

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH JULY 2018 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

1. Members Present: John Ordish (Chairman)
Gill Ball
Russell La Forte
Paul Sparrowhawk
Jane West
Phil West

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
Charles Mathew, Oxfordshire County Councillor
One member of the public

Members' Apologies: Ben Lings

2. Minutes of previous meeting – on 5th July 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Phil West, seconded by Jane West

3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items
None.

4. OCC Matters

Charles Mathew updated the Parish Council on two issues that he is currently concerned about at Oxfordshire County Council. OCC is considering selling Cogges Manor Farm to The Cogges Heritage Trust (the current lessee of the site) for the notional sum of £1, providing funding of £1 million towards the estimated £2 million of repairs required at the site. He said that he doesn't consider that this would be a good business deal, particularly as he would estimate that the site, related assets and the ongoing business are worth £4 million combined.

Mr Mathew said that he is also concerned that OCC is considering taking on additional debt of £120 million to carry out road repairs. Mr Mathew said that he is concerned that insufficient analysis has been done to identify how the debt would be serviced and repaid, and that the decision is politically motivated rather than based on good business sense.

Mr Mathew said that in his view OCC should use its current £400 million of surplus assets to repay its existing £400 million of debt and then start from a financial clean slate.

Mr Mathew told the Parish Council that in his opinion the Cabinet at the County Council does not appear to be carrying out sufficiently critical assessments of proposals that are coming from the officers.

5. CONFIDENTIAL Personnel Matter – appointment of new Clerk

It was resolved that, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public would be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to enable discussion of the applicants for the post of Clerk to the Parish Council. Mr Mathew left the meeting.

It was resolved to offer the post of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the applicant who lives within the parish, subject to satisfactory references, with the appointment to start on 6th September 2018. The Clerk said that she would make

CONFIDENTIAL Personnel Matter – appointment of new Clerk (continued)

arrangements to spend some time handing over to the applicant during August and it was agreed that the applicant would be reimbursed for this time on the contractual hourly rate. The current Clerk will cease her employment on 6th September and will attend that Parish Council meeting to support the new Clerk in her first meeting.

Signeddated.....