

ASHBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Date: Monday 9 January 2017

Councillors: Kate Watkins (Chairman), Eliza Lewis (Vice Chairman), Cliff Davies, Yvonne Constance (County Councillor), Elaine Ware (District Councillor),
Clerk James Greenham
Apologies Richard Fergusson, Lorna Halford, Bill Spence, Simon Howell (District Councillor)
Circulation: As above plus minute file, village noticeboard and village website

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 November 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were formally approved at this meeting.

Update from County Councillor

Yvonne Constance updated that the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – a developers' tax - should be implemented during early 2017.

Update from District Councillor

Elaine Ware submitted a written update on matters, including that the Local Plan part 1 is now adopted following examination by the Inspector. This also confirms there is now a 7.1 year housing supply confirmed. EW confirmed that there are no strategic sites in Ashbury identified within the Local Plan part 1.

Pre-application advice provided to applicants will now be publicly available on the VWHDC website, to improve transparency within the planning process.

Residents are reminded once again to avoid contamination of the recycling waste and to use the black bins for unauthorised waste.

In addition, EW will discuss with the Vale's Environmental Health team some concerns about the safety and behaviour of the contractors currently on site at Telephone Box Cottage, Kingstone Winslow.

EW confirmed her portfolio at VWHDC now covers Housing, Environmental Health and Grants.

Planning issues

Approved

Kingston Winslow Farm, Kingstone Winslow

Conversion of stone barn to dwelling

Pending

Tractor Barn, Ashdown Park

Structural repair by National Trust

Financial update for the parish council

The clerk presented an update on the council's financial position as at 9 January 2017 2016. The estimated annual surplus is £1,133.00

The council needs to update the mandate for signature on the Nationwide savings account. Eliza Lewis will complete and submit the mandate change forms as soon as possible (Richard Fergusson completed).

Action: EL

Parish precept for 2017-2018

It was discussed and provisionally agreed that the annual precept should be increased by 2.5%. As three councillors were absent from the meeting, it was agreed the clerk will

communicate and obtain feedback from these three prior to submitting the proposal to the Finance team at the VWHDC in due course. **Action: The clerkJRG**

Neighbourhood Plan development and update

Cliff Davies updated on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan, including more volunteers to assist in the process and improve community engagement.

There will be a specific area on the Ashbury website with details of the Neighbourhood Plan and it is intended to have this element operational during January.

The clerk confirmed receipt of the first grant (£5,000) and therefore the steering group can look to appoint and work with external consultants.

Community Communication plans

Kate Watkins advised that it is hoped to have an electronic communication process in place within the next few weeks, following continued progress of the Community Communication Group, which meets separately. KW will discuss and liaise with Richard Fergusson. **Action KW**

Highways issues and update

There were no specific highways matters to report at this meeting. All defects can be reported by members of the public at www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

A comprehensive report had been submitted to the parish for the planting of the new traffic calming boxes. A volunteer working group has agreed to organise groundwork preparations over the winter, in time for planting before spring 2017.

Village school update

No new update

Village Hall Update

The village hall committee has requested for any feedback from residents for further improvements to the village hall..

Any other business

KW agreed to discuss with the Village Hall Committee about obtaining new noticeboards for use in Kingstone Winslow and Idstone. In addition, it was thought the boards themselves in the bus stop could be replaced as the current ones are perished. **Action KW**

The clerk recommended that a new group could be formed to take over long term management of the public open space, such that it becomes a usable and appropriate space for all to enjoy. This will take place during the Spring at the earliest. **Action: JRG**

The clerk presented an advice document on the steps required for OCC to adopt a highway. These are onerous and it was thought Church Lane may not qualify for adoption. KW agreed to discuss the matter of ownership etc with residents in the immediate area and report at the next meeting. **Action: KW**

Comments from the public

Mr Reg Smith asked if the bus company can be contacted to establish if they can drop off residents at Pound Piece itself, to avoid the long walk from the nearest bus stop. Richard Fergusson will action in due course. *Outstanding item.* **Action: RF**

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

Dates of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 6 March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

all