

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Monday 2nd September 2024 at the Village Hall, Aston, at 7.30pm**

Members Russell La Forte (Chair)
Present: J Ordish
G Ball
D Outen
P Sparrowhawk

In Attendance: Elaine Anstee – Clerk
B Lings (via TEAMS)
9 members of the public
Cllr S Cozier (WODC)

- 1. Apologies from Members:** There were apologies from R Anstee.
- 2. Parish Councillors - Disclosure of interests on agenda items** – R La Forte and P Sparrowhawk declared a nonpecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12 as they are trustees.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meetings** of the Parish Council on 4th July 2024 were agreed and it was RESOLVED as proposed by P Sparrowhawk, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, that the meeting Chair signs them.

4. Meeting Open for Public Participation

Grave concerns were raised about the condition of the Great Brook bridge which has continued to sustain damage from large vehicles. There are reports on Fix My Street going back to 2015 raising similar concerns, but damage now is significant. Apart from getting the current damage repaired a fundamental review of the signage on the Buckland Road, currently it says 'Unsuitable for HGVS', needs to be done. Clerk to raise directly with OCC Highways,

5. WODC/OCC Matters

Apologies received from OCC Cllr D Levy.

WODC Cllr S Cozier answered questions relating to the Cil discussion under agenda item 8g.

The Parish Council discussed and agreed that C Maynard MP should be standing down as our District councillor and a by-election conducted at the earliest practical moment in order to enable him to focus his attention as our representative in Parliament and (importantly) to avoid a 50% democratic deficit for us at District-level.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) Quick updates:

- *Electronic Speed Signs* – selection of the design of the VAS was made from the document provided by Westcotec (OCC supplier). It was proposed by G Ball, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to request the SID Smiley/Angry design as it also showed the actual speed the vehicle approaching is travelling.
- *Cote Chapel* – audited accounts requested to support grant application.
- *Gate at St James Church* – J Ordish is working on a quote.
- *Footpaths/Treescaping* – No update.
- *Thames Water* – despite being chased still awaiting report from flow monitors due end of April 2024/pumping station at back of Marsh Furlong and works at St Joseph's Court (October 2024). Clerk to contact CEO direct.
- *Traffic Calming* – deferred until VAS installed and effects analysed. Meeting with the new OCC Highways Engagement Officer scheduled for 16th October 2024 at 10am.

b) Neighbourhood Plan

No update.

c) Data Logger and Flood Grant - OCC

Delivered on 23rd August. Project Groundwater

(<https://www.projectgroundwater.co.uk/index.php>) from the Environment Agency, for results to be shared with. D Outen and P Sparrowhawk to work with volunteers to install and monitor data.

d) Defibrillators

- Brier Furlong – Living Space/Stonewater will fund the purchase of and installation of a defibrillator and the siting at the Aston Pottery has been agreed with the owner. R La Forte to contact Living Space to ask for timeframe for supply.
- Defibrillator box for Aston and Cote School Defibrillator box was agreed at the August meeting and the clerk has contacted the school for details on siting and power requirements. Due to school summer holidays, there has been no response yet
- For the September meeting to include the replacement of the Aston Depot Garage defibrillator. It was agreed that the clerk was to get quotes for a replacement and bring to the October meeting for decision. Just the replacement of the defibrillator.

e) History Board Update

The artwork has been confirmed and design paid for. It is suggested that the first one is sited at the end of Bull Street by the post box, and this was confirmed by the meeting. The design of the stand/frame to be finalised.

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f) OCC Flood Strategy Consultation

The chairman has circulated a draft response by email, and this was agreed for submission.

g) *Anti-Social Behaviour*

None at time of meeting.

7. PLANNING

New planning applications

Reference	24/02048/HHD
Alternative Reference	PP-13315049
Application Validated	Mon 19 Aug 2024
Address	14 Pound Field Road Aston Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2FR
Proposal	Alterations to install a UPVC door and double-glazed window to the rear of the detached garage and replace the two existing up and over garage doors with electric roller shutter doors.
Status	Under consideration
No objection.	

Update on Ongoing Planning Applications – For Information

- a) Brier Furlong – no update.
- b) Marsh Furlong – agenda item 6 under Thames Water.
- c) St Joseph’s Court –agenda item 6 under Thames Water.
- d) North Farm – no further update since last meeting. Awaiting a response from Bluestone which the chair will follow up on.
- e) Potential new development – Lone Star Land (land agents) –planning application not submitted as of date of meeting.

Update on Previous Planning Applications –

Reference	24/01180/S73
Alternative Reference	PP-13012502
Application Validated	Wed 22 May 2024
Address	Chimney Farm Barns Chimney Oxfordshire OX18 2EH
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 19/03222/FUL to allow the reduction in the overall size of the building resulting in the formation of a 4 bed dwelling instead of the approved 5 bed dwelling, including changes to design, windows and doors.
Status	Decided
Decision	Approve
Decision Issued Date	Wed 21 Aug 2024

8. New Business

a) *The Square, Aston and Pink House.*

Aston is a designated a conservation area and as a point of principle it should be that what would not be permitted in a new development is applied in decisions for existing properties. The chair has contacted the WODC Planning department for a

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clear decision but no response at time of meeting. The change in colour may fall under permitted development but a understanding of why is requested.

b) Change of Date for November meeting

The clerk will be away with work from the 6th November to 9th 2024. It was decided to move the November meeting to the 31st October 2024.

c) Aston Drainage Board

There is still no clear picture of what the drainage board own in the parish however Atkins have been appointed to manage the paperwork. The drainage ditches are not being cleared but as the Environment Agency is not clearing the ditches/rivers they are responsible the effect of the riparian owners/drainage board clearing their clearance would be seriously impacted.

The road at the top beyond where the old village hall was, is not OCC Highways adopted and it is understood that the owners of the frontages are responsible for half of the road but who is responsible for the other half is still not clear. Clerk to check again with OCC Highways and land registry.

d) Boundary Hedges on the Hawthorns Estate

This is an ongoing issue between residents in Saxel Close and on the Hawthorns estate management committee. The chair has given feedback to both parties. It is for them to resolve. Secondly the issue of the hedges along the footpath from Saxel Close to Bull Street overgrowing is ongoing. The chair has already spoken to one of the residents involved.

e) OALC Subscriptions for 2025-26

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by P Sparrowhawk, with all in agreement, that the Parish Council supports the proposed subscription increase for OALC.

f) Cote Chapel Grass Cutting Grant request.

It was agreed in principle to grant £600 as per the budget but the Parish Council needs to have the most recent audited accounts for the October meeting.

g) CIL Discussion

Draft response emailed to councillors prior to the meeting by the chair was discussed and agreed for submission. Chair to submit.

9. Governance – Policies for Review – None

10. Community Trust

There was no meeting in August.

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11. Parish Infrastructure

a) Village maintenance

- Litter bin and issues around installation at Chimney – the map from the Land Registry was reviewed and shows that the siting of the bin will have to be at some point before the car park.
- Verge cutting at Chimney – this is BBOWT responsibility and will be done when they decide at some point in September.

12. FINANCE

a) Account Balances to 31 August 2024 – noted.

- b) It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments for the period September 24 as proposed by J Ordish, seconded by P Sparrowhawk, with all in agreement.

	NET	VAT	Gross Amount
SLCC – FILCA Course for RFO	120.00	24.00	144.00
ACCT – Grant for Playground Maintenance	705.20		705.20
D Johnson – Inv 2484	105.00		105.00
Aston FC – Inv Aug 24	240.00		240.00
Total to be decided and approved	£1,089.20	£24.00	£1,113.20
Total of already approved/paid	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Monthly Standing Orders/DDs			
Clerk's CC – Microsoft £68.82 & Bank Charge £3	60.35	11.47	71.82
Clerk's Salary including WFH Allowance	210.05		210.05
RFO Salary including WFH Allowance	185.75		185.75
HMRC PAYE	89.80		89.80
Total SDOs	£545.95	£11.47	£557.42
Total	£1,635.15	£35.47	£1,670.62

13. CONFIDENTIAL Item to be discussed in closed session.

To resolve to exclude the press and the public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. – No resolution as no public present.

14. CONFIDENTIAL – REDACTED.

15. Parish Councillors' and clerk's reports from meetings attended since last meeting.

None

16. Matters for inclusion on next agenda.

Portfolios

17. Date of next meeting: Thursday 3rd October 2024, 7.30pm
Being the monthly meeting of Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 21.31 hrs

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