

WEST ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Minutes of the meeting of West Ashton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 21st September 2011, at West Ashton Village Hall.	
1) Open the meeting	The meeting commenced at 7.15pm.
2) In attendance and apologies	Cllr Richard Covington (Chair), Cllr Peter Westlake (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ron Pybus, Cllr Ian Robertson, Cllr Mrs Margaret Workman, Cllr David Richards, Cllr Geoff Watkins (left at 9.15pm), Wiltshire Cllr Francis Morland, Community Beat Manager PC Mark Hough, and Carol Hackett – Clerk.
3) Declarations of interest	Cllr Robertson declared a personal interest in Agenda/minute item 16, as a relative of one of the appointed volunteers. Cllr Robertson abstained from taking part in the vote for this item.
4) Minutes of Parish Council Meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th July 2011, having been previously circulated, were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record.
5) Minutes of Extra Parish Council Meeting	The minutes of the Extra Parish Council meeting held on 28 th July 2011 having been previously circulated, were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record.
6) Police report	Community Beat Manager PC Mark Hough briefed Councillors, noting that 5 crimes had been reported in the village – 1 attempted burglary, 1 burglary, and several incidents of wire fences being cut. He noted the concerns over potential incursions on land off the A350 approximately 100 metres down from the West Ashton Traffic lights on the left hand side towards Yarnbrook, and suggested going back to the Enforcement Officer with further information about the position of the hard-standing – Clerk to action. He noted that a new PCSO should be in post within the next few months.
7) Report from Wiltshire Councillor	Cllr Morland briefed Councillors on the various new development proposals being considered for Trowbridge Town centre which were discussed at the recent Trowbridge Area Board Meeting. He noted the new constituency arrangements being proposed by the Boundary Committee and referred to the recent Planning Committee Meeting at which two of the applications relating to land West of Biss Farm, West Ashton were discussed. He referred to the temporary access which had recently been created through into the field on the West Ashton Road, and confirmed that planning approval had previously been given for this temporary access which was to be used for construction traffic servicing the site. He then answered questions posed by Councillors.
8) Community Mini-bus proposal	The Clerk noted that the school had recently included an article in their weekly newsletter referring to the possibility of a community mini-bus, and asking parents/carers if they could indicate if they would be interested in using such a service. Cllr Watkins noted that enquiries had also been made by Mrs Watkins to the various village groups asking them about the likelihood of them using any proposed mini-bus. She had also

	<p>approached the management committee of an existing community mini-bus to enquire about the possibility and cost of using their mini-bus for a trial period, and was waiting to hear back from them – Matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.</p>
<p>9) Recreational Area, East Town Lane</p>	<p>Following on from the last Parish Council meeting the Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from Wiltshire Council that the proposed maintenance money would be handed over to the Parish Council when the transfer of ownership of the site from the developer to the Parish Council was completed. Currently the Play Area was still closed and a request had been made to Wiltshire Council to carry out a further site visit to determine if the issues raised on the previous visit, and detailed on the snagging list had been addressed, along with a request that the Play Area could then be finally opened to the public. A copy of the Section 106 agreement and a copy of the Title Deed had been obtained from Wiltshire Council, with the recommendation that the Parish Council employ a Solicitor to act on their behalf with regards to the formalities of the transfer (Solicitor's costs to be covered by the Developer). Following a full discussion it was agreed to ask Paul Vingoe of Goughs Solicitor's Trowbridge to act on behalf of the Parish Council – Clerk to contact the Solicitor's and arrange an initial appointment for the Chairman and herself.</p>
<p>10) Possible diversion of Footpath in Kettle Lane, and other Footpath Issues</p>	<p>The Chairman reported that a site visit with the landowner and the Rights of Way Warden had taken place, and the landowner had agreed to re-site the fence to ensure a 2 metre width footpath was maintained along the stretch passing his property at the end of Kettle Lane. The Chairman noted that a more serious issue might be in relation to the footpath further on from Kettle Lane crossing an adjacent field, which had also been referred to the Rights of Way Warden at Wiltshire Council.</p>
<p>11) Proposed Wind Farm on land west of Grange Farm, West Ashton</p>	<p>The Chairman referred to the notes of the joint meeting held with several neighbouring Parish Councils, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. He noted that he had emailed nearby Keevil Airfield, Lyneham and Bannerdown Flying Club to ask if they had received notification regarding the planning application for the anemometry mast, and the possible subsequent wind turbine application, to determine if these proposals might have any impact on their activities. To date he had not received a response to his emails, and he confirmed that he would also contact Brize Norton or the MOD directly providing them with the necessary information (subsequently to the meeting the MOD were advised directly and responded attaching a pro-forma application form for REG Windpower to complete and return – details forwarded to REG Windpower). Following a further discussion it was agreed that the most convenient date for the proposed visit by Councillors to a working wind farm would be Wednesday 9th November – Clerk to liaise with the other interested local Parish Councils and advise the PR Company accordingly.</p>
<p>12) Traffic calming through the Village</p>	<p>The Chairman reported that he had received several comments from local residents noting that now that the main road running through the village had been re-surfaced, the speed of the traffic appeared to be noticeably higher. A metro-count had been carried out a couple of weeks before the re-surfacing work had started – the results of which were yet to be received. PC Hough had noted that in his experience carrying out speed checks in the village he had not had any difficulty in observing some motorists travelling in excess of 40mph. However with the school being positioned where it was, he noted that during two periods of the day there were a significant number of cars in the village</p>

	<p>travelling at low speeds which could have the effect of lowering the average vehicle speed, and possibly distorting the results from the metro-count. With this in mind it was agreed to contact the Area Board and request a further metro-count be carried out, preferably in the school holidays. The Clerk also noted that a further meeting at the school had been scheduled for 6th October to discuss parking – Clerk to action.</p> <p>13) Planning</p> <p>13.1 Planning applications being considered by Wiltshire Council Planning Committee 7/9/11.</p> <p>13.1.1 W/10/03031/FUL & W/11/01697/FUL Land west of Biss Farm, West Ashton Road. West Ashton – W/10/03031/FUL – REFUSED (full details circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting) / W/11/01697/FUL Application deferred at the request of the applicants agent.</p> <p>13.2 To note planning applications considered by the Parish Council in between meetings.</p> <p>13.2.1 W/11/01885/FUL 74 West Ashton Road, Trowbridge. Single storey side extension - NO OBJECTION – We would just like to make the observation that the application only shows the ground floor. What accommodation/ bathroom facilities are on the first floor, and therefore will the person be confined to the ground floor?</p> <p>13.3 To note recent decisions.</p> <p>13.3.1 W/11/02230/DDD Brickells Lodge, Sandpits Lane, West Ashton. Remove 1 storm damaged limb and crown clean Oak tree (T1) – Tree works to be allowed with conditions.</p>									
<p>14) Finance</p>	<p>14.1 The financial statement was noted.</p> <p>14.2 The following payments were approved and cheques signed</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>14.2.1 Chq 313 Mazars</td> <td>External Audit fee</td> <td>£ 60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14.2.2 Chq 314 Richard Covington</td> <td>Re-imburse cost of printer ink/paper</td> <td>£ 32.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15.2.3 Chq 315 TCAF (replaced chq 308)</td> <td>S137 grant donation</td> <td>£100.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>14.3 To note the External Auditor’s report – The Clerk confirmed that the Auditor’s had signed off the Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31/3/2011 without comments. The statutory notice had been placed on the notice board along with a copy of the annual return, and had remained there for at least 14 days.</p> <p>14.4 Proposal for Parish Council to purchase a lap-top projector – Following a full discussion, during which it was noted that the borrowed projector had proved very useful at the recent Core Strategy meeting, and any subsequent frequency of use and cost implications were discussed, Cllr Pybus very kindly offered to allow the Parish Council to use his own projector for the next 12 months free of charge, after which the Parish Council could decide if it was appropriate to purchase one of it’s own – The Chairman thanked Cllr Pybus for his kind offer which was unanimously accepted.</p>	14.2.1 Chq 313 Mazars	External Audit fee	£ 60.00	14.2.2 Chq 314 Richard Covington	Re-imburse cost of printer ink/paper	£ 32.86	15.2.3 Chq 315 TCAF (replaced chq 308)	S137 grant donation	£100.00
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15) Correspondence	15.1 From Wiltshire Police – Details of new Non emergency Telephone number ‘101’ which will become operational from 19/9/11 – Noted at meeting.
16) Charity of Richard & Henry Long	Cllr Westlake reported that two of the people currently involved with the Charity had expressed a wish to retire from their roles – The Secretary, Mr Cyril Sweetman, and one of the Trustees, Mrs Jean Platt. Two local residents had kindly come forward offering to take on the roles – Mrs Margaret Moore, Secretary, and Mrs Jean Robertson, new Trustee – Proposed Cllr Westlake seconded Cllr Watkins, and all in favour (one abstention).
17) Request for allotments	Cllr Watkins reported that he had received two requests from villagers enquiring about allotments in the village. The Parish Council allotments were sold off many years ago due to lack of demand. With this in mind it was agreed to put a notice in the next Village Magazine asking if anyone knew of a suitable area of land that could be used as allotments, or alternatively if anyone had a garden that they no longer cultivated and would consider allowing others to possibly use.
18) Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee	Cllr Pybus referred to the Village Hall business plan that was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any comments. Cllr Westlake noted that he appreciated Cllr Pybus’s comments made at the previous Parish Council meeting when the matter of the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee was considered. At that time there was no other Councillor in a position to take on the role and Cllr Pybus kindly offered to continue in the role, noting that on occasions there was a conflict of interest between his role as secretary for the Village Hall Committee, and Parish Councillor. Cllr Westlake noted that it was very important that the Parish Council representative should not have to deal with any conflict of interest whilst serving on the committee, and asked if any Councillor now felt in a position to be able to take over the role from Cllr Pybus. Following a full discussion the Chairman offered to take over the role of Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee – Proposed Cllr Westlake seconded Cllr Mrs Workman, and unanimously agreed – Cllr Pybus agreed to take the matter to the next Village Hall Committee.
19) Parish Council meetings	This was the first Parish Council meeting that had been held in the new ‘Meeting Room’, and the Chairman asked Councillors for their initial feedback. Councillors were happy to continue using the new room for twelve months as agreed as it was appropriate to use for most of the Parish Council meetings, however on occasions when it was considered that there might be some public attendance at the meeting it would be revert to using the larger room.
20) Parish Matters	Cllr Westlake referred to the two day consultation event that was being planned by REG Windpower in November for the proposed wind farm at Grange Farm, and noted that he considered that due to the proximity of the project to the village of West Ashton it was important that both of the consultation days should be held in West Ashton – Cllr Pybus agreed to check the availability of the Village Hall, and Clerk to respond to Quatro, the PR Company accordingly. Cllr Robertson noted that he was disappointed that following the recent re-surfacing of the road in the village no anti-skid grip had been installed on the road surface on the hill approaching the traffic lights – Clerk to write a letter to Wiltshire Council thanking them for carrying out the work, and asking if they would consider installing some anti-skid grips on the slope. He asked that a request also be

21) Closure of meeting	<p>made to Highways to re-instate the 'keep clear' markings painted on the road surface outside the farm entrance on Yarnbrook Road which over time had worn away – Clerk to action. The Chairman noted an email recently received from the Area Board noting that there was some money available for Town & Parish Councils on a match funding basis for the provision of additional dropped kerbs – Following a full discussion it was considered that at the present time there were no additional dropped kerbs required in the village. The Chairman noted that he had been in contact with the Parish Council web-site manager and agreed that he would take on the responsibility of updating the Parish Council area of the site. The Clerk referred to a matter which had been raised by the Village Hall booking secretary regarding the charging arrangement for the Parish Council with regards to any extra meetings. Following a full discussion it was agreed to ask for the matter to be referred back to the full committee for consideration by all their members – Clerk to respond accordingly.</p> <p>Meeting closed.</p> <p>Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th November 2011.</p>
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Minutes

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