

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

- 1. Members Present:** Richard Haines (Chairman)
Jane Everex
Ben Lings
John Ordish
Paul Sparrowhawk
Jane West
Phil West (arriving at Item 8)

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk

Members' Apologies: None

- 2. Minutes of previous meeting** – on 4 August 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.
- 3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items**
Ben Lings, as the potential purchaser of the new build property, the planning application for Penny Black House, Aston.
Paul Sparrowhawk, as the property owner, the planning application for 2 Manor Close, Aston.
- 4. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**
- a) Millennium Clock on St James' Church**
The Clerk advised the Parish Council that following the August meeting, Smith of Derby had confirmed that the motors are wired separately and that they were all left stationary after the engineer's visit in June as a precaution, given that there was some concern that the hands are touching. Smith of Derby had also confirmed their recommendation to put new motors in the movements to see whether this resolves the problem, given the cost of the alternative which would require external scaffolding.
Given that Smith of Derby was able to provide the confirmation which the Parish Council had requested prior to ordering the work, the Clerk confirmed that she has placed the order to replace the motors.
John Ordish will liaise with Smith of Derby to agree a date for the work.
- b) Commemorative bench – installation**
John Ordish told the Parish Council that no date has yet been set for the extension to the patio which is required before the bench can be installed – he will continue to liaise with the Community Trust.
- c) Anti Social Behaviour**
The front porch at the Village Hall sustained significant damage after being struck by a vehicle on 29 August – discussed further under Item 6.
The kerbing and footway at the Cote crossroads were damaged by a vehicle.
Oxfordshire County Council has now carried out a repair, but there is some concern that this is not appropriate and will not be suitable for people using wheelchairs. The

Clerk will go on site to look at the work and will then liaise with Oxfordshire County Council if appropriate.

5. New Business

- a) *Request for Parish Council to consider providing funding for the relocation and re-equipping of the younger children's play area at the village hall*

Information had been circulated in the folder.

It was agreed that further information will be needed before this request can be discussed in detail, including: information relating to parking, the making good of the current playground site, and broader information on the Community Trust's larger plan for the entire site at the Village Hall. John Ordish informed the Parish Council that the project is going to be discussed in more detail at the September meeting of the Community Trust, and that he will bring more information back to the Parish Council at the October meeting.

One of the Parish Councillors also said that he would like to see more information on the maintenance regime for the playgrounds at the Village Hall.

- b) *Request for Parish Council to consider moving the dog bin on Ham Lane*

The request which had come from a potential future resident of Ham Lane was discussed. It was agreed that the dog bin is currently suitably sited, being set back in a verge in the middle of the road which means that it is convenient for dog walkers to use. It was therefore resolved not to move the bin.

- c) *West Oxfordshire District Council consultation on changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme*

It was resolved that the Parish Council would not respond to this consultation.

Councillors and residents can submit individual responses, with the deadline being 28 October.

6. Community Trust

The brick pillar holding up the porch by the front door was badly damaged after being struck by a vehicle on 29 August. The CCTV system at the hall has recorded information on the incident, including the vehicle registration number. The Community Trust's insurers and Thames Valley Police have been informed. The front door cannot be used until the pillar is repaired.

7. Parish Infrastructure

- a) *Village maintenance*

Concerns about weed growth in Aston were raised, particularly at the road edges around the grassed war memorial triangle and outside Kingsway Cottages. It was resolved that Chris Smith would be asked to carry out another weed spray through Aston, ensuring that these areas are covered.

The yew trees around the war memorial need trimming. The Clerk will ask WODC to ensure that this work is done when the autumn planting is carried out (the work is included in the contract).

It was noted that some of the signs in the parish are being obscured by vegetation growth. John Ordish agreed to carry out a survey and provide the Clerk with a list of the affected signs so that an order for work to cut back the vegetation can be placed. It was resolved to delegate authority to the Clerk to commit expenditure on this work up to the sum of £250.00.

The footpath between Bull Street and Saxel Close is becoming obstructed by the adjoining (privately owned) hedges. Oxfordshire County Council has declined to contact the landowners as they have said that this footway is not publicly adopted highway. The Clerk said that she believes this footway was adopted by the County Council during the past 7 years after a request from the Parish Council – she will check the paperwork for evidence of this and then contact the County Council if appropriate.

b) Grass cutting of the playing field

Concerns were raised at the August meeting. It was agreed that there has been an improvement after the most recent cut. The contractor has suggested that it would be better for the field to be cut more often (the current contract includes a maximum of 15 cuts per year). There was a suggestion that the pitch alone could be cut more often. John Ordish said that he will discuss this with the Community Trust at their next meeting.

c) Temporary Closure of Great Brook Road for replacement of footbridge

Oxfordshire County Council has advised that the Great Brook Road will be closed for up to 3 weeks from 26 September 2016 to facilitate replacement of the footbridge.

d) Temporary Closure of B4449 between Aston and Bampton and at Cote cross roads for 2 days in the five day period 19 to 23 September 2016

The road will be closed in two short stretches to facilitate “retexturing” works (the removal of excess bitumen using high power water jets).

Phil West arrived at the meeting.

8. Planning

New planning applications

16/02723/FUL Penny Black House, High Street, Aston

16/02724/LBC Conversion of outbuildings to create two dwellings
Having declared an interest, Ben Lings left the meeting.
The Parish Council resolved not to comment on this application.
Ben Lings rejoined the meeting.

16/02900/HHD 2 Manor Close, Aston

Erection of single and two storey extensions (amended plan)
Having declared an interest, Paul Sparrowhawk left the meeting.
The Parish Council resolved not to comment on this application.
Paul Sparrowhawk rejoined the meeting.

Changes to planning applications still undecided

16/02344/FUL Manor Farmhouse Woodbridge Close Aston

Erection of two dwellings with new access and associated works.
An amended elevation plan has been submitted for plot 2, removing the window from the upper storey which overlooked the properties on Manor Close.

16/01423/FUL Westfield House, Bampton Road, Aston

Conversion of Westfield House into 4 apartments
The applicant has now withdrawn the proposal for the new housing in the grounds of the property and is taking forward the conversion of the main building into 4 apartments only. The Planning Officer has invited the Parish Council to comment on this amendment. It was resolved that

the Parish Council would respond to state that it stands by the view expressed on the original application – the Parish Council would like to see this site retained for non-residential use in the hope that it can be used to provide employment for local people.

Updates to previous planning applications

14/02062/FUL North Street Farm, Aston
The Planning Officer has now provided a copy of the agreed plan for the open spaces at the front of the site. The areas are to be planted with fruit trees with grass underneath to include wild flower seeding, mown in March, July & October. The areas will not be able to be subsumed into the residents' private gardens and if they are not maintained as agreed in the planning permission, this would constitute a planning breach.

15/01550/OUT Land North of Cote Road, Cote Road, Aston (Gladman site)
Residential development for up to 41 dwellings (outline)

The Clerk continues to chase Oxfordshire County Council for information on the costing of potential traffic calming measures.

An email has been sent to the Planning Officer about the Parish Council's interest in taking on the ownership of the open space and to ask about the size of the area – response awaited.

Planning applications granted

16/01647/HHD Gaythorn Cottage, Aston Road, Ducklington
Alterations and erection of single storey extensions, erection of garage and new gates to existing access

16/01897/HHD The Old Well House, North Street, Aston
Conversion of existing garage to living accommodation and construction of garage/car port

Gladman Developments proposed residential development on Cote Road

The Parish Council was advised by Gladman Developments by email on 17 August that they are starting a pre-application consultation on a proposal to build a further new residential development of 30 homes at the rear of Foxwood, Aston, on the field to the west of the site for which they already have outline planning permission. Gladman Developments requested a private meeting with the Parish Council. The Clerk has advised that it is not the Parish Council's policy to have private meetings with developers and has invited them to attend a meeting of the Parish Council.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would respond to the pre-application consultation to advise that it objects due to the proposals due to the cumulative growth in the village – if this application proceeds and the other sites on which outline planning permission has already been granted are built out, Aston will have grown by 30% in a very short space of time – this amount of growth in a small village is unsustainable. The Parish Council response will also express concerns about the inability of the sewerage system to cope with further housing without the extensive work which Thames Water has already acknowledged is necessary to accommodate the previous Gladman site.

The response will also express the Parish Council's view that the pre-application consultation approach adopted by Gladman Developments is inadequate, in that they have done a postal consultation only, and have declined to attend a Parish Council meeting or to hold an independent public consultation meeting.

9. Finance

a) Reduction in deposit account interest rate

It was noted that following the reduction in the Bank of England Base Rate, both Nationwide and Santander are reducing the interest rates paid on their deposit accounts.

b) August invoices presented for approval and payment

Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	374.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing – 127 sheets @ 7p, renewal of astonoxon.com domain name for 5 years with Freeola	73.35	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – 3 cuts of verges in June and July (7 invoiced in year to date) and summer planting around war memorial	1407.58	HA 1980, s116 WM (LAP) Act 1923 s1 &3
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in September	21.25	Litter Act 1983
Total	1,876.18	

It was resolved to make the above payments, proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

10. Parish Councillors' reports from meetings attended

John Ordish informed the Parish Council that the Patient Participation Group (PPG) has been restarted at Bampton Surgery. The Surgery is seeking to make the existence of the group more transparent by putting up a notice listing the members of the group so that patients can make contact if they have issues they would like to raise. A recent Care Quality Commission inspection rated the Surgery as "Good." There will be a "Have Your Say" event on Saturday 24 September in Bampton Town Hall. The Suggestion Book has been replaced with a Suggestion Box which means that people will be able to raise suggestions more privately. The next PPG meeting will be held in the evening to make it accessible to people who can't attend during the day.

11. Matters arising since publication of agenda (for discussion only)

Jane West expressed concern about the damage to one of the pillars on Chimney Bridge. The Clerk said that she had reported this online to Oxfordshire County Council several weeks ago.

Signeddated.....