

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

**1. Members**                    **John Ordish (Acting Chairman)**

**Present:**                    **Jane Everex**  
                                     **Ben Lings**  
                                     **Paul Sparrowhawk**  
                                     **Jane West**  
                                     **Phil West**

**In Attendance:**    Helen Sandhu – Clerk  
                                 Hilary Fenton – West Oxfordshire District Councillor  
                                 Charles Mathew – Oxfordshire County Councillor (arriving at item 9)

**Members’**

**Apologies:**                Richard Haines

**2. Election of Chairperson for the meeting**

John Ordish was proposed, seconded and elected to chair the meeting.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting** – on 1 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Jane West, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

**4. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items**

None

**5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

a) *Litter bin near Vicarage Close bus stop*  
Now in place.

b) *Potential Community Speed Watch Group*  
The interested local volunteers and PCSO Syphas have been informed that the Parish Council would not wish to operate a group directly but would consider supporting an independent community group that established itself effectively.

**6. New Business**

a) *Replacement pinboards for Parish Council Noticeboard*  
It was resolved to order the replacement pinboards from Greenbarnes Ltd based on the quotation received of £147.98. Oddjobs will be asked to install them. Proposed by Jane West, seconded by Jane Everex.

b) *Remembrance Sunday service at Aston War Memorial (8 November 2.50pm)*  
John Ordish agreed to represent the Parish Council at this service.

c) *Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Parish Council donation*  
It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, would give a donation of £150 to Royal British Legion. This is, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.  
Proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Jane Everex.

**New Business (continued)**

*d) Donation request from West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau*

It was resolved that the Council would give a donation of £120 to the West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau. Proposed by Jane Everex, seconded by Jane West.

*e) Grass cutting contract – Aston playing field*

Parish Councillors to consider potential contractors for this contract. Tender documentation to be agreed at the December meeting.

*f) County Council public consultation on Options for the A40*

Richard Haines and Paul Sparrowhawk attended a public presentation in Witney on 26 September. A leaflet obtained at the presentation was circulated in the October folder. The Parish Council had not received formal consultation information from the County Council. It was resolved that the Parish Council would not respond to this consultation.

*g) County Council public consultation on a new model for children's services in Oxfordshire*

Information taken from the County Council website was placed in the folder for circulation. Consideration of whether a response will be submitted by the Parish Council carried forward to the December meeting.

*h) County Council public consultation on budget saving options for 2016/17 ("Talking Oxfordshire")*

It was noted that the Parish Council had not received formal consultation information from the County Council, but has been invited to attend an event for local councils on 9 November 2015. The Clerk will attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was resolved to respond to the consultation on budget cuts by sending a letter stating that the Parish Council considers that any further savings should come from continued streamlining and improved efficiencies in the County Council's internal functions, with no further cuts to be made which will detrimentally impact frontline services.

**7. Parish Infrastructure**

*a) Trees on verges adjacent to agricultural field on North Street*

It was noted that Oxfordshire County Council had been informed of the Parish Council's concerns about the lean and the unbalanced crowns of the two trees at either end of the field between the sewage pumping station and White House Farm on North Street in August. OCC's Arboricultural Officer has now advised that he has inspected the trees and believes them to be structurally sound currently. OCC has arranged for the lower branches which were encroaching onto the highway to be removed.

*b) Remedial works on culvert on Great Brook Road*

The work on the carriageway and headwalls appears to be complete; the railings are yet to be installed.

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

Item to be carried forward – Oxfordshire County Council has asked for detailed measurements to be provided so that they can provide costings for any potential work.

**Parish Infrastructure (continued)**

d) *Pedestrian metal bridge over Great Brook from/to footpath to Ham Lane*

Following the October meeting the Clerk contacted Oxfordshire County Council (Bridge Engineer and Countryside Access team) to express the Parish Council's concerns about the potential removal of the bridge. The County Council has advised that they consider that the decay in the structure has gone past the point of economic repair. The bridge will require replacement and will be put into the bridge replacement programme. The County Council has said that they will assess further whether the bridge can remain open with barriers against the failed parapets.

e) *Newbridge – joint meeting*

The meeting originally planned for 21 October 2015 was cancelled – new date yet to be arranged.

**8. PLANNING**

**New Planning applications**

15/03479/S73 Cote House Barn, Cote  
Non compliance with condition 2 of planning permission W2000/1322  
*No comments.*

15/03524/HHD 8 Waites Close, Aston  
Erection of single storey rear extension  
*No comments.*

**Planning applications granted**

15/03185/HHD 32 Saxel Close, Aston  
First floor extension over existing garage

**Planning applications withdrawn**

15/02988/FUL Manor Farmhouse, Woodbridge Close  
Erection of two dwellings, new access, screening, garaging and landscaping

**Updates to previous planning applications**

14/01496/FUL Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston  
Erection of 7 dwellings and associated works  
The Clerk advised that Phil Shaw (WODC Planning) has obtained Land Registry information filed when Southlands was built which shows that the land at the rear of the Thistle Cottage site does lie outside that site's boundary. The Clerk has asked for advice on how we may identify who owns this land.

**9. County Council matters**

Charles Mathew arrived at the meeting.

Mr Mathew informed the Parish Council that the results of the consultation on the proposed reduction to the subsidised bus service have now been published and will be considered by the Cabinet of the County Council on Tuesday 10 November. Mr Mathew expressed the view that it would be extremely difficult to decide which services to cut if the proposal to reduce the subsidies by £2.3 million were adopted and considered that it would be very likely that the Cabinet will resolve to remove the entire subsidised bus and Dial-a-Ride budget of £3.7 million. If the Cabinet so resolve, it will be very likely that the buses which serve our parish (the numbers 18 and 19) will stop altogether, leaving our parish with no public bus service. The County Council is offering funding of £1 million to increase

community transport schemes. Mr Mathew said that he is keen to encourage the establishment of a community-run cross-parish service to provide a bus service to Eynsham, and asked the Parish Council to consider whether they would want to support this.

**10. FINANCE**

a) *Account Balances at 31 October* - noted.

b) *October invoices presented for approval and payment*

		Statute
Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	364.20	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing – 170 sheets @ 5p	8.50	LGA 1972 s111
Margaret Johnson Ltd – photocopying & stationery	13.10	LGA 1972 s111
Oddjobs – installation of litter bin	40.00	Litter Act 1983
West Oxfordshire District Council – two grass cuts in Aug/Sept (7 invoiced in year to date)	754.06	HA 1980, s116 WM (LAP) Act 1923 s1 &3
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in November	21.04	Litter Act 1983
Des Johnston – 2 cuts of playing field (15 invoiced in season to date)	112.00	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
Royal British Legion - donation	150.00	LGA 1972 s137
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire - donation	120.00	LGA 1972, s142
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,582.90</b>	

It was resolved to make the above payments – proposed by Jane West, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk. The cheques were signed by John Ordish and Jane West.

**11. Parish Councillors' reports from meetings attended since last meeting**

John Ordish informed the Parish Council that he attended the Bampton Surgery Patients' Participation Group meeting on 4 November. The surgery is a member of the Witney Neighbourhood Access Hub which provides same-day (or in some areas weekend) urgent appointments for patients as an alternative to an appointment at their own GP surgery. This new service helps GP practices meet the increasing demand for urgent appointments and enables them to have more time for planned care. Patients are referred to the Hub by their GP practice.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015, 7.30pm**

Signed .....dated.....