

# ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

*Date:* Monday 9 March 2015

*Councillors:* Marion Turner (Chairman), Eliza Lewis (Vice Chairman), Andy England, Barbara Rayner, Steve Treadwell

*Apologies:* Bill Spence, Yvonne Constance (County and District Councillor)

*Clerk* James Greenham

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

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

Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 January 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were formally approved at this meeting.

### **Matters arising**

#### Website update

ST advised the new draft preview website will be circulated to councillors by the end of the week (Friday 13.3.15) for comments and feedback, with a view to the new website going live as soon as practical.

ST

#### Jubilee bench

The clerk will liaise with Bill Spence with regard to the planned concrete ramp and if necessary how this can be approved by Highways.

JRG/BS

### **Planning issues**

#### *Approved*

1 College Farm Lane, Ashbury *Change of roof pitch/type*

#### *Pending*

There were no applications pending

The recently published draft Local Transport Plan (4) and Community Infrastructure were both discussed at length and it was agreed the chairman will formally reply on behalf of the parish council to the A420 improvement notes within the draft LTP4 as well as comment on the CIL proposal. This needs to be complete before the end of March 2015.MT

### **Update on Wixes Piece**

Following an earlier parish council request, Marion Turner advised that the developer has now altered the new pavement alongside the main road by installing standard kerbstones.

A request from a local resident for kerbstones to be placed opposite the entrance to Wixes Piece was received. It will be important to protect the verges when there will remain relatively high traffic volumes, even when the contractors have left site. MT agreed to contact the local Planning Team to ask for consideration.

MT

The clerk confirmed the legal document confirming the transfer of public land to the parish council has been signed and received by the acting solicitor, in preparation for the appropriate 'exchange' and completion.

A public meeting which Barbara Rayner agreed to organise and coordinate, to discuss the 'rules and regulations' governing the public open space, will be held over until early 2015. *Outstanding since January meeting.*

BR

The clerk will establish responsibility for the collection of refuse bins etc and advise in due course. *Outstanding since January meeting* JRG

It is expected the shop premises may be ready at the end of March, with head lease and sub-lease contracts exchanged between the freeholder, the parish council and the shop tenant during April 2015. The clerk will advise as appropriate. JRG

It was agreed to appoint Slade Legal to represent the council in the drafting of the sub-lease and oversight of the head lease. The clerk will action and obtain formal quotations before proceeding. JRG

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

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position as at 9 March 2015. The estimated annual surplus is £341.87.

It was agreed to renew annual membership of the CPRE and the clerk will advise accordingly. JRG

It was agreed to appoint new contractors to undertake the maintenance of the old churchyard, following advice from the PCC, although with no financial implication in that the cost will remain as before. Andy England will co-ordinate with the PCC. AE

### **Update from District and County Councillor**

The District and County councillor was unable to attend due to other commitments and will report at the next meeting.

It was advised though that, due to boundary changes at the next election, Mrs Constance will no longer be the District Councillor as Ashbury has been transferred to the Shriveham ward.

Thanks were proposed for the work undertaken by Yvonne Constance during her tenure as District Councillor and were duly noted.

### **Preparations for elections in May 2015.**

The clerk will draft a short note to be published in the village newsletter encouraging new candidates to stand at the parish council elections. The clerk will forward to MT by 13.3.15. JRG

Thanks were proposed by the clerk for the excellent and hard work undertaken by the parish council during the last five years. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes for the benefit of the local community and this should be noted and thanked appropriately.

### **Correspondence**

The clerk has received information regarding a Neighbourhood Planning Conference originally being held by VWHDC in March 2015 which is now delayed until October 2015.

The review of the subsidised bus services in Oxfordshire, which would include Ashbury. Consultation is still underway, with a decision due in March 2015.

### **Village school update**

The school is now receiving applications from pupils outside the updated catchment area.

The school has a formal Writing Plan in place which has also received excellent feedback from the pupils as interesting, educational and enjoyable.

### **Highways matters**

Thanks were noted for all who helped cut back all the overhanging trees and vegetation along Millers Lane and all agreed the final result was very much better than its original state.

MT reported back on a recent meeting with the Highways team concerning a proposed traffic calming scheme being funded by the Wixes Piece development. It is hoped that several speed-restricting 'build-outs' can be installed as a result – with two in the village either side of the school and a third at the Idstone Road edge of the village.

There was considerable discussion regarding the merits of different traffic calming schemes, but it was noted that with such a limited budget, the realistic options are limited.

MT or the clerk will update as necessary.

MT/JRG

It was noted if further monies become available, consideration can be given to similar schemes on the B4507 near to the allotments and also to the road through Idstone.

### **Village Hall Update**

The village hall remains closed for renovations and is scheduled to open during April.

The clerk will find out how much it would cost extra per year to insure the completed village textile map once it is installed in the village hall, based on an estimated value of £3,500.

JRG

A request for a replacement noticeboard will be proposed by Eliza Lewis.

EL

### **Any other business**

The clerk has yet to receive a reply from the TPO department within Planning on the progress of applying for a tree preservation status alongside the Bunce premises on the south-west and south-east elevations.

JRG

It was agreed to purchase some spare parts for the telephone box in Idstone which needs to be repaired. The clerk will undertake as appropriate.

JRG

Thanks were made for the recent litter blitz, which helps keep the village tidy.

### **Comments from the public**

It was requested that the minutes can be emailed to members of the public if requested and the clerk will action.

JRG

A member of the public raised the matter of the state of the pond alongside Upper Mill. As it is in private ownership there is little that can be done to improve its appearance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

### **Dates of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 18 May 2015.

all