

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Thursday 2 February 2023 at the Village Hall, Aston, at 7.30 pm**

Members Russell La Forte (Chairman)

Present: G Ball
B Lings
P Sparrowhawk
J Ordish
A Chapman

In Attendance: Elaine Anstee – Clerk
Cllr D Levy (OCC)
Cllr L Nicholls (WODC)
5 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 5th January 2023 were agreed as a true record and it was RESOLVED as proposed by P Sparrowhawk and seconded by J Ordish, 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. R La Forte and J Ordish both declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11as members of the History Group.
4. **Meeting Open for Public Participation**
There was a question in relation to Thames Water and future planning guidance in relation to sewage removal and water supplies. This is ongoing work and will be influenced by the governments white paper for planning and the reforms due in September 2023.
An update on what is happening at North Farm was also requested and the chair reported that Bluestone Planning claimed to be still awaiting authority to proceed from OCC including on what basis. Cllr Levy (OCC) was requested to clarify the situation with OCC and Bluestone.
5. **WODC/OCC Matters**
Cllr D Levy (OCC) – update at appendix 1.
Cllr C Maynard (WODC) – reported that he continues to work on the issues with Thames Water and planning as covered in Item 4.
6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**
 - a) *Traffic Calming Update – deferred to the March 2023 meeting.*
The parish transport meeting run by OCC is on the 21st February and J Ordish agreed to attend, virtually, on behalf of the Parish Council.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 February 2023.

b) *Footpaths and Treescapes.*

A Chapman reported that he had contacted Treescapes and they would help with identifying land owners and demonstrate how to use the Land Registry online application. He has found some additional interested residents who would like to be part of a small group to carry out this work and two councillors, R Anstee and B Lings, also agreed to be part of the group. A Chapman will continue to lead on this moving forward. This exercise will be able to encapsulate the footpath project.

c) *Anti-Social Behaviour*

None reported.

7. Planning

New planning applications

Reference	22/03383/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-11730823
Application Validated	Wed 04 Jan 2023
Address	Aston House North Street Aston Bampton OX18 2DJ
Proposal	Change of use of holiday let to therapy room for treating acupuncture patients, on the ground floor only.
Status	Under consideration

Update on ongoing planning matters:

- a) **North Farm** – covered under item 4.
- b) **Hawthorns** – WODC Planning have confirmed that the refused fencing will be followed up by the Enforcement Team in due course.
- c) **Marsh Furlong** – Lighting at front of development/holes had been chased by residents and the clerk. A site visit with the approving Engineer and Developer has resulted in the work being completed. The electronic speed sign has disappeared so the clerk will follow up on this.
- d) **Terra** – No update, although contractors had recently been seen on the site.
- e) **Children's Home** – P Sparrowhawk reported that he had contacted the Site Manager and asked if a programme of works could be supplied to the Parish Council for the website so residents could be kept informed. This has not been forthcoming and is at the discretion of the client. There has been some erosion of the road edges and mud on the road due to the large vehicles accessing the site.

Update on Previous Planning Applications

Reference	22/03159/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-11682577
Application Validated	Fri 25 Nov 2022
Address	Shifford Manor Old Shifford Witney OX29 7QS
Proposal	Erection of an agricultural building adjoining existing cattle shed.
Status	Decided
Decision	Approve
Decision Issued Date	Thu 19 Jan 2023

8. New Business

a) *History Boards*

The project was discussed, and it was agreed that J Ordish and B Lings would be the Parish Council members for the small working party suggested by the History Group. Grant funding was RESOLVED, in principle, as proposed by A Chapman, seconded by P Sparrowhawk, with all in agreement.

b) *Voices Grant Application*

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by G Ball, with all in agreement to grant fund £1,250 to Voices.

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

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by G Ball, with all in agreement, to accept the risk assessment as presented and reviewed.

d) *Appointment of Internal Auditor for 22-23.*

It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish, seconded by P Sparrowhawk, with all in agreement to appoint N Hoskins for the 2022-23 internal audit. The clerk to write to confirm the appointment.

e) *Half yearly review of external Parish Council assets*

J Ordish agreed to carry out the inspection and report to the March meeting.

9. Governance – None this month.

10. Community Trust

The minutes for the November 2022 and January 2023 meeting had been circulated by email prior to the parish Council meeting. The work for the MUGA is ongoing and the Community Trust continues to apply for grants to support the S106 funding for the project.

11. Parish Infrastructure

a) *Village maintenance*

No maintenance identified.

Beddles Turn/Cote to Chimney road - the missing railings, currently replaced by plastic barriers, was raised again as the temporary measures are being regularly blow or knocked into the ditches. This is a major safety issue with the ditches full of water and very deep. Clerk to write to OCC Highways.

The HGV sign at the end of Bull Street is overgrown and needs clearing as does the 'No Through Road, sign at the end of Ham Lane.

12. FINANCE

a) *Account Balances – noted*

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

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 February 2023.

c) *Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2022*

The bank reconciliation for 31 December 2022 was agreed and checked by A Chapman.

d) It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish and seconded by B Lings with all in agreement to approve the following payments for the period February 2023.

	NET	VAT	Gross Amount
Clerk's expenses 192 x 7p/Microsoft Office £43.20/	49.44	7.20	56.64
Community Heartbeat Trust Inv 15407	165.00	33.00	198.00
D Johnson Inv 2345 – Cote Bus Shelter	18.00		18.00
WODC Invoice 33504404 – Dog Bin Emptying	20.17	4.03	24.20
Total to be decided and approved	£252.61	£44.23	£296.84
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	£731.97	£44.23	£776.20

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

14. Matters arising since publication of agenda/

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

- PC L Turnham – Speedwatch – at 7pm on 2nd March 2023 prior to the Parish Council monthly meeting to do presentation.
- Restriction on HGVs for North Street and Bull Street in Aston.
- Coronation
- ICO renewal

15. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7.30pm –Monthly meeting of Parish Council

Meeting closed at 21.00pm.

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

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 February 2023.

Appendix 1

County Councillor report.

2 Feb 2023 Aston

Budget

The County Council budget for 2023-24 is being finalised, and will go for approval to the next full meeting of Oxfordshire County Council. There are huge pressures in key areas, caused by inflation and by increasing demand. The County Council is responsible for adult social care (in which HM Govt has suspended its reform of financing), children's services including supporting Special Educational Needs, and highways.

The settlement from central government was reasonably generous, but there is still far less money than we would need to be able to do all the things that residents ask for.

The County Council (like all other councils) is permitted to increase council tax by only 2.99% (or £5 if that is higher) and in addition has been told by HM Government to charge a precept of 2% for adult social care.

Highways.

I am sure anyone who walks, cycles or drives will have noticed the huge number of potholes, following the rain and frost. They are being fixed as fast as is possible with the limited number of people available to do the work. Please do keep reporting issues on Fix my Street.

Work is going on to revise the A40 plans, to ensure that they can be fitted within the pot made available by central government. The original plans, drawn up several years ago, exceeded this limit because of the recent inflation pressures.

Botley Road closure at the station.

There is still no news from Network Rail about when the bridge under the station will be shut, even though they have been going ahead with the work to demolish the buildings which to be removed to permit the building of the new station.

The closure of Botley Road to cars and buses will have huge impact on residents, and has a knock on effect on all the other roads, and on plans to make bus journeys quicker.

Buses.

First and Last Mile, who run the service from Standlake and Stanton Harcourt to Eynsham and from Eynsham to Freeland and Hanborough, have just had their first anniversary of being in service. It is an invaluable service, not least for the large number of pupils who use it to get to Bartholomew School.

They are always in need of more drivers to go on their roster, and would be delighted to hear from any volunteers.

Meanwhile, the government gave money to the County Council, on the back of its commitments to improve bus travel times, to provide electric buses to be used in Oxfordshire by Stagecoach and Oxford Bus Company. The first of the 159 electric buses should be in service in September.

As ever, please get in touch with any queries, issues or comments.

Dan Levy

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