

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2017 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

1. Members Richard Haines (Chairman)

Present: Jane Everex
Ben Lings
John Ordish
Paul Sparrowhawk
Jane West
Phil West

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
Charles Mathew, Oxfordshire County Councillor

**Members’
Apologies:** None

- 2. Minutes of previous meeting** – on 5 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Jane Everex.

3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items

John Ordish, as a Trustee, the request for a donation from Aston Community Minibus (item 7d)

Phil West, as the applicant, the planning application for land north of Paradise Farm (item 8)

4. Meeting open for Public Debate

Jane West reported that a member of the public has told her that the street lamp attached to the cottage on the High Street opposite the entrance to Ham Lane is not working. Mrs West will report this to the County Council online.

The give way lines where the Great Brook Road meets the road to Chimney/Aston are worn and need repainting. The Clerk said that she had reported to the County Council that the white lines need to be repainted throughout Aston, and she will report this location on line.

The yellow zig-zag “No parking” markings outside the primary school need to be repainted. The Clerk will report this online.

5. District and County Council Matters

Charles Mathew gave a verbal report on the County Council’s proposals for a unitary authority which are now out for public consultation. Mr Mathew expressed his support for the proposal. He explained that in his opinion one of the advantages of having a unitary council would be that the same authority would be responsible for planning applications and for the county’s infrastructure. Mr Mathew said that with the two tier system there is duplication which leads to extra costs.

Mr Mathew was asked what the expected timescale would be if the proposals go ahead. He said that a unitary authority could be put in place within 2 years.

District and County Council Matters (continued)

Richard Haines said that he appreciated that the situation cannot stay as it is, and that the County Council's proposal will be debated by the Parish Council later in the agenda. He thanked Mr Mathew for his input.

Mr Mathew went on to talk about the progress of the County Council's Minerals and Waste Plan 2031. The Plan has been approved by the Cabinet of the County Council and is now subject to a new public consultation (on the changes made since the last consultation only). The County Council has also published the "search areas" for new gravel extraction; approximately three quarters of Aston is surrounded by potential gravel pits – new extraction sites will be chosen from these areas. Specific proposed new sites will be presented in a subsequent stage. Richard Haines said that the Parish Council will consider the new consultation at the March meeting.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) Anti Social Behaviour

None.

7. New Business

a) Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 2017

It was resolved to hold this meeting on the evening of Wednesday 24th May.

It was suggested that the following organisations/individuals would be asked to speak: Oxfordshire County Councillor, West Oxfordshire District Councillor, Volunteer Link-Up, neighbourhood Police team, Community Trust (on the proposed new playground specifically).

b) To carry out the annual review of the Parish Council's risk assessment (not open spaces)

The draft risk assessment and a report thereon by the Clerk had been circulated in the Briefing Notes. It was resolved to approve the assessment as presented – proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

c) Half yearly review of external Parish Council assets

John Ordish and Jane Everex volunteered to carry out this review.

d) Donation request from Aston Parish Community Minibus

It was resolved to give a donation of £250. Proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Jane West.

e) Oxfordshire County Council consultation on its proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire – "One Oxfordshire"

Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council would respond to the consultation to express the following concerns:

- The needs of Oxford City would override rural community issues;
- Loss of local "feel" and local accountability;
- The proposed unitary authority would be so big that new inefficiencies would be created, including the likelihood that firms used as subcontractors to deliver council services would themselves be very large, and the County Council has already experienced difficulties with the large subcontractors currently used.

New Business (continued)

f) NHS Oxfordshire Consultation "The Big Health and Care Consultation"

The documentation was placed in the Folder. Consideration of item to be carried forward to the March meeting.

g) West Oxfordshire District Council consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Revised Draft Schedule

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

h) Superfast Broadband for West Oxfordshire

The contract between the District Council and Cotswold Broadband to roll out high speed broadband to the properties not covered by the county's BT contract has been cancelled due to the withdrawal of the contractor from the project. The District Council has started a new project to progress the high speed broadband rollout. This will start with a formal Open Market Review (OMR) followed by public consultation to determine, with as much accuracy as possible, which premises need connections. A new supplier will then be procured to deliver the rollout.

8. PLANNING

New planning applications

17/00060/FUL Land North of Paradise Farm, Bull Lane, Aston
Erection of four dwellings and associated works

Response: No objection, but the following comments/requests for conditions to be submitted:

- The Parish Council would like there to be a construction traffic management plan in place for the build, to include a prohibition on contractors' vehicles parking on Bull Lane and Bull Street ;
- Whilst the application does not require formal consultation with Thames Water on the capacity of the waste water system to cope with the new properties; the Parish Council continues to raise this issue. The local sewerage system regularly fails and has to be pumped out using sewerage vehicles. Thames Water carried out an assessment of the local sewerage system in 2015 which concluded that the local sewerage system is not able to cope with additional properties being connected to it. The cumulative impact of new build properties will continue to exacerbate this problem.

New planning applications

17/00121/HHD 5 The Courtyard, Aston
Erection of conservatory to rear elevation
No comments or objections.

Follow up to previous planning applications

14/01496/FUL Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston
Phil Shaw has responded to the Parish Council's concerns to advise that the details of the planning application which included the erection of boundary fences, new hedge and tree planting are considered to be an "offer" by the applicant for what may be included, and as such did not form part of what was required to be included in the completed work. Where any planting or boundary treatments are considered to be essential, the Parish Council should seek to ensure that these are included as required planning conditions. As there were no conditions in

PLANNING (continued)

the approval to require these features, these elements in the planning application cannot be enforced. However, Mr Shaw has also provided documentation indicating the work being undertaken by Oxfordshire Council Council to deal with the encroachment of development into the public highway, and this will continue to be pursued.

Planning applications approved

16/03654/HHD Birchwood Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston
Erection of detached garage

Planning applications withdrawn

16/03203/FUL Chimney Farmhouse, Chimney
Demolition of existing outbuilding, installation of swimming pool and erection of stables with attached pool machinery room. Erection of detached double garage with garden shed and conversion of existing garage/store/utility room to create self-contained granny annexe with attached utility room

9. Community Trust

John Ordish provided an update on matters relating to the Community Trust and a copy of the recent meeting minutes were put in the folder. The Parish Council's requirements in relation to any request for funding towards the new playground were discussed at the last Community Trust meeting. The funds raised from this year's parish fete will be going towards the new playground.

10. Parish Infrastructure

a) *Village maintenance*

Phil West said that he will make arrangements for the overgrowth from the 30mph signs in the parish to be cut back.

b) *Metal chicanes/barriers at footpath ends – Woodbridge Close, Cote Road, Bull Street*

It was noted that the work to the barriers at the end of the footpath between Woodbridge Close and Cote Road has still not been completed – the Clerk will chase.

11. FINANCE

a) *Account Balances* – Noted

b) Bank Reconciliations at 31 December 2016 – Noted

c) January invoices presented for approval and payment

		Statute
Clerk's salary - H Sandhu £364.00, working from home allowance of £10.00	374.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing – 231 sheets @ 7p	16.17	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in February	21.25	Litter Act 1983
Donation to Aston Minibus	250.00	LGRA 1997, s27
Total	£661.42	

It was resolved to make the above payments, proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

12. Matters arising since publication of agenda/

**Matters which Councillors wish to raise for inclusion on next agenda
(for discussion only)**

There was a discussion about BT's proposal to remove the telephone on the High Street. The Clerk reported that as neither the Parish Council nor the District Council had objected to the removal of the telephone, she assumed that this work will be done, to BT's timescales (which have not been published). She noted, however, that it was not clear whether just the telephone was going to be removed, or the whole kiosk. The Clerk was asked to contact the District Council to request that they find out whether the kiosk or just the telephone will be removed.

Signeddated.....