

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 23 November 2015

Councillors: James Neil (Chairman), Eliza Lewis (Vice Chairman), Richard Fergusson, Bill Spence, Mark Watkins, Elaine Ware (District Councillor)

Clerk James Greenham

Apologies Lorna Halford, Yvonne Constance (County Councillor),

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

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 September 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were formally approved at this meeting.

Matters arising

Jubilee bench

The clerk will continue to request Bill Spence complete this outstanding matter with some urgency. A budget of approximately £350 is available for ground work preparations etc.

Outstanding since September meeting. Action: The clerk

BS

Planning issues

Approved

12 Wixes Piece

Construction of car port

Pending

Compton Beauchamp Estates

Change of use of barn at Kingstone Winslow farm

It was discussed that the parish council have made contact with the Compton Beauchamp Estate (Richard Salmon) and if they wish to consider residential development at Kingston Winslow Farm they will come back to the PC

Bill Spence is investigating the planning considerations of the recently installed pub advertising signs at the approach to the village. **Action: Bill Spence**

BS

Wixes Piece development

The clerk will obtain a quotation for the replacement of a swing, which has suffered minor damage and may continue to deteriorate. Alternatively a repair may be possible to undertake. **Action: The clerk.**

JRG

Financial update for the parish council

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position as at 23 November 2015. The estimated annual deficit is £756.00, which is largely due to the legal costs incurred during the recent shop legal work required.

Parish precept for 2016-2017

It was discussed and agreed that the annual precept *per household* will remain the same in the financial year 2016-2017 as for 2015-2016. This will mean an increase in the total precept levied by Ashbury will increase to £5244.00. This was proposed by Eliza Lewis and seconded by James Neil.

The clerk will advise the Finance team at the VWHDC in due course. **Action: The clerk****JRG**

Update from County Councillor

The County Councillor updated by report on the plans by the County Council to offload services such as highways services (grass cutting etc) to the local communities. Further discussions and consultations are planned.

The clerk will contact Tim Shickle from OCC with regard to the published 'Working Together' plan. **Action: The clerk**

JRG

Update from District Councillor

Stage 1 of the Local Plan has been examined and Stage 2 is scheduled to be examined between 2-19 February 2016. (Both stages are for the Local Plan 1.)

It was noted that while this is being examined the Vale remains more vulnerable to planning applications being approved.

Local funding is available for events planned to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in 2016. In addition funds exist for capital projects and can be applied for from 14 March to 6 May 2016.

Eliza Lewis will contact Elaine Ware concerning shortcomings in the availability of high speed broadband in the Ashbury area. **Action: Eliza Lewis**

EL

No decision has yet been taken with regard to the proposed closure of the refuse tip at Stanford. However it was noted that 2,900 responses have been received.

Community Communication plans

The section of the parish website which deals with parish council matters will be updated by Diane McLaren with advice and information provided by the clerk.

Action: The clerk

JRG

James Neil will meet separately with Steve Treadwell to discuss how best to move forward with management and ownership of the Ashbury.org website. **Action: James Neil**

JN

Neighbourhood Plan development and update

James Neil will implement an action to get this underway, including inviting others from the community to join and add to the development of the plan. **Action: James Neil**

JN

David Potter is the Neighbourhood Planning officer from the VWHDC and James Neil will contact for further guidance. **Action: James Neil**

JN

Eliza Lewis will contact ORCC for guidance and information on beginning a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted this had been started approx. 5 years ago but as requirements have no changed it may better to restart afresh. *Outstanding since September meeting.* **Action: Eliza Lewis**

EL

Highways issues and update

The parish council awaits an update from the Vale with regard to the implementation of the agreed traffic calming plans recently agreed **Action: The clerk**

JRG

It was noted by all that OCC had recently voted to cut all subsidies to local bus services in the county. Further news and impact on the #90 bus service is expected in due course.

Village school update

An update on the progress of the school in terms of numbers attending and attainment was provided during the meeting.

It was noted there is no plan to seek Academy status for the school.

The teacher for early years (1 & 2) is leaving and will be replaced in due course.

Village Hall Update

A number of fund raising events are planned in the coming months and it was agreed the hall is in good condition and is well used by the local community.

It was agreed for the parish council to contribute £150 towards the replacement noticeboard outside the village hall. The clerk will issue a cheque in due course.

Action: The clerk

JRG

Any other business

Comments from the public

A discussion took place with regard to the lime trees along Church Lane and it was noted the trees are owned by either OCC Highways (if the trees are outside the private boundaries of relevant properties) or the private householder.

AS these trees seem to be nearing the end of their life, the clerk will contact Tim Stringer (VWHDC) and Charles Clark (OCC) for the two teams to consider the Health and Safety considerations and how best to manage the trees in future. **Action: The clerk** **JRG**

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 January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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