

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Nicola Duke, April Rise, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN 01373 864127

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Leonard (Chair), Cllr Dallison, Cllr Jones and Cllr Cottle.

In attendance: Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern:

- A resident spoke regarding tree planting at 3a High Street; the Chair reported that correspondence from the Clerk would be issued later in the week.

	AGENDA ITEM
2022.79	Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given Cllr Tapper due to ill health, accepted. Cllr Ash due to ill health, accepted.
2022.80	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations to Participate None.
2022.81	Wiltshire Council Report Wiltshire Councillor Seed reported the following: <u>The Sanctuary, Dark Lane North</u> – a pre-application had been submitted to Wiltshire Council to regularise some of the outstanding planning enforcement matters and progress was now being made. <u>Withywood Farm</u> – Wiltshire Council was currently considering an ecology report and enforcement was looking into the additional structures which had been erected; there was an option for a planning application to be submitted. Cllr Seed would keep the PC informed. <u>Melksham Bypass</u> – any improvements to highways at the Trowbridge section would be considered once a decision on the Melksham bypass had been made. Comments

	<p>from the PC on works required in the vicinity of the parish could be submitted at the next round of public consultations.</p> <p><u>Electric charging points</u> – Cllr Seed advised the PC to act quickly if it wished to secure grant funding from Wiltshire Council as several other applications were now in the pipeline.</p> <p><u>Flooding</u> – following recent flooding in the village Cllr Seed, the PC and residents discussed the issue (Standing Orders being suspended to enable resident participation for this item). Following discussion, the below listed actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PC would locate the survey report which had resulted from the camera survey carried out in September 2014; this would act as a starting point for identifying work which could be carried out to mitigate the flooding risk. • Cllr Seed would liaise with Wiltshire Council to schedule a routine clearance of ditches and drains in the parish each autumn. • The PC would liaise with the Operational Flood Group to report on the situation in Steeple Ashton and make representations regarding the need for regular gully clearance. Wiltshire Council flood engineers would also be asked to put the latest rainfall figures through their planning models to assess whether the Victorian system in the village was fit for purpose. • Cllr Seed encouraged all those affected by recent flooding to report this via the myWilts portal, with photographic evidence if available. The more reports submitted the more the issue would be flagged up at Wiltshire Council. • Cllr Leonard also noted that, whilst drainage was not an item for consideration in the Neighbourhood Plan (being the legal responsibility of Wiltshire Council) residents were able to comment on flooding if they wished via the current NP consultation.
2022.82	<p>Flooding in the Village Members noted the discussions which had taken place during the previous agenda item and the agreed actions. No further discussion was required.</p>
2022.83	<p>Minutes of Council Meetings The minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 30th November 2022 were approved for accuracy with one amendment and adopted (proposed Cllr Dallison, seconded Cllr Cottle).</p>
2022.84	<p>Planning Applications None at time of issue.</p> <p>Members considered a planning application received after the issue of the agenda (<i>where the response time fell outside of the meeting schedule</i>):</p> <p>PL/2022/08844 - 14 DARK LANE SOUTH, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EZ - Installation of twelve photovoltaic panels on the south facing roof of the property. It</p>

	<p>is proposed to install these in landscape orientation in a 6 x 2 array of modules as low on the roof as practicable, with cabling and control gear being located inside the building. The supply of all components together with the proposed installation and commissioning to be undertaken by Infinity Renewables Group Ltd under Wiltshire Council's "Solar Together Wiltshire" scheme – No objection.</p>
2022.85	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Members discussed the outcomes of the Public Meeting held on 30th November 2022 and considered the next steps; including appointments to the Steering Group and a schedule of NPSG meetings. Cllr Leonard reported that the meeting had gone well with a high attendance and some good questions from members of the public. The call for sites had now gone live. Three residents had come forward to join the Steering Group and the planning consultant had suggested a meeting in mid-January for the SG to consider initial responses to the call for sites and the consultation; it would then consider whether there was any requirement to further extend the deadlines. It was agreed that the January PC meeting would list an agenda item to confirm the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group, formally appoint PC members of the Group and set the meeting schedule (proposed as alternating with the full council meetings).</p> <p>Cllr Leonard further reported that local landowners would be contacted to promote the call for sites and that the planning consultant had obtained a list of SA sites included in the Wiltshire Council Housing Sites Allocation Plan; this list would now be worked through with the planning consultant.</p>
2022.86	<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Points</p> <p>Members considered the potential for the installation of a charging point in Acreshort Park and the availability of grant support from Wilts CC. Cllr Leonard reported that a quote to install a charging point at Acreshort Park had been received in the amount of £2,300 - £2,600. It was confirmed that the Wiltshire Council grant scheme would meet £1,000 of this cost. It was noted that the charging point would generate income for the Parish Council and it was felt that the location of the point needed to be carefully considered. The need for such a charging point in the village also needed to be firmly established. It was agreed that Cllr Jones would approach the pub to see if it had any plans to provide this facility.</p>
2022.87	<p>Council, Councillor and Clerk Reports</p> <p>a) Police Report (previously circulated) – Noted. Members expressed disappointment that there was no police attendance at PC meetings; noting that this had been regular in the past. The lack of connection with the local police force was regretted.</p> <p>b) Highways / CSW Report and Updates – Cllr Jones reported that line and roundel refreshment painting in the parish had been carried out. Cllr Leonard reported that the SID had been sent away for repair and was expected back during the coming week. Cllr Jones reported that the Parish Steward had attended and cleared drain blockages; he would continue to keep an eye on this.</p> <p>c) Tree Planting – Cllr Leonard reported that another tree and hedge planting session had been carried out; with planting taking place behind the changing</p>

	<p>rooms at St Mary's and at Ashton Mill/Spiers Piece. The memorial oaks had been planted at St Marys and Acreshort park. Further planting in 2023 would be reconsidered given the difficulty in recruiting sufficient volunteers to carry out the work.</p> <p>d) Playground equipment reports – Cllr Leonard reported that the contractor had been engaged to carry out repairs to the kick wall and lay the new matting required at St Mary's; this now delayed by winter weather. The Clerk reported that the play area inspector had provided a quote to carry out a full inspection of the carousel at Acreshort Park, replace the swings at Newleaze and replace the shackles on equipment at St Marys. The quote in the amount of £720.00 including material and labour was approved (proposed Cllr Leonard, seconded Cllr Cottle).</p> <p>e) Rec Group progress – Cllr Ash had sent apologies for absence.</p> <p>f) Village Shop – Cllr Ash had sent apologies for absence. The item would therefore be deferred to the January PC meeting and the Chair would liaise with Cllr Ash to obtain a report beforehand.</p> <p>g) Roadworks – The Clerk reported on correspondence from a resident regarding the condition of the pavements and the need for roadworks in the parish. It was noted that this was a recurring issue the responsibility for which lay with Wiltshire Council; the high costs of replacing cobbles was noted to be a problem and the PC had previously agreed it did not want to see tarmac replacements. It was felt that this could be something which could be included a CIL schedule in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair would respond to the resident with the options which had been looked at and discounted.</p>
2022.88	<p>Village Newsletter It was noted that there was no edition of the Newsletter due until February 2023. No submission was therefore required.</p>
2022.89	<p>Date of next meeting January 2023 – members considered a date for the meeting given that the scheduled date was a Bank Holiday and the Clerk would ascertain which dates the Hall was free and liaise with members accordingly.</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.56 pm.