

WEST ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL	
Minutes of the meeting of West Ashton Parish Council Held on Tuesday 27th March 2012, at West Ashton Village Hall.	
1) Open the meeting	The meeting commenced at 7.12pm.
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, Wiltshire Cllr Francis Morland, PC Mark Hough - Community Beat Manager Trowbridge Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team (left at 8.18pm) and Carol Hackett – Clerk.
3) Declarations of interest	None.
4) Minutes of Parish Council Meeting	The minutes of the Extra Parish Council meeting held on 29th February 2012, having been previously circulated, were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Covington seconded Cllr Robertson.
5) Police report	PC Hough apologised for not being able to attend the Parish Council meetings in person for a while. He referred to the crime statistics for the last month and noted that of the 59 reported incidents in the whole rural patch, none of the incidents had been in West Ashton. He noted that over the summer it was very likely that he would be involved with the Olympic celebrations and as such may not always be available. He then answered questions posed by Councillors.
6) Report from Wiltshire Councillor	Wiltshire Cllr Morland noted his disappointment at the decision made at the last Trowbridge Area Board meeting to refuse the grant application from the Parish Council. He reported that the Trowbridge Community Area Transport Group were due to meet on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> of April, and part of the discussion would include a speed limit review for class 'C' roads (including the C49, road from West Ashton down into Trowbridge). He noted that the Hearing Sessions for the Inspector to examine the soundness of the Wiltshire & Swindon Site Allocations DPD were due to commence on 24 <sup>th</sup> April. The decision had already been made to withdraw the proposed waste site allocation at West Ashton, and the inspector had indicated that he would accept this decision without the need for further persuasion. He then answered questions posed by Councillors.
7) Recreational Area, East Town Lane	The Clerk reported that the Solicitor had confirmed that the transfer of the Play Area to the Parish Council was progressing slowly. The Chairman noted that Persimmon had now installed a metal gate to the entrance of the site, and replaced a section of the tarmac path as agreed. It was noted that the poor design of part of the gate fixing could mean that some remedial work will need to be carried out.
8) Community Speed Watch initiative	The Chairman reported that the volunteers had been out a number of times. During the sessions carried out to date, a total of 1600 vehicles had passed through the check points, with a total of 81 cars travelling in excess of 36mph, an average of 5.1%, with 48mph being the highest speed recorded. Enquiries had been made to the Area Board regarding

	<p>allocation of the Speed Indication Device to West Ashton, response yet to be received. The question was raised as to whether there was a requirement to have signage in the village noting that it was a 'Community Speedwatch Area', PC Hough agreed to make some enquiries and report back to the Parish Council.</p>
<p>9) CPRE (Campaign to protect Rural England)</p>	<p>The Chairman referred to an invitation from CPRE for the Parish Council to become a member of the organisation, at a cost of £29 for one year's membership. Following a full discussion it was unanimously agreed for the Parish Council to become a member for the coming year, after which time the benefits of membership would be reviewed – Proposed Cllr Watkins seconded Cllr Richards – Clerk to prepare cheque for signing after the meeting.</p>
<p>10) Wiltshire Council Core Strategy consultation</p>	<p>Cllr Westlake thanked the Chairman for all his hard work preparing the draft response that had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, and the additional support given by Wiltshire Cllr Morland. Following a full discussion it was unanimously agreed to approve the draft response subject to a few minor additions – Proposed Cllr Westlake seconded Cllr Robertson – Clerk to liaise with the Chairman regarding final submission of the response.</p>
<p>11) Area Board grant application for projector</p>	<p>The Chairman confirmed the decision noted by Wiltshire Cllr Morland, that the Parish Council grant application had been rejected. The Area Board had considered that there were more appropriate methods for a Parish Council to raise funds for this type of activity. Thanks to an offer received from Cllr Pybus to sell his projector to the Parish Council, he noted that Councillors now needed to consider whether to accept this kind offer, or decide to purchase a new projector using Parish Council funds. (Cllr Pybus left the room during the subsequent discussion). Following a full discussion Councillors considered the two options available, and unanimously agreed to proceed with the option to purchase a new projector. (Cllr Pybus returned to the meeting). The Chairman thanked Cllr Pybus for his kind offer and explained the reasons for the decision made to purchase a new projector. Costings for the new projector to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.</p>
<p>12) Appeal hearing 13/2/12</p>	<p>Land West of Biss Farm – W/10/03031/FUL - The Chairman reported that a final decision was yet to be received from the Inspector overseeing the Appeal Hearing.</p>
<p>13) Planning</p>	<p>13.1 The following recent decisions were noted.            13.1.1 W/12/00054/AGD Land East of Oakstone Farm, Bratton Road, West Ashton. Purpose built portal building – Details approved.            13.1.2 W/11/02853/FUL Merrymeeting, Rood Ashton Park, West Ashton. Demolitions extensions and alterations – Permission.</p>
<p>14) Finance</p>	<p>14.1 The financial statement was noted. The Chairman noted that at some point in the future consideration would need to be made regarding expenditure on additional equipment for the Recreational Area at East Town Lane. Cllr Richards, who lives adjacent to the Recreational Area referred to a covenant detailed in the deeds of his property stating that only 'low-rise' play equipment was permitted on the site – It</p>

was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Solicitor to seek clarification on this matter.

- 14.2 The following payments were approved and cheques signed
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| 14.2.1 Chq 324 Network against Wilts Sprawl | S137 grant donation   | £200.00 |
| 14.2.2 Chq 325 Carol Hackett                | Re-imburse exps Clerk | £ 20.99 |
| 14.2.3 Chq 326 CPRE                         | Membership subs       | £ 29.00 |
- (Chq 324 signed in-between meetings 12/3/12 – payment unanimously approved at Parish Council meeting 29/2/12 – proposed Cllr Westlake seconded Cllr Covington). Remaining payments unanimously approved, proposed Cllr Mrs Workman seconded Cllr Pybus.
- 14.3 To re-appoint the Internal Auditor – The Clerk noted that it was an audit requirement to formally re-appoint the internal auditor each year. Andrew Hodgkinson who had carried out the audit in previous years had confirmed that he was available to do it again this year. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Andrew Hodgkinson as the internal auditor for the current financial year – Proposed Cllr Mrs Workman seconded Cllr Richards.
- 14.4 Risk assessment documents (financial & magazine) – The Clerk referred to the documents circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. With regards to the financial risk assessment, she noted that no changes in the operation of the Parish Council had been made since the last review. It was therefore unanimously agreed to approve this document without amendment for the coming year. With regards to the risk assessment for operation of the Parish Magazine, and the Guidelines for operation of the Parish Magazine, again it was noted that no changes in the operation of the magazine in relation to risk had been made since the last review. It was therefore unanimously agreed to approve both these documents without amendment for the coming year – Proposed Cllr Covington seconded Cllr Richards. A question was raised as to whether it might be appropriate to develop a specific risk assessment for operation of the Parish Web-site – It was agreed to consider this matter further at a future meeting.
- 14.5 Consider request from St John Ambulance for grant funding – Councillors were unaware of any specific activity regarding this organisation in the village, and therefore unanimously agreed not to support this request for grant funding.
- 14.6 Consider request for grant funding of £300 from West Ashton School towards purchase and repair of musical instruments – Following a full discussion it was agreed to write to the School to seek clarification on certain matters before a final decision was made regarding the request.

15) Correspondence

- 15.1 Local Resident – Complaint about dog fouling along East Town Road – The Chairman reported that several complaints had been received about dog fouling in the village. Also concerns were raised that dogs were being allowed to stray from the route of designated footpaths. Following a full discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would contact the Dog Warden at Wiltshire Council to discuss the matter and ask if consideration could be given to erecting appropriate

	<p>signage. Notice to be placed in the next edition of the Parish Magazine reminding dog owner of their responsibilities.</p> <p>15.2 Wiltshire Council – Letter confirming decision to refuse to make an Order to divert part of footpath West Ashton No. 5 at Kettle Lane House, West Ashton – Noted at meeting.</p> <p>15.3 Wiltshire Council – Details of proposed diversion of footpath No. 6 West Ashton (part) at Kettle Lane Farm Cottage – Following a full discussion it was agreed to respond asking for clarification as to whether the proposal was being considered as a diversion or distinguishing of part of the footpath. Also making the suggestion that if the owners of Kettle Lane Farm Cottage intend to allow dogs in the courtyard area it might be prudent for them to put a mesh fence across the 5-bar-gate at the entrance to the property adjacent to the footpath.</p> <p>15.4 Wiltshire Council – Details of review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, comments by 25/5/12 – The Chairman noted that West Ashton was not directly affected by any of the proposals in the review, it was therefore unanimously agreed not to make any formal comments.</p> <p>15.5 Wiltshire Council – Details of Wiltshire Mobile Library Service routine review, comments by 11/5/12 – The Clerk confirmed that no changes were proposed for the current Mobile Library service in the village, it was therefore unanimously agreed not to make any formal comments.</p> <p>15.6 Wiltshire Council – Details of Wiltshire &amp; Swindon Waste Site Allocations DPD Examination. Hearing Sessions to commence on 24/4/12 – In view of the fact that the decision had now been made to withdraw the proposed waste site allocation at West Ashton, it was agreed that it would not be necessary to submit any further comments or make representation at the hearing.</p>
<p>16) Report from Parish Council representative on the Village Hall committee</p>	<p>The Chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the last meeting of the committee and asked Cllr Pybus if he would like to update Councillors. Cllr Pybus reported that the acoustic panels were due to be installed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, during the week that the Village Hall was closed for annual maintenance.</p>
<p>17) Agree date and format for Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>Following a full discussion it was agreed that the APM would be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May starting at the earlier time of 7.00pm. This meeting would be immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. To try and improve attendance at the meeting Councillors would let as many people in the village know about the event and a notice would be placed on the Notice Board.</p>
<p>18) Village / Parish Council logo</p>	<p>Cllr Mrs Workman reported that Paul had met with the young lady who had won the competition, and discussed adding some colour to the logo. She has given her permission for Paul to develop the idea further.</p>
<p>19) Proposed Wind Farm</p>	<p>Councillors discussed their suggestions for the format of the questionnaire, after which it was agreed that the Chairman would email to all Councillors the draft questionnaire that Cllr Richards had kindly already prepared, for their comments. The comments received would then be used to prepare a final draft document which would be circulated again via email for final approval before printing. It was agreed that questionnaires would be delivered to the whole of the Parish, hopefully within the next month.</p>

20) Parish Matters	<p>Cllr Pybus referred to item 2 of 'The Guidelines for operation of the Parish Magazine' – 2) <i>Before any potentially contentious article is published the opposing view should be sought.</i> And questioned why a contentious article had been permitted in the previous magazine without the opposing view being sought? A full discussion followed, during which time consideration was given as to whether the practicalities of implementing 'item 2' was always possible, and a question was raised as to whether this item should be deleted from the guidelines. The following vote was then taken –</p> <p>Proposal <b>not to amend</b> 'The Guidelines for operation of the Parish Magazine' – Proposed Cllr Covington seconded Cllr Richards - Councillors in favour of the proposal 3 / against the proposal 1 / abstaining from the vote 2 – motion carried by a majority vote.</p> <p>General agreement was reached that in the future every effort should be made to avoid contentious issues being included in the Magazine.</p>
21) Date of next meeting	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2012 – Annual Parish Meeting starting at <b>7.00pm</b> , immediately followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
22) Closure of meeting	Meeting closed at 10.10pm.