

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Thursday 10 November at the Village Hall, Aston, at 7.30 pm**

Members Russell La Forte (Chairman)

Present: G Ball
B Lings
Paul Sparrowhawk
John Ordish
Alex Chapman

In Attendance: Elaine Anstee – Clerk
Cllr Dan Levy (OCC)
Cllr Charlie Maynard (WODC)
Cllr Lysette Nichols (WODC)
9 members of the public

1. **Apologies from Members:** There was an apology from R Anstee.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** of the Parish Council on 6th October 2022 were agreed as a true record and it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte and seconded by P Sparrowhawk, with all in agreement, that the Chair signs them.
3. **Parish Councillors - Disclosure of interests on agenda items** – R La Forte declared a nonpecuniary interest in agenda item 13 as a trustee of the Community Trust. J Ordish declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11d, St James Church grant request, as he is the treasurer.
4. **Meeting Open for Public Participation** – There was representation of objection in respect of planning application 22/02510/HHD.
5. **WODC/OCC Matters**
Cllr D Levy (OCC) – update at appendix 1.
Cllr C Maynard (WODC) – update at appendix 2.
Cllr L Nichols (WODC) – update at appendix 3.
6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**
 - a) *Traffic Calming Update*
The clerk to follow up on the Square, Aston traffic measures and confirm that the Parish Council has the final decision on the 20mph/30mph traffic order.

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b) *HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2022*

The trees for the Queen's Green Canopy were planted on the 6th November 2022 at the recreation ground by a small group of volunteers. A total of 14 trees were planted and there is room to add to them in the future. There is also a suitable space for a bench in commemoration of the coronation in 2023 if the Parish Council or Community Trust resolve to do this. The Chair extended his thanks to all those who helped with clearing the site and planting the trees.

c) *Bins*

The clerk confirmed that the bin map has been corrected. The change to the pricing is totally WODC/Ubico Ltd prerogative as the contractor. The Parish Council will be charged for the bins on the playing field (2), Cote Allotments and the Great Brook. This will be £1,740.96 plus VAT for weekly collections for the year, April 2023 to March 2024.

d) *Anti-Social Behaviour*

None reported.

7. Planning

New planning applications

Reference	22/02767/CND
Alternative Reference	PP-11562380
Application Validated	Fri 07 Oct 2022
Address	Cote Farm Barn Cote Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2EG
Proposal	Discharge of condition 4 (details of windows and doors) of planning permission 20/00067/HHD
Status	Under consideration
Appeal Status	Unknown
Appeal Decision	Not Available
Noted.	

Reference	22/02510/HHD
Alternative Reference	PP-11413350
Application Validated	Thu 29 Sep 2022
Address	17 Pound Field Road Aston Oxfordshire OX18 2FR
Proposal	Alterations to existing garage to include installation of a door and window and replacement of existing main garage door with electric roller door. Erection of detached outbuilding, a greenhouse and a pagoda. Works to rear garden to include formation of raised flower beds and erection of wrought iron Arbours for climbing plants. (part retrospective)
Status	Under consideration

It was noted that permitted development rights have been removed from this development in large part due to its location within the Conservation Area, thereby mandating extra scrutiny to ensure that any development proposal preserves and enhances the character of the area. The

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Parish Council had no objection to the works on the garage or in the back garden. However, the Parish Council objected to the proposed detached outbuilding, whose design and materials were felt to be out of keeping with the Conservation Area, as well as being likely to be in breach of building regulations and specific legal covenants for the Hawthorns development. Conditions were also stipulated preventing water and sewage connection as well as accommodation usage.

- a) **North Farm** – no update.
- b) **Hawthorns** – Still under consideration.
- c) **Marsh Furlong** – no update.
- d) **Terra – 22/00986/FUL** – this will be discussed at the Lowlands Planning Committee at 14:00 hours on 5th December preceded by a site visit at 1230 by WODC Councillors. It was also agreed that the Chairman would speak on behalf of the Parish Council and the draft script was agreed, subject to final confirmation by councillors, out-of-committee, by 1 Dec. The Chairman's proposed timeline and plan of action, circulated earlier separately by email was also agreed.
- e) **Children's Home** – The archaeological dig was completed on the 28th October and details of the activities and finds are available at <https://blog.oxfordarchaeology.com/aston-oxon/>. Work on the building is due to start on 31st October 2022 with completion in August 2023.

Update on Previous Planning Applications

Reference	22/02416/CND
Alternative Reference	PP-11511010
Application Validated	Wed 31 Aug 2022
Address	Chimney Farm Barns Chimney Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2EH
Proposal	Discharge of conditions 5 (roof sample) 6 (sample cladding) 7 (details of all external windows and doors) 10 (details of bat roosting and nesting opportunities for birds) 11 (details of owl box) 12 (lighting design strategy for biodiversity) and 13 (comprehensive landscape scheme) of planning permission 19/03222/FUL
Status	Decided
Decision	Approve
Decision Issued Date	Fri 21 Oct 2022

Reference	22/02138/HHD
Alternative Reference	PP-11445136
Application Validated	Wed 03 Aug 2022
Address	Western View Cottage Back Lane Aston OX18 2DQ
Proposal	Two storey side extension
Status	Decided
Decision	Approve
Decision Issued Date	Fri 07 Oct 2022

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Reference	21/02209/OUT
Alternative Reference	PP-09434572
Application Validated	Tue 22 Jun 2021
Address	Aston Mile Farm Aston Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2EU
Proposal	Erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling.
Status	Decided
Decision	Approve subject to Legal Agreement
Decision Issued Date	Wed 26 Oct 2022

8. New Business

a) *Remembrance Sunday service at Aston War Memorial (Sunday 13 November – 2.45pm at War Memorial for a short, spoken service led by the Vicar of St James Church)*
The chair will attend and lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

b) *Christmas Tree*

It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish, seconded by P Sparrowhawk, to purchase a Christmas Tree for the parish to be sited outside the garage in Aston at a cost of no more than £100.00 to come from the Maintenance Budget.

c) *Parish Council Meetings and Annual Parish Meeting for 2023.*

i) It was decided that the following Thursdays at 7.30pm for monthly PC meeting:

5th January

2nd February

2nd March

6th April

4th May - APCM

1st June

6th July

3rd August

7th September

5th October

2nd November

7th December

ii) The Annual Parish meeting for 2023 will be on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7.30pm.

d) *St James Church Grass Cutting Grant 2022*

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by B Lings, with all in agreement to grant £700 to St James Church for grass cutting in the church yard.

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e) Footpaths

The possibility of creating a 'Coronation' footpath in the parish was discussed. There is one option being the 'Badgers Way' which was a permissive path and has been used for many years though parts are very overgrown. The clerk and B Lings to look at the process and identify the landowner.

9. Governance – Policies for Review – Civility and Respect.

The clerk was asked to bring the current Dignity at Work and the proposed new one to the December meeting for discussion and decision.

10. Community Trust

The fete will be on 17th June 2023. J Ordish proposed that the Community Trust may want to discuss putting posts with reflectors on at the entrance to the car park as it is difficult to see.

11. Parish Infrastructure

a) Village maintenance

Complaints about the debris left on the footpath following cutting of the hedge from Aston to Cote had been received. It is the responsibility of the landowner cutting the hedge to clear up. Outstanding issues are the hedges along either side of the footpath from Saxel Close to Bull Street, nettles along the passage from Cote Road to Woodbridge and the lights along the front of Marsh Furlong that still do not work.

12. FINANCE

a) Account Balances – noted

b) Review of the Year-to-Date Financial Report – noted

c) Draft Budget 2023-2024

The draft budget was discussed, and it will be resolved on in December once the Band D equivalent housing base is advised by WODC. The clerk advised that a pay offer had now been confirmed by NALC/JPAG and the budget would be updated to include this.

d) Clerk Request for Training

It was RESLOVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by A Chapman, with all in agreement to fund the clerk's attendance at the SLCC Practitioner's Conference in February 2023 to the value of £375.00 from the Training and travel budget.

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- e) It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish and seconded by P Sparrowhawk with all in agreement to approve the following payments for the period November 2022.

	NET	VAT	Gross Amount
Clerk's expenses 424 x 7p/Microsoft Office £43.20/	65.68	7.20	72.88
Des Johnson Inv 2335 - War Memorial/Recreation ground	276.00	0.00	276.00
DF Williams (Window Cleaning/Bus Shelters) Inv 111449.	145.38	29.08	174.46
My Vision Grant approved at October meeting	100.00	0.00	100.00
Bampton Garden Plants (PJ Trees)	912.43	182.43	1,094.86
WODC Invoice 33495815 – Dog Bin Emptying	20.17	4.03	24.20
St James Church – Grass cutting grant 2022	700.00	0.00	700.00
SLCC Invoice BK207920-1 (-2)	330.00	45.00	375.00
Total to be decided and approved	£2,549.66	£267.74	£2,817.40
Royal British Legion – Wreath	150.00	0.00	150.00
Monthly Standing Orders/DDs			
Clerk's Salary including WFH Allowance	387.16		387.16
HMRC PAYE	92.20		92.20
Total SDOs	£479.36	£0.00	£479.36
Total	£3,179.02	£267.74	£3,446.76

13. Parish Councillors' reports from meetings attended since last meeting.

G Ball attended the Bampton Exhibition meeting on the 12th October. She will be working with the headteacher from Aston Primary School to access funding.

J Ordish attended the Patients meeting at Bampton Surgery.

14. Matters arising since publication of agenda/

Matters which Councillors may wish to raise for inclusion on next agenda.

15. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 8th December 2022 at 7.30pm –Monthly meeting of Parish Council

Meeting closed at 21.58pm.

Signed.....Dated.....

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Appendix 1

November 2022 Aston – OCC Cllr D Levy

Cost of living

Cost of living support for low-income pensioners and families: OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 lower income pensionable households to support with energy bills. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the 2 Post Office, redeemable for cash at Post Office branches. Schools and colleges will provide children entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher.

£100K pot to help community organisations with energy bills: Applications for grants between £250 and £3000 can be made through the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Expected to be popular - deadline is 21 November 2022.

Council Tax: WODC has agreed a new exceptional hardship scheme on top of the statutory council tax discount scheme that goes to WODC Cabinet next week. OCC has agreed to match the WODC discounts, which is important because the bulk of council tax receipts go to the County Council.

Council votes to request more energy support for off-grid residents: Many residents in rural areas live without access to mains energy and instead use heating oil, bottled gas, or other forms of fuel. That is certainly true in many parts of rural Oxfordshire including many households in the division I represent. The leader of the council will write to government to request off-grid residents receive the same level of support (£400) as on-grid residents.

Rather surprisingly Conservative councillors abstained on the motion on the basis that local authorities shouldn't "interfere" in central government decisions.

Care provision

OCC supports care business start-ups: OCC is supporting new 'micro enterprises' to become established care providers, helping local businesses to grow, and develop greater local choice for people looking for additional support. The Community Catalysts' programme takes people through the standards, so that new micro-enterprises have a thorough understanding of what it takes to deliver quality care. Over one hundred people have signed up and have the combined capacity to support one thousand people in the county.

Renewed call on government to fund Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND): OCC is appealing to the government to urgently address the national funding issues facing all local authorities providing SEND services for children and young people. The county council has also submitted to the Department of Education bids for two further special free schools.

Environment and transport

Tree services team successfully bids for funding: OCC tree services team has been successful in a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Funding will be used to provide two new community tree and woodland planting officers who will work to increase tree cover across the county.

More sustainable streetlights policy: OCC has approved a new policy for streetlights to reduce impact on climate change and the environment. The policy considers the impact of light pollution on nature

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and dark skies in assessing where lighting should be added. When new lighting is necessary, dimming and reduction in operating hours will be used to preserve the night sky.

Parking standards for new developments: Developers will need to follow a revised set of guidelines when they consider parking provisions for new developments. New standards place much more emphasis on cycles, shared car clubs, and public transport than on multiple cars per household. A graduated approach is taken to allow for increased need for parking in rural settings.

Cheaper Park and Ride tickets up and running: Passengers can now buy a combined ticket covering both parking and return bus travel for £4 for a car with only 1 adult and £5 for a car and 2 adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free. Drivers are encouraged to purchase a combined ticket through the RingGo parking app, or at one of the onsite ticket machines. You may have seen that work has started on the Eynsham Park and Ride.

Oxford traffic filters: Public consultation closed on 13 October 2022. The next step is for the cabinet to take a decision on 29th November 2022, where the cabinet will consider the outcomes of the public consultation and the closure of Botley Road for a year by Network Rail to accommodate improvements to the railway. Network Rail's decision is unwelcome, although the station improvements are needed and the bridge under the railway does need replacement. As a reminder, there will be nowhere in the city that cannot be reached by car. The filters just make the route different, to speed up buses.

Salt Cross Garden Village. The consultation on the planning inspector's amendments to the WODC Area Action Plan has now closed. The County Council, along with many residents and groups, and along with WODC itself, has strongly called for the obligation for new housing to be Net Zero to be put back into the plan.

Freight strategy. The cabinet member responsible has suggested that the new strategy is being prepared. I will continue to press for heavy traffic to be routed away from villages and for proper enforcement – the use of APNR cameras on Newbridge demonstrates their effectiveness.

Policing. I met last week with the Police and Crime Commissioner and with the head of the Thames Valley roads policing team and reminded them that speed management is an important part of their responsibilities. They are of course strapped for resources and reliant on Speedwatch volunteers, but that isn't good enough.