## ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 6 January 2022**

**CLERK'S BRIEFING NOTES** 

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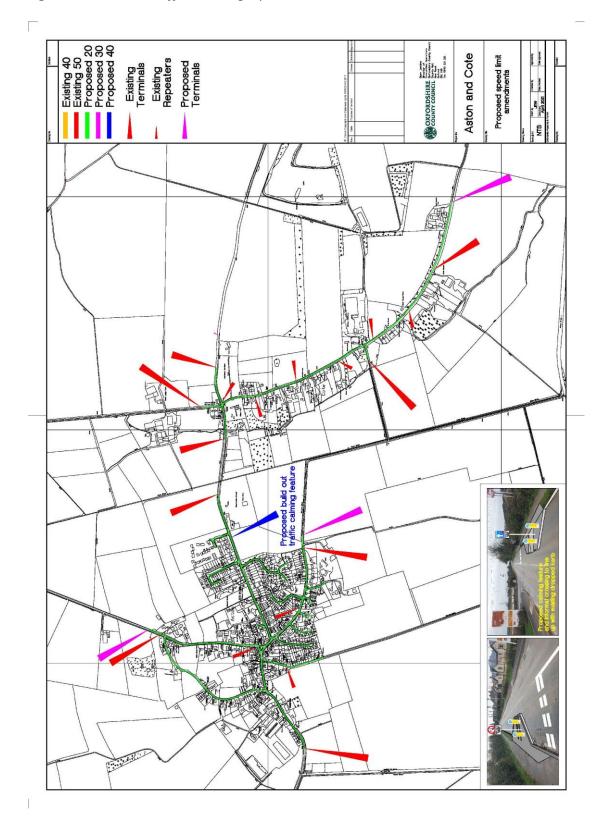
Prepared by Elaine Anstee 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

## Agenda Item 9

Correspondence

All correspondence by email.

## **Agenda Item 8a** – *Traffic Calming Update*



Agenda Item 8b - North Farm

#### ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD AND CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL

## NORTH FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION (STAGE 3)



INTRODUCTION In November 2020 , we explained that the Parish Council had been investigating what Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) (the landowner) intentions for the North Farm site (comprising 1.1 ha) in Aston. Through 2 rounds of public consultation, we invited and were grateful to receive, comments from residents on the principle of community involvement in the development of North Farm with detailed suggestions regarding the facilities and usage that you would like to see. Since then, continued discussions with OCC have now confirmed what their 'art of the possible' is with regard to their potential disposal of the site as a 'community-led development opportunity' and they have provided some illustrative options accordingly. The purpose of this deliberately detailed note is to seek your views on these more specific OCC proposals, in order that the Parish Council may represent accurately the views of the community. In so doing, we recognise that it will be impossible to please everybody, even if we do nothing; thus, a consensus will have to be determined.

Nothing has been decided yet, so community feedback is vital for the shaping of this project. All OCC options are illustrative in nature and subject to further discussion with the Parish Council and (should it proceed that far) WODC planning officers, based upon continued public consultation — even before any formal planning application process with WODC begins.

**SOME CONTEXT** The site has been declared surplus to requirements by OCC. Vacant since 2014, it is no longer economically viable as a farm and OCC therefore would prefer to dispose of the site with no residual responsibilities. However, the Local Planning Authority (WODC) will not consider any housing development on the site as this would be contrary to policy laid down in the Local Plan – unless it can be demonstrated that such development is exemplary in its design, and (critically) has the support of, and offers significant benefits to, the local community. OCC support this approach but are required by Section 123 of the Local Government Act (1972) to maximise the site's financial value (it is, after all, owned by all of us – the taxpayers!). Therefore, a 'trade-off' is required – in order to provide benefits to the community, the community would have to accept some development in order for this to be paid for. The central question therefore is how much development, and for what?

The Parish Council believe that any risk of doing something now (<u>albeit not at any cost</u>), when local support is mandated, is greatly outweighed by the risks of doing nothing. The latter includes, firstly that the site remains empty, becomes an increasingly derelict (and dangerous) eyesore and is at risk of illegal occupation; and secondly that OCC simply await a change in housing policy/legislation that may in the future allow the erection of up to 40 houses on the site — with no control from or benefit to, the local community.

'The Parish Council believe that any risk of doing something now (albeit not at any cost), when local support is mandated, is greatly outweighed by the risk of doing nothing' Do you agree?

**SOME SPECIFICS** An illustrative plan of what might be possible has begun to crystallise. In outline, OCC believe that if 23 houses were constructed on the site, the following community benefits could be provided:

Affordable housing The site could include 8 affordable units. In order to reduce site density, these could potentially be designed as a courtyard/farm building style development of 6 flats plus 2 semi-detached houses.

Community Hub – a single storey building gifted to the local community. Current ideas for usage include relocation of the village shop, gallery/studio, other commercial outlets such as bicycle hub, hire and repair. Also gifted and again subject to final design, the existing building to the north of the farmhouse could be re-roofed for additional use (electric car charging points is one idea).

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Community Open Space – all unused space (including a large element of the northern paddock) to be gifted to the local community, for usage as we see fit.

Public House – should there be sufficient interest, the existing farmhouse could (subject to planning) be converted into a public house to replace/re-locate the Red Lion. This would offer much larger internal space (including a dedicated dining area), a garden and off-street parking.

Community Car Parking – a new community car park (separate to the dedicated parking for each of the houses) is proposed which would allow parking for visitors to the village, the pub and community hub.

In order to fund these benefits, OCC believe that in addition to the sale of the existing farmhouse, 15 open-market dwellings would be required. These would comprise smaller family homes and bungalows rather than large executive-style dwellings. Being considered are 12 x 2 and 3 bed homes and 3 x 4 bed homes. Construction and design would be required to comply with and complement Aston's Conservation Area status

The Parish Council believes that this proposal is too 'expensive' in terms

of the size of development, especially as our costed proposal of November 20, showed that such benefits might be achievable with only 10 open-market houses. Do you agree?

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**YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY** This is a very significant potential development in the Parish and unusually, the community has considerable influence over, and a very large say in, its progression (or not). It offers benefits for current and future generations, but there is a price to pay in terms of more housing in Aston — a village that is already seeing a 20% increase in housing stock over the space of a couple of years. What do you think? Is this price acceptable? The Parish Council is keen to hear from as many residents as possible.

This consultation will run until 18 February 2022, with the initial results published on 4 March, and will take place alongside an informal pre-application by OCC to WODC. If the project is viable and moves forward after that date, then there will be further consultations run as part of the planning process. The lead for these would be OCC working with the community through the Parish Council. A consultation sheet is attached, should you wish to use it, or you may of course choose another format. In either case, please submit your comments by 18 February 22 via email to clerk@astonoxon-pc.gov.uk, completed forms via the Community Shop, or by post to the Parish Clerk (16 Foxwood, Aston, Oxfordshire, OX18 2DZ). The consultation is also available online at <a href="https://www.astonoxon-pc.gov.uk">https://www.astonoxon-pc.gov.uk</a>

Thank you for your participation

7 December 2021

## Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

## ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD AND CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL NORTH FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION (STAGE 3)

PRINCIPLES The Parish Council has employed the following principles in its discussions with OCC. Do you

agree?	Please circle y	our answer.	simployed the To	nowing principle.	3 117 113 013003310	ins with ook	s. Do you
1. The	risks of doing s	something now, o	utweigh the risk	s of doing nothin	g (albeit not at a	ny cost).	YES / NO
2. Any	/ de∨elopment s	solution must be p	ermanent and fo	or the whole site	(including the pa	addock).	YES / NO
3. Dev	elopment on th	e site must be ke	pt to a minimum	ı, balanced agair	nst any commun	ity benefits.	YES / NO
		ues with our alrea ment on the site, v				st be on-site	e sewage dis- YES/NO
oossib he info	le' for the dispo ormal pre-applic	options We have sal of the site. Sh cation and subseq e 1 is the lowest a	ould the project Juent formal plan	continue, these on the second in the continue, the continue of	options would be	refined fur	ther as part of
		. Community sup pport is not fortho					onfirm that if
		1	2	3	4	5	
	If so, would yo	ou support revisitii	ng the project in	the future if circu	ımstances chan	ge? <b>YES</b> /I	МО
	WODC planni the farmhouse	y OCC under ope ng policy constrai e site with the pad rther developmen	nts, this might re dock left undeve	sult in 6 large ho	ouses (including	the current	farmhouse) on
		1	2	3	4	5	
		pped with up to 16 ddock area donat					
		1	2	3	4	5	
		oped with up to 23 and community h					
		1	2	3	4	5	
		ouncil consider the ou agree? YES / I		ses' option unacc	eptably excessi	ve in terms	of the benefits
		ped with no afford out no community		d fewer (9) large	er properties, so	less housin	g and greater
		1	2	3	4	5	

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## Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

## ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD AND CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL NORTH FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION (STAGE 3)

f.	Are there any other options that you think may be viable for the site? Please comment below:
T.	Are there any other options that you think may be viable for the site? Please comment below:

6. Please rank in order of importance (1 being the most important), what you think are the most important potential community benefits to consider:

Minimising development on the site	1	2	3	4	5
Community open space	1	2	3	4	5
Community (off-street) car parking	1	2	3	4	5
Community 'hub'	1	2	3	4	5
Affordable housing	1	2	3	4	5

- 7. Would you support the relocation of the pub from the Square to the North Farm farmhouse? YES/NO
- 8. Would you support the relocation of the shop from the Square to the North Farm site if a building (the 'hub') was offered to the community and the Community Shop wished to move? \_\_\_ YES/NO
- 9. What do you think a Community Hub could be used for by the residents of the parish?

10. What do you think the green space could be used for by the residents of the parish?

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## Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

## ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD AND CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL NORTH FARM PUBLIC CONSULTATION (STAGE 3)

11. Were the project to continue, would you be prepared to assist and advise the Parish Council in some capacity (for example as part of a community working group)?  YES / NO
12. The space below is for any further comments you might have. (further space available on the reverse of this sheet)::
Please return this form by 18 February 2022 via email to clerk@astonoxon-pc.gov.uk, via the Community Shop, or by post to the Parish Clerk (16 Foxwood, Aston, Oxfordshire, OX18 2DZ).
The consultation is also available online at <a href="https://www.astonoxon-pc.gov.uk">https://www.astonoxon-pc.gov.uk</a>
YOUR DETAILS
Name:
I confirm that I am a resident of the Parish of Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney YES/NO
Technini that Fain a resident of the Fairsh of Aston, Code, Gillion and Chilling Teshoo
Contact Details (Optional):
Page 3 of 3

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Agenda Item 8c - Children's Home Update

BP

Bluestone Planning www.bluestoneplanning.co.uk

15 December 2021

Dear Aston Parish Council

Re: Planning application for the erection of a new Children's home on Back Lane, Aston

I am writing with reference to the above proposal and to provide an update, following on from our

public consultation in September 2020 and our attendance at your Parish Council meetings.

The Planning application for the proposed new children's home has now been submitted to

Oxfordshire County Council, the application ref no is R3.0149/21and the case officer is Naomi

Woodcock. You may look up the full application details by using this application number on their

website to review all the submitted documentation. You may also submit your comments on the

proposal via the website.

The proposal has been amended several times to take into account the feedback the project team

received from speaking with you and local residents. In the main these changes resulted in a

reduction of the scale and the form of the building such that it is now a bungalow form in an 'L' shape. The materials have also been chosen to reflect better the local character and the

conservation area setting. The building will now be built in a Beckstone in a colour 'Buff' and the

gable end section of the building will be clad in a natural timber, Poplar, with a self-finish.

The access to the site can now be achieved without having to carry out any widening works to the

lane other than removing some low lying, and/or dead foliage. The Ash tree to south of the site will

be retained and protected throughout the works. The proposed fencing will be post and rail type to

match that typically found around pasture land, and will be set back off of the road.

Attached is the Design and Access Statement which sets out in more detail the design rationale and

how the proposal has evolved. I also attach the planning statement which sets out the justification

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Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

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Bluestone Planning

www.bluestoneplanning.co.uk

for the proposal and the process involved in concluding that this site was the most suitable for the development proposed and the reasons why.

These documents form part of the application and will be displayed on the Oxfordshire County Council website as well.

The FAQ sheet which was originally sent to the Parish Council is also valid and maybe useful to display on the PC website in case any enquiries are received, many of the questions could be answered by looking at this document.

The application will now be subject to a public consultation period and the case officer will then assess the application in light of those comments received. I hope this update is of use to you and please do get in touch if there is any further information or queries you have on any of the application details.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Hannah Wiseman BA (Hons) MSc MRTPI Associate Planner hannahw@bluestoneplanning.co.uk 01235 766825

Agenda Item 11a - OCC Budget Consultation



## INTRODUCTION

Following the local elections in May 2021, the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance formed to lead the county council. Our vision is to lead positive change to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer county. We have developed nine priorities to deliver this aim. These include putting action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work, tackling inequalities and supporting carers and the social care system. We have looked for ways to support these priorities in this, our first budget.

We are committed to the responsible management of the council's finances. To reach our goal of a balanced budget for 2022/23, we are planning ahead carefully to meet current and future financial challenges. We are also working on identifying savings across the council to enable us to invest in our priorities and meet our demand pressures.

Challenges include uncertainty over government funding for all local authorities, the ongoing impact of COVID-19 that continues to place pressures on the county council's day to day services and affect its income streams, alongside a growing and ageing population, which puts more pressure on budgets and services.

The government has announced some new grant funding for local government, which is welcome news and has the potential to allow us to invest in key priority areas. However, the detail of what funding we will receive remains unclear. We also plan to use £8 million of existing grant funding for pressures related to COVID-19. Given the level of remaining uncertainties, including around COVID-19, we will continue to take a cautious and measured approach towards managing our budgets to deliver for residents today and in the future.

In total, we have identified we need £21m of new funding for 2022/23 to meet inflationary and demographic pressures, additional demand and to fund priority investments.

We want funding to go where it is most needed and invest in services that will have a positive long-term impact for our local communities. To do that, we plan to make £13m of new savings



in 2022/23 focusing on making services more efficient while protecting the frontline.

Social care for adults and children is one area where we are experiencing additional demands and financial challenges as a result. We are predicting significant funding shortfalls in the coming years. Without funding to meet these shortfalls from the government, council tax will have to rise to meet these costs.

In the autumn spending review, the government encouraged councils to raise council tax by an additional one per cent to help pay for adult social care services. Last year, the council had already budgeted for a 3.99 per cent increase to council tax in 2022/23. We know increasing council tax by 4.99 per cent overall will put additional strain on household finances at a very challenging time. However, without funding from government to meet the rising costs of providing adult social care, we are left with no choice but to raise these funds to make sure we can provide social care for some of our most vulnerable residents.

Protecting those in need will always be our priority. Budget pressures mean we will have to continue to find ways to save money while protecting frontline services – moving services online, where appropriate, and generating more income.

We are proposing both investments in priority areas and savings, and consulting the public on what we know now. As we move through the winter, the situation may change as we get to know more detail about the financial support available from the government.

In the meantime, we want to hear your views on our proposals. This will help inform our decisions during the budget process.

Thank you and best wishes,

Cllr Liz Leffman

Leader, Oxfordshire County Council



## ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Oxfordshire County Council provides 80 per cent of local government services by expenditure, including adult and children's social care, some education services, fire and rescue, libraries and museums, roads, trading standards, waste disposal and recycling.

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance has a vision to lead positive change to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer county. It has developed nine priorities and over the autumn has been inviting feedback on these to inform the budget setting process and to help develop a draft strategic plan. Residents can comment on these as part of the budget consultation.

## OUR SERVICES

We are proud to provide and support a huge range of services that enhance and improve the lives of people across our whole community.

During the last financial year (April 2020 - March 2021) we:



Supported over **7,813** adults with long-term care needs.

### THE PRIORITIES ARE

- Put action to address the climate emergency at the heart of our work.
- 2. Tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire.
- 3. Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 4. Support carers and the social care system.
- 5. Invest in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network.
- 6. Improve access to nature and green spaces.
- 7. Create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.
- 8. Play our part in a vibrant local democracy.
- 9. Work with local businesses and partners for environmental, economic and social benefit.

Managed **186,052** tonnes of household waste, of which 58.8 per cent was recycled, reused or composted.



Received 244,310 visits across all



our libraries.



## OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the value of resilient local public services - and not just provided by our frontline workers. Voluntary, community and faith organisations, residents and businesses across Oxfordshire have all stepped up to offer support both this year and last.

The continued health, social and financial impact of COVID-19 on our communities has been significant. As a council, we have continued to respond flexibly, working with the government and local partners to maintain support for those that need it most. We have taken a leading role working with our district and city councils and health, education and voluntary sector partners and communities to help stop the spread of the virus. This has included encouraging over 11,000 people in Oxford to get tested as part of an enhanced response area action plan.

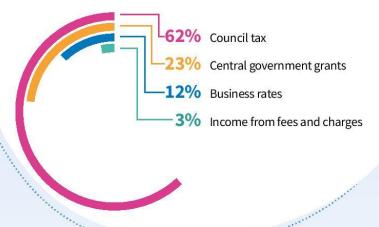
Crucially, we have also worked to make sure that our frontline workers, including social workers, fleet drivers, staff at our household waste recycling centres and library staff, could safely continue their essential work during lockdown periods.



## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



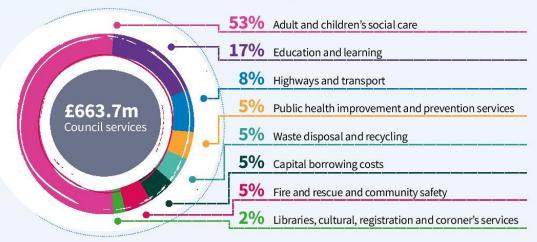
In 2021/22, over 60 per cent of the county council's funding for services will come directly from council tax, with the rest coming from charging for services and government grants.



## WHAT WE SPEND ON COUNCIL SERVICES

In 2021/22, the council will spend £663.7 million on services – our gross expenditure budget. In addition, we will also spend £192.4 million on maintained schools, which covers teachers and running costs, and comes directly from the government.

The figures below show broadly how we will spend our budget on services in 2021/22.



Our £1.4bn capital programme includes investment in highway improvements, new school buildings and energy efficient street lighting over 10 years. This money can only be used for the purpose it has been given and cannot be allocated to day to day council spending.

## OUR FUNDING AND THE FUTURE



Alongside all local authorities, we face an uncertain funding situation. There has been a commitment from government in its autumn budget to provide new grant funding for councils over the next three years to support vital local services. However, details remain unclear. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 is continuing to place significant pressures on our day to day services, and also affect our income streams. Added to this, our population is growing and ageing at one of the fastest rates in our history, which puts more pressure on our budgets and services. This means we need to make additional savings on top of those already agreed for our 2022/23 budget.

#### **New government funding**

On 27 October, in the autumn spending review, the government announced a number of funding streams would be available to councils. However, we are waiting to hear further details on these alongside what our annual local government finance settlement will be, which we expect in mid-late December.

The government also encouraged councils to raise council tax by an additional one per cent to help pay for adult social care services. Last year, the council had already budgeted for a 3.99 per cent increase to council tax in 2022/23, which would mean a council tax increase of 4.99 per cent overall.

#### **Future uncertainties about** business rates

The government intends to change how business rates are retained by councils. Growth in business

#### COVID-19

In addition to our spending on COVID-19 during 2021/22, there have been other impacts on the council relating to the pandemic. These include loss of income generating services during lockdown and the costs of maintaining safe services during the pandemic. Government grant funding has helped us to meet most of these costs but ongoing uncertainty remains about the longerterm impact into 2022/23 and beyond.

#### Ageing and growing population

Oxfordshire's population is expected to rise from 723,210 in 2021 to 832,300 in 2029. In that time, the number of residents aged 65 and over is expected to grow by 23 per cent, compared with 14 per cent of working age residents, and children by 12 per cent. This will put more pressure on our budgets and services.



## OUR BUDGET PROPOSALS

# M

#### **Savings**

We need to make £13 million of new savings in total across existing services. The full set of savings proposals are available to view as part of our supporting documentation for our budget consultation at letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation and show the financial impact over a four-year period.

We will continue to assess the impact of our budget proposals on individuals and communities by taking into account the feedback from this consultation exercise. This feedback will form part of the final 2022/23 budget proposals.

#### **Investments to meet pressures**

Each year as part of our budget process, we identify any new pressures that need to be funded. For example, there will be new costs relating to the 6.6 per cent increase in the national living wage from April 2022 and inflation. Savings made can often be redirected into funding these pressures.

#### **Proposed council tax increase**

For 2022/23, Oxfordshire County Council is proposing to increase council tax by 4.99 per cent. This is the maximum amount the government will currently allow. The county council's share of council tax for a Band D property (the average council tax band) in 2021/22 was £1,573.11. An increase of 4.99 per cent is equal to an additional £78.50 per year or £1.51 per week in council tax on a Band D property.



Please note, the overall council tax bill for your property also includes payments to your city or district council, the police and crime commissioner for Thames Valley and possibly a parish or town council. All of these are outside of the scope of this consultation.



## HAVE YOUR SAY

You can have your say on our budget proposals, including our proposed council tax level for 2022/23 and the the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance's priorities between 2 December 2021 and 5 January 2022 by visiting letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budgetconsultation and completing the online survey.

The closing date for comments is: Wednesday **5 January 2022** 

While we do want to make sure we capture your views through the formal consultation, you can also

- email your thoughts to budget@oxfordshire.gov.uk or
- engage on **4 and a community of the continuous o**



#### Consultation feedback

The outcomes of this budget consultation will be considered by the council's Cabinet on 18 January 2022. Once the council decides the budget later on 8 February 2022, we will plan any specific service changes that we need to work within our budget. Consultation feedback will also help develop a new strategic plan for the council.

#### **Petitions**

Oxfordshire County Council welcomes petitions and recognises that petitions are one way in which people can let us know their concerns or the strength of public feeling. Find out how to submit a petition to the council on our website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/petitions

#### Alternative formats

If you require this document or a feedback form in an alternative format, ie Easy Read, large text, audio, Braille or a community language please get in touch by:

Email: budget@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01865 792422

For monthly news and updates from across the county, sign up to Your Oxfordshire and get the latest direct to your inbox. ......oxfordshire.gov.uk/newsletter





## Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Agenda Item 11b - WODC Planning Services Parish Survey 2021



## Planning Services Parish Survey 2021

NOTE: Where there is more than one settlement in the Parish, please complete this form for each settlement.

#### SECTION I: Introduction

Ţ	Name of Parish (and village where applicable)	
2	Your position	

#### SECTION 2: Which of the following facilities do you have in your town/parish/village?

020	The first of the following facilities do you have in your	Paris Paris and Paris Paris	
3	Do you have a Post Office? (either part-time or full-time)	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
4	Do you have a bank? (either part-time or full-time)	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
5	Do you have any Food Shops/Markets/Outlets?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
6	Do you have any non-Food Shops/Market/Outlets?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
7	Do you have a petrol filling station?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
8	Do you have a public house or hotel?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
9	Do you have a Doctors surgery?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
	Do you have a local pharmacy?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
	Do you have a local dentist?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
	Do you have public defibrillators?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
10	Do you have a residential care facility (e.g. nursing home, extra-care, sheltered housing etc.)?	Yes 🗆	No □
11	Do you have a daytime bus service Monday to Friday?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
12	Do you have an evening/weekend bus service?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
13	Is there a community bus?	Yes 🗆	Yes 🗆
14	Do you have a local information service	Library 🗆	Notice No ☐ Board ☐
15	Do you have a place of worship?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆

Do you have a community meeting space?	Yes 🗆	No □
How many public meeting halls are there in the settlement?		
Do you have access to education services?	Yes □	No □
Early Years	Yes □	No □
Primary	Yes 🗆	No □
Secondary	Yes □	No □
College	Yes □	No □
Adult	Yes 🗆	No □
		No □
Do you have access to outdoor recreational facilities?	Yes □	No □
Playing Fields	Yes 🗆	No 🗆
Playground/Play Area	Yes 🗆	No □
Informal Green Space (publicly accessible)	Yes 🗆	No □
Allotments	Yes 🗆	No □
Other (please specify)		
Do you have a recent Housing Needs Survey?	Yes □	No □
Who are the main local employers?		
Are there any other features or facilities you would like to men	tion?	
	How many public meeting halls are there in the settlement?  Do you have access to education services?  Early Years  Primary  Secondary  College  Adult  Do you have access to any indoor built sports facilities (e.g. swimming pool, squash courts available for public use outside Do you have access to outdoor recreational facilities?  Playing Fields  Playground/Play Area  Informal Green Space (publicly accessible)  Allotments  Other (please specify)  Do you have a recent Housing Needs Survey?  Who are the main local employers?	How many public meeting halls are there in the settlement?  Do you have access to education services?  Early Years  Yes □  Primary  Yes □  Secondary  College  Adult  Yes □  Do you have access to any indoor built sports facilities (e.g. swimming pool, squash courts available for public use outside  Do you have access to outdoor recreational facilities?  Playing Fields  Playing Fields  Playground/Play Area  Informal Green Space (publicly accessible)  Allotments  Other (please specify)  Do you have a recent Housing Needs Survey?  Yes □

SEC	CHON 3: Changes and improvements
25	What have been the biggest changes in the parish in the past 5 years?

26	What does the Parish Council see as the largest challenges facing the parish currently and in the
	next 5 years?

Thank you for your help

Please return to Oliver Murray, Planning Policy, Elmfield, New Yatt Road, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 IPB or by email to Oliver.murray@publicagroup.uk

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Agenda Item 11c - WODC Budget 2022-23 Consultation

## West Oxfordshire District Council Budget Consultation 2022/23 Briefing Document

#### Contains:

- Press Release
- · Online Survey link
- Social media advisory
- · Paper Copy of Survey for printing included in separate attachment
- · Budget Consultation Poster included in separate PDF and JPG files
- · Social imagery included in separate JPG files

#### Summary:

West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) has launched a consultation to gather views from residents and businesses to help inform a decision on its budget for 2022/23. The consultation is now open until **midnight on Wednesday 12 January 2022**.

We would like to involve parish councils, residents and businesses in the budget process, and gather responses to the proposals from as many places as possible.

For more information on the budget consultation please visit: westoxon.gov.uk/budget

### How people can respond:

The online version of the survey is available at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WODCBC2223

Physical copies of the consultation are available in the WODC Woodgreen office and the Town Centre Shop.

You can print out copies and place them in your Town/Parish office for residents who prefer a paper copy. On completion, your residents are to send them to the Woodgreen office.

Press	Release
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### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

#### 6 December 2021

Have your say on West Oxfordshire District Council's budget as consultation opens on where council tax will be spent next year

Residents and businesses in West Oxfordshire are being urged to give their views on the District Council's spending plans as it prepares its budget for the next financial year.

Councillor Suzi Coul, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "Over the past decade our funding has reduced and the cost of delivering services has increased meaning we need to manage the council finances carefully to deliver high quality services.

"For our budget next year we are pleased to say that through careful management we can continue to provide services we know people value, such as free parking and local community grants, when we are experiencing some really high challenging financial pressures.

"We are also proposing to invest in improvements to local parks, tackling air quality issues and reviewing our local plan to strengthen our approach to important issues such as biodiversity and net zero carbon new homes. We will also continue to work hard to tackle climate change, bring in more affordable homes and support our local communities and economy.

"I would really like to get people's views on what we are proposing and would encourage residents to take part in the consultation."

West Oxfordshire District Council is responsible for a number of local services such as waste collection, planning, licensing, housing, parking and leisure with the county council delivering other services such as maintaining roads, adult social care, education, children's services and public health.

12% of the district council's expenditure comes from council tax collected locally with the district and parish councils only receiving 10% of the total council tax bill residents pay which is split between the district council, county council, police and fire service. Residents can see the exact split in their council tax bill.

The District Council gets the rest of its funding from income from certain services such as planning applications and Government funding, which has been reducing year on year for the past decade.

Alongside reducing funding, the cost of delivering services increases year on year as external costs increase such as energy, fuel for vehicles and sending waste for recycling.

The budget consultation is now live and is available on the West Oxfordshire District Council website at <a href="https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/budget/">https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/budget/</a> until 12 January 2022. Residents can also fill in a paper copy by visiting the council offices in Woodgreen, Witney.

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

For more information on the budget consultation please visit: westoxon.gov.uk/budget

#### Social media advisory:

West Oxfordshire District Council is running a social media campaign to support the budget consultation and encourages engagement from members, external stakeholders and the press. The consultation will run for six weeks until Wednesday 12 January 2022.

You can follow West Oxfordshire District Council on social media, here:

Twitter: <u>@WODCNews</u> LinkedIn: <u>@WestOxfordshireDC</u>
 Facebook: <u>@westoxfordshire</u> Instagram: <u>@westoxondistrictcouncil</u>

Nextdoor: @West Oxfordshire District Council

Please *like* and *share* any relevant content for your audiences from our accounts or use the sample posts below to share your own tailored messages.

#### Sample Social Media Posts:

It's time to have your say on @WODCNews budget proposals for the year ahead.

You can help to shape the district by giving your thoughts and feedback on the District Council's proposed changes for 2022/23.

Visit the District Council website to learn all about their proposals and have your say westoxon.gov.uk/budget

Make your voices heard by completing @WODCNews budget consultation before it closes on the  $12^{\text{th}}$  of January 2022

For more info and to have your say on the District Council's proposed budget please visit <a href="https://westoxon.gov.uk/budget">westoxon.gov.uk/budget</a>

Don't miss your chance to have your say!

@WODCNews' consultation is open until the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2022 and they want your feedback about the proposed 2022/23 budget.

Complete the three-minute survey /> westoxon.gov.uk/budget



### West Oxfordshire District Council Budget Consultation 2022 - 2023

We are currently preparing our annual budget for 2022/23 and we want your views on how we spend your council tax and our spending priorities. Our budget will cover the services we provide as a district council including housing, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection, planning applications and local taxation collections.

The budget does not cover education, highways, libraries or social care as these are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.

Below is a short survey which we would appreciate you completing to provide your feedback. The consultation will be open until 12 January 2022.

Business Rate payers and Council Tax payers in West Oxfordshire are being asked

Ī.

for their views on the District Council's budget setting strategy. Are you a:
O Business Ratepayer
Council Tax Payer
○ Neither
Both
2. Council Priorities
The Council has set the following priorities in its Council plan. Please rank them in order of importance from 1 to 6 with 1 being the most important.
Climate action: Protecting and enhancing the environment by taking action locally on climate change and biodiversity
Healthy towns and villages: Facilitating healthy lifestyles and better wellbeing for everyone by working with communities to tackle issues such as mental health
A vibrant district economy: Securing future economic success by supporting existing local businesses and attracting new businesses to the area which will help provide jobs for local people

	Strong local communities: Supporting and building prosperous and inclusive local communities by helping to set up local support networks and work on local community issues
(	Meeting the housing needs of our changing population: Securing the provision of market and affordable housing of a high quality so that local people can better afford to live locally
	Modern Council services and sustainable finance: Delivering excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council so that our services work better fo you and cost less to deliver
3.	Council Tax
	The Council is considering raising more money to fund services by increasing the total collected across all Council Tax bands.
	This increase would be 40p per month or approximately 5% on band D. West Oxfordshire still has one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country. Do you think this increase is appropriate to help us maintain the services we currently deliver and also the other proposals in our plan?
	○ Strongly agree
	Agree
	○ Neither agree nor disagree
	○ Disagree
	○ Strongly disagree
	4. Voluntary Bodies
	The Council is not proposing any changes to the budget allocation of £200K of grants to the voluntary sector in 2022/23. The grants help local communities to deliver local projects and access funding they would otherwise struggle to raise.
	Please indicate your views on this proposal:
	○ Strongly agree
	○ Agree
	○ Neither agree nor disagree
	○ Disagree
	○ Strongly disagree

3
Please return your completed survey to <b>Woodgreen Council Offices</b> , Witney, OX28 INB
Thank you for taking the time to be part of this survey and providing feedback for West Oxfordshire District Council. Are there any other comments you would like to make on our priorities or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?
Not sure
○No
Yes
As part of our work to tackle the climate emergency, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint, including at the council owned leisure centres across the district. Would you support a change in service practice to meet industry guidelines to reduce energy consumption?
6. Leisure Centres
A mixture of the above
Increase Fees for services
Increase Council Tax
Cut costs by reducing service provision
The Government funding for local councils has been steadily decreasing for the past decade. Looking to the future, all Councils are anticipating more changes to Government funding which are likely to leave us with less money to deliver local services. If this were to happen, should West Oxfordshire District Council:
5. Future funding

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

#### Agenda Item 12

### **London Bridge – Death of the Sovereign**

#### Parish Council actions:

- 1. Proclamation will not be read in the parish
- 2. **Councillors** will supply and wear their own mourning attire (armband/tie/rosette) as required.
- 3. Chairman to attend the WODC/OCC events as notified.
- 4. Book of condolence to be in St James Church and opened on the day of the death being announced. Suggest that the first message should be by the Chairman of the parish council. This will then be closed at 5pm on the day after the funeral. The book will be loose leafed, and councillors will be asked to take pages to those unable to get to church to sign if they wish to. The condolence book to be retained by the parish clerk for future use. This to be managed by the **parish clerk**.
- 5. Letter of condolence to be signed by the chairman and sent to the private secretary of the new sovereign (Draft at Annex 1). This is to be managed by the **parish clerk**.

#### St James Church

#### Flag flying

• At half-mast from the announcement of the death of the Sovereign until 0800 on the day after the funeral, except on Proclamation Day when they are hoisted to the top of the mast at 11.00 a.m. and remain there until sunset. Half-mast means two thirds of the way up the flagpole and flags should be first raised to the top and then down one third of the way. This is to be managed by the St James Church Wardens.

#### **Church Bells**

• Local churches may toll bells providing the Local Parochial Council agrees, at noon on day of death or day after (depending on time of death)

#### **Church Services**

This is organised by the local diocese.

#### Other Actions

Communities may decide to mark the event in a special way, and this is the responsibility
of the community to organise.

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

## **National and Royal Mourning**

#### **National Mourning**

Observed by all, including national representatives serving abroad.

Flags lowered from the day of death to the day of Funeral.

Business/Sporting activities considered by Prime Minister's Office.

#### **Royal Mourning**

Observed by Members of the Royal Family, Households of the Royal Family and Troops on Public Duties.

#### **Parish Council Actions**

- 1. Following the death of a Member of The Royal Family, the Lord Chamberlain or the Earl Marshal will consult with the Prime Minister before seeking The Sovereign's Commands with regard to mourning. No action should be taken until there is a formal announcement of the death (that is, when the media reports that Buckingham Palace or Downing Street has announced the death, not when they indicate that "reports are coming in of the death of .....").
- 2. **Councillors** will supply and wear their own mourning attire (armband/tie/rosette) as required.
- 3. Chairman or his representative to attend the WODC/OCC events as notified
- 4. Book of condolence to be located in St James Church and opened on the day of the death being announced. This will then be closed at 5pm on the day after the funeral. The book will be loose leafed and councillors will be asked to take pages to those unable to get to church to sign if they wish to. The condolence book to be retained by the parish clerk for future use. This will be managed by the **parish clerk**.
- 5. Letter of condolence to be signed by the chairman and sent to the private secretary of the deceased (Draft at Annex 2). This will be managed by the **parish clerk**.

#### St James Church - Flag Flying

Flags should be flown at half-mast on the day the death is announced (or immediately following) and day of Funeral. Flags also lowered on any other occasions where Her Majesty has given special command.

#### **Church Services**

This is organised by the local diocese.

#### **Other Actions**

• Communities may decide to mark the event in a special way, and this is the responsibility of the community to organise.

#### **Notes on Flag Flying**

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Half-mast means the flag is flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole. On flag poles that are more than 45' from the vertical, flags cannot be flown at half-mast and the pole should be left empty.

When a flag is to be flown at half-mast it should first be raised all the way to the top of the mast, allowed to remain there for a second and then lowered to the half-mast position. When it is to be lowered from half-mast it should again be raised to the top of the mast for a second before being fully lowered. When the national flag is at half-mast other flags should also be at half-mast or should not be flown at all.

Unless the flagpole is illuminated by a spotlight or similar lighting, the flag should be raised each morning at 8.00 a.m. and taken down at sunset.

#### **General Notes:**

#### Proclamation Day (applicable only on the death of the Sovereign)

The new Sovereign succeeds to the throne as soon as his or her predecessor dies and is at once proclaimed at an Accession Council in St James's Palace In London the public proclamation of the new Sovereign is then read out, first at St. James's Palace and afterwards at other locations. This is Proclamation Day when flags should be flown at half-mast from 8.00 a.m. and then at full mast between 11.00 a.m. and sunset (see paragraph 4.1 below).

Once the Proclamation has been made at St. James's Palace in London it is read out publicly, later that day, in Edinburgh, Windsor and York as well as at Guildhalls, Shire Halls and Town Halls throughout the country. In each city or town, the accession is traditionally proclaimed at a number of different spots.

It is hoped that the wording of the Proclamation to be read out will be easily available and a watch should be kept on the Buckingham Palace website (www.royal.gov.uk) and the Privy Council website (www.privy-council.org.uk). As soon at the National Association of Civic Officers has the information it will also appear on their website (www.leicester.gov.uk/naco).

Proclamation Day takes place very soon after the Sovereign's death. In 1952 it was on 8th February, two days after The King's death.

# Notes for the Guidance of Rep DLs re Borough Observance of Mourning Following the Death of a Member of the Royal Family [not including the Sovereign]

The forms of Mourning are: NATIONAL MOURNING

**ROYAL MOURNING** 

Following the death of a Member of The Royal Family, the Lord Chamberlain or the Earl Marshal will consult with the Prime Minister before seeking The Sovereign's Commands with regard to mourning. No action should be taken until there is a

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

formal announcement of the death (that is, when the media reports that Buckingham Palace or Downing Street has announced the death, not when they indicate that "reports are coming in of the death of .....").

#### **National Mourning**

Observed by all, including national representatives serving abroad.

Flags lowered from the day of death to the day of Funeral.

Business/Sporting activities considered by Prime Minister's Office.

#### **Royal Mourning**

Observed by Members of the Royal Family, Households of the Royal Family and Troops on Public Duties.

#### **Flags**

Flags should be flown at half-mast on the day the death is announced (or immediately following) and day of Funeral. Flags also lowered on any other occasions where Her Majesty has given special command. [SEP]

Half-mast means the flag is flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole. On flag poles that are more than 45° from the vertical, flags cannot be flown at half-mast and

When a flag is to be flown at half-mast it should first be raised all the way to the top of the mast, allowed to remain there for a second and then lowered to the half-mast position. When it is to be lowered from half-mast it should again be raised to the top of the mast for a second before being fully lowered. When the national flag is at half-mast other flags should also be at half-mast or should not be flown at all. Flags of foreign nations should not be flown unless their country is also observing mourning. Unless the flagpole is illuminated by a spotlight or similar lighting, the flag should be

The Lord Chamberlain's Department, through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and through the National Executives, issues a list of Flag Flying Days. If a Flag Flying Day occurs on a day when flags are to fly at half-mast, the flag should still be flown at half-mast.

## Observance by Members of the Royal Family, Royal Households and Representatives

raised each morning at 8.00 a.m. and taken down at sunset.

a. Dress Uniform: Mourning Bands

the pole should be left empty.

Civilian Dress Dark colours

b. Functions Official engagements may be fulfilled but Social engagements are cancelled.

#### Stationery

Black-edged stationery should be used for all significant announcements about the death of a Member of the Royal Family and for external communications about

## Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

subsequent arrangements. Mourning stationery need not be used for other correspondence.

#### **National Mourning**

On all occasions of public mourning, the head of the mace should be draped in black or a black bow tied around the shaft. This should apply both when the mace is in use and when it is on public display (for example, in a glass display cabinet). On the day of the death and on the day of the funeral and on days between when public mourning is observed thought should be given to the way in which the Chain of Office is worn. Practice varies. For instance: a small black bag or purse can be fitted over the jewel so that only the chain is seen; or the badge can worn on a black ribbon; also, it may be apt for the civic car not to fly its civic pennant.

Members of the Council, when robed, should wear a small black rosette on the left land of the robe. Alternatively, when not robed, a black armlet three and a quarter.

Members of the Council, when robed, should wear a small black rosette on the left lapel of the robe. Alternatively, when not robed, a black armlet three and a quarter inches wide should be worn on the left arm and male members and officers should wear black ties.

#### **Civic Engagements during periods of National Mourning**

Careful thought should be given to the types of engagement undertaken, especially on the day of the announcement of a death and on the day of the funeral. This is particularly the case when hospitality is being offered in the form of receptions, lunches and dinners. The decision is a local one and should reflect local circumstances and the public mood.

#### **Opening Books of Condolence**

The decision on whether or not to open Books of Condolence is entirely for the local authority to decide. Such books can provide a helpful opportunity for people to express sadness but it is a decision to be taken locally on whether or not it is appropriate.

A loose-leaf book is suggested in case pages become spoilt, in which case they can be easily removed without affecting contributions made by others. It also enables the pages to be re-ordered so that the first pages can carry the messages and signatures of the local Mayor and other civic leaders, even if they cannot be present when the book of condolence is opened.

#### **Closing Books of Condolence**

Dependant on local circumstances it is suggested that Books of Condolence should be closed at the end of the day following the day of the funeral (i.e. if the funeral falls on a Thursday, Books should close at 5.00 p.m. on the Friday).

Such Books of Condolence are essentially a local record of the sentiments expressed by local people on the death of a national figure. As such, they should form part of the Authority's archive, so that future generations are able easily to gain access to them and find out the way in which national events were marked in the

### Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

area. It is simply not feasible for every Book from all such sad occasions to form part of the Royal Archives. However, in any letter of condolence from the Mayor or other Civic Leader reference should be made to the Book of Condolence and its existence in the local archives which then ensures that when that letter goes in to the Royal Archives it acts as an effective cross reference.

#### **Two Minute Silence**

There will be an announcement through the Government if a death is to be marked by a National Two Minute Silence. The deaths of both George VI and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother were marked by a national Two Minute Silence on the days of their funerals.

#### **Letters of Condolence**

It is usual for letters to be sent to the Private Secretary of the deceased, asking that condolences be passed to the next of kin and other members of the family (except in the case of the Sovereign's death, in which case they should be sent to the new Sovereign's Private Secretary asking that condolences be passed to the new Sovereign). In each case, other than exceptional local circumstances, one letter of condolence only should be sent.

#### **Church Services**

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and of Diana, Princess of Wales, some Authorities organised Church Services. Again, local circumstances should be considered in deciding whether such a course is appropriate. If it is considered desirable, then the evening before the funeral seems a fitting time at which to gather for this purpose.

#### **Other Actions**

It will sometimes be the case that Authorities have an opportunity to mark the death in an appropriate and unique way. For instance, on the day of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the route taken by the hearse from Westminster Abbey to Windsor Castle passed through seven boroughs. Just 24 hours beforehand, each of the seven-borough agreed to mark the route by positioning their Mayor and Representative Deputy Lieutenant at the point at which the procession entered the borough and their Deputy Mayor and Council Leader at the point at which it left the borough. By this simple act, the seven Councils demonstrated their sadness, loyalty and affection whilst affording a focal point around which local people can pay their respects.

London Bridge – Letter of Condolence	Appendix 1
Address	
Date	
Dear ???????	
On behalf of the parish council and parish of Aston, Cote, S express our condolences to HRH (New Sovereign Name) at Queen, Elizabeth R.	•
The parish has a book of condolence that will be available to be kept with the parish records.	to all parishioners and once closed will
Yours Sincerely	
???????	
Chairman	

Royal or State – Letter of Condolence	Appendix 2
Address	
Date	
Dear ???????	
On behalf of the parish council and parish of Aston, Cote, S express our condolences to the family on the death of the <i>T</i>	
The parish has a book of condolence that will be available to be kept with the parish records.	to all parishioners and once closed will
Yours Sincerely	
???????	
Chairman	
Elaine Anstee Parish Clerk Jan 2022	

## Agenda Item 15a

## **Financial Matters**

### **Cash Balances**

	£
UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT	
Balance at 30 November 2021 December payments Extra Payments on Jan Payment Listing	<b>31,935.94</b> (1,538.33) (1,475.00)
Balance at 31 December 2021	28,922.61
CCLA INVESTMENT ACCOUNT Balance at 31 October 2021 Transactions in month of November	<b>48,702.60</b> 1.03
Balance at 30 November 2021	48,703.63
TOTAL CASH HOLDING AT 31st December 2021	£77,626.24

## Agenda Item 15b

## Monthly (Year to Date) Financial Report – For Information

		As at	Performance Against		
2021-22 Budget	£	31/12/2021	Budget	%	Commentary
RECEIPTS					
Precept	29319	29319	0	0%	Complete
WODC Grant CTSG	0	0	0		No longer paid
OCC grass cutting grant	1049	1049	0	0%	Recieved in Full against Grass Cutting Verges and WM
nterest	100	9	91	91%	CCLA Investment Account
VAT Refund	0	2080	-2080	0%	
INVESTMENTS IN	0	0	0	0%	
Sundry	0	0	0	0%	
Total Receipts	30468	32457	-1989	-7%	
EXPENDITURE					
Clerk's salary	4,073	3801	272	-93%	
Working from home allowance	216	90	126	-42%	
HMRC	967	1140	-173	-118%	
Bank charges	72	115	-43	-160%	£6 per month due quarterly.
Office equipment	250	0	250	0%	
Office woming costs	204	644	260	1.000/	Photocopying/Printing/Stamps plus sundries/Norton/Microsoft
Office running costs	384	644	-260		
Website costs	150	17	133		Renewed for 2 years in 2020
nsurance	347	347	0	-100%	
Audit	240	200	40	-83%	
Election Costs	0	0	0	0%	
Annual Parish Meeting expenses	40	0	40	0%	
Subscriptions	506	406	100	-80%	
Chairman's Allowance	100	0	100	0%	
Grass Cutting - verges & WS	7607	3771	3836	-50%	
Grass Cutting - playing field & WM	1909	2543	-634	-133%	
Grants paid under statute	5235	2911	2324	-56%	
Dog & Litter Bin Emptying	400	348	52	-87%	
Fete Bins	0	0	0	0%	
Training & Travel	527	125	402	-24%	
Clock Maintenance	229	0	229		New contract with Derby's from March 2020 for 3 yea
Bus Shelter Cleaning	747	404	343		New bus shelter added in Nov 2020
Defibrillator pads/batteries	200	0	0	-100%	
Repairs	500	0	500	0%	
VAT Paid	0	2047	-2047	0%	
Village maintenance (Lengthsman)	1500	80	1420	-5%	
Small Grants	1115	1370	-255	-123%	
Total Expenditure	27314	20360	6954	-75%	
<u>Projects</u>					
Aston History Project (£5K)	1280	500	780	0%	
Traffic Calming Reserve	7210	4077	3133		Section 106 funding received £10k
Defib in Cote Phone Box (3.5K)	550	450	100		Refurb of Telephone box.
/E 75 Bench - 8 May 2020	0	895	-895	0%	Funded from Village Maintenance Budget
New Dog Bin - Great Brook Road	0	0	0	0%	Funded from repairs budget  Proposed - so funding available to support
New Reserve - North Farm	E000	895	4105	00/	Proposed - so funding available to support any consultations
	5000				<b>'</b>
New Reserve - Office Equipment	500	0	500		Proposed
New Dog Bin - Ham Lane	287	0	287		Agreed
Chimney Defibrillator	7000	895	6105	0%	
Total Project Spend	21827	5922	15905	0%	
Contingency Budget	5000	0	5000	0% 0%	
			0		
OVERALL EXPENDITURE	37916	27282	10634	-72%	
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	-7448	12097	-19545	0%	
Reserves					
	72451	0	72451	0%	
Opening at 1 April Closing at 31 March		0			
Closing at 31 March	44965	U	44965	0%	
Closing reserves analysis:					
Working day to day balance	1363	0	1363	0%	
Contingency reserve	5000	0	5000		
Recreation reserve	34476	1000	33476		
Traffic Calming Reserve	4126	0	4126		