

WEST ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL									
Minutes of the Extra meeting of West Ashton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 29th February 2012, at West Ashton Village Hall.									
1) Open the meeting	The meeting commenced at 7.13pm.								
2) In attendance and apologies	Cllr Richard Covington (Chair), Cllr Peter Westlake (Vice-Chair) – left at 8.11pm, Cllr Ron Pybus, Cllr Ian Robertson, Cllr Mrs Margaret Workman, Cllr Geoff Watkins – left at 8.09pm, Wiltshire Cllr Francis Morland – arrived at 7.17pm, Cllr Roger Evans – left at 8.35pm (Chair North Bradley Parish Council), George McDonic – left at 8.35pm (Chair of Wiltshire CPRE), and Carol Hackett – Clerk. Apologies – Cllr David Richards								
3) Declarations of interest	None.								
4) Minutes of Parish Council Meeting	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th January 2012, having been previously circulated, were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Westlake seconded Cllr Mrs Workman.								
5) Finance	<p>5.1 The following payments were approved and cheques signed</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;">5.1.1</td> <td style="width: 70%;">Chq 322* Community First</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">\$137 grant towards acoustic panels/lighting in Village Hall</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£132.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.1.2</td> <td>Chq 323 West Ashton Action Group Jubilee Party</td> <td>\$137 grant donation for Community Jubilee Party</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£150.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>(* Cheque signed and issued to the Village Hall Committee in-between meetings to satisfy the original grant criteria – payment unanimously agreed at Parish Council meeting 18/1/12. Proposed Cllr Robertson seconded Cllr Westlake).</p> <p>Payment of cheques proposed Cllr Robertson seconded Cllr Westlake and unanimously agreed.</p> <p>5.2 To consider possible \$137 grant donation to action fund being set-up to oppose the Core Strategy, contributions would be used to engage professional consultants (Matter considered part-way through following presentation/open discussion).</p>	5.1.1	Chq 322* Community First	\$137 grant towards acoustic panels/lighting in Village Hall	£132.37	5.1.2	Chq 323 West Ashton Action Group Jubilee Party	\$137 grant donation for Community Jubilee Party	£150.00
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5.1.2	Chq 323 West Ashton Action Group Jubilee Party	\$137 grant donation for Community Jubilee Party	£150.00						
6) Short introductory presentation	The Chairman started the discussion by presenting a few slides which showed the proposed development for the Trowbridge Area as detailed in the Core Strategy document. He then handed over to George McDonic - George noted that the purpose of this consultation was to consider the ‘soundness’ of the Core Strategy document, and detailed the criteria which should be used to consider this. He referred to several proposals in the document and noted that in his opinion many of the proposals in the Core Strategy did not stack up. He confirmed that it was the conclusion of the CPRE economist that overall the document was not justified, and that there was no real evidence for the need of the proposed 37,000 more houses and 27,500 new jobs. An Action Group set up to oppose the Core Strategy under the umbrella of the CPRE were								

proposing to employ a professional consultant, to formally challenge the document – He then opened up the meeting for questions and open discussion – At this point the Chairman referred to the employment of the consultant, noting that this professional response could add further weight to any individual responses made by groups and Parish Councils, and suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider making a contribution towards the cost. He noted that Wiltshire Council in its publications had mistakenly implied that it was only ‘changes’ in the document that could be commented on, and that the Planning Inspector had insisted that they amend this information on their web-site, however some published literature could still be incorrect. Then followed a time of open discussion, during which details of local issues and other matters were discussed – including - the proposed ‘Ashton Park’ development, where 2,600 dwellings and 15 ha employment land are being proposed – Core Policy 44 (rural exceptions sites – affordable housing) which has a cross-subsidy provision in it which indicates that if building affordable housing is not economical a proportion of market housing may be considered – Appendix F Pages 347/348 (list of settlement boundaries proposed to be removed) the question of why boundaries were being removed was asked – It was considered that the sustainability appraisal for Trowbridge was exceptionally poor. It relies on assessment carried out in 2009 which promoted the theory that if all the new housing was in the same place this would encourage the most improved infrastructure. However, with the proposed ‘Ashton Park’ development the Transport Assessment has indicated that there is no easy solution to the fundamental traffic problems in this area around Yarnbrook, North Bradley and West Ashton. (Cllr Watkins left at 8.09pm).

At this point in the meeting the Chairman asked if Councillors had had time to consider if the Parish Council should make a financial contribution towards the cost of a professional consultant. Cllr Westlake proposed a S137 grant donation of £200, seconded by Cllr Covington and unanimously agreed. (Cllr Westlake left at 8.11pm)

Further open discussion continued – including – Core Policy 47 (gypsy’s & travellers) it was noted that the area allocations for the old ‘West Wilts’ and ‘North Wilts’ had been merged together in this Core Strategy document, whereas in the previous June 2011 consultation document the figures for the ‘proposed requirement’ and ‘permitted sites to date’ had been noted separately – Core Policy 29 (Trowbridge Strategic Allocation) no clear indication is given of where the extra allocation over and above that proposed for the site at ‘Ashton Park’ will be sited. Also no definition is provided for housing/employment within the ‘Ashton Park’ proposed development, rather labelled as ‘mixed use’.

7) Parish Matters

Cllr Pybus passed on the thanks of the Village Hall Committee for the extra funding from the Parish Council for the acoustic panels, and confirmed that work was due to start on the 16th of April. He referred to the grant application submitted by the Parish Council to the Area Board for part-funding of a lap-top projector, and asked what consultation work had been undertaken with local groups. The Clerk and Chairman confirmed that verbal discussion had been held with the School and Church, and that any other local group would be welcome to use the equipment. Cllr Pybus noted that some village groups had an agreement to use his personal projector. Cllr Robertson asked if enquiries could be made as to why Wessex Water were pumping water down the pavement on a section of the A350 making it impassable for users for approximately 2.5 days – Clerk to contact

	<p>Wessex Water. Cllr Pybus asked whether the owner of the lorry continually parking on Bratton Road had been approached – Cllr Robertson confirmed that he had spoken with the owner regarding difficulties of residents having clear sightlines when exiting their properties with the large vehicle parked on the road. Cllr Pybus requested that the owner could be asked to park the vehicle to ensure that there is a full car length available for other vehicles to park – Cllr Robertson agreed to speak again with the owner of the lorry.</p>
8) Wiltshire Core Strategy – Parish Council response	<p>It was agreed that using feedback from this meeting, and any subsequent comments made by Councillors, the Chairman and Clerk would liaise to prepare a draft response to the Core Strategy document for consideration and approval at the next Parish Council meeting.</p>
9) Date of next meeting	<p>Due to a clash of dates with another important meeting, it was agreed to change the date of the next Parish Council meeting to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Clerk to notify the Village Hall Booking Secretary and the Neighbourhood Policing Team.</p>
10) Closure of meeting	<p>Meeting closed at 8.50pm.</p>

# Minutes

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