the annual parish precept for 2014-2015 by the CPI inflation (as at 31 December 2013) to £4,080.00. The clerk will advise VWHDC. JRG

Correspondence

It was agreed to apply for a Big Society Grant for the purchase of a community seating bench which might be placed near the pond alongside Upper Mill. The clerk will action urgently. JRG

MT will publish an article in the newsletter requesting for volunteers to become Parish Path Wardens, which is a project managed by The Ramblers. MT

Village school update

The school now has a specialist teaching for Art and a new TA in Wayland class (reception and Year 1).

The time capsule has been replanted along with another one representing 2012-2013.

A stage has been added to the playground, thanks to a contribution from Friends.

Analysis on national SAT results show that reading was the strongest area and the attainment was high. Progress was outstanding. The three year trend for reading is upward and impressive and the school is currently working on the maths curriculum to further improve standards.

It was noted that all secondary schools in Swindon are Academies.

Highways matters

It was agreed to seek views and opinions of residents concerning the possible employment of a parish 'lengthsman' who would be responsible for the basic upkeep of verges and parish land. This would have a financial (tax) implication for the parish, therefore views are to be sought through the newsletter. MT

There was significant discussion with the County/District councillor concerning the draft revisions to providing free school transport within the district. YC advised there would be county-wide testing of the proposals, following closure of the consultation period (ending 14.1.14). No further action was agreed.

Village Hall Update

The WC refurbishment is now complete. The next project is to improve the internal ceiling.

There will be a quiz night on 8 March 2014.

Any other business

Eliza Lewis attended a First Aid course in September and will report back in March 2014 about the possibility of establishing First Responders within the village. *Outstanding since November meeting.* EL

Andy England will provide an update at the March meeting concerning the possible purchase of a defibrillator unit. *Outstanding since November meeting.* AE

Comments from the public

It was agreed to consider how the village could commemorate last year's Jubilee, perhaps by incorporating the landscaping or naming in the new WTH development.
Outstanding since November meeting.

All

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Dates of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 10 March 2014.