

MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6th August 2020 via THE ONLINE PLATFORM, ZOOM, AT 7.30 pm

- 1. Members Present:** Russell La Forte (Chairman)
John Ordish (Deputy Chairman)
Jane West (from 8pm)
Gill Ball
Ben Lings
Paul Sparrowhawk

In Attendance: Elaine Anstee – Clerk
Daniel Rueux – OCC
Cllr C Mathew
2 members of the public

- 2. Apologies from Members:** There was an apology from P West.
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting** of the Parish Council on 2nd July 2020 were agreed as a true record and it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte and seconded by P Sparrowhawk, with all in agreement that the Chairman signs them.
- 4. Parish Councillors - Disclosure of interests on agenda items** – R La Forte and J Ordish both declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12a.
- 5. Meeting Open for Public Representation** – There were no representations from the public.
- 6. Land to the East of Back Lane, Aston**
D Rueux (OCC) updated the meeting and answered questions on the proposal by OCC to build a home for Looked after Children on OCC land east of back lane, Aston. It was stressed that this is only at the feasibility stage and consultation will be carried out before a final decision is made. It was requested that a full briefing be made available and included in the next Voices, September 2020.
- 7. WODC/OCC Matters**
Cllr C Matthews (OCC) put motion about A40 to OCC but it was not discussed. OCC subsidiary budget is being proposed with £30 million deficit but what OCC achieving this will be a challenge. OCC has only received £20 million of the £60 million Covid 19 cost so far from central government.
- 8. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

a) Traffic Calming Update

- S106 monies of £10k have now been received by the Parish Council.
- The automation of the 20mph signs outside Aston School have been programmed by OCC and the quote/invoice for £2452.88 plus VAT to be paid from the traffic calming reserve. The quote request for white gates/signage has been placed with Glasdon's, Signway Supplies (Datchet) Ltd and David Ogilvie Engineering.

- The clerk has still not had anything from OCC officers of the request for a quote for the chicane by the village hall and the actions that now need to be taken to get this piece of work started so this was chased again on the 31st July.

b) Prepared for the Worst – Technology Review

Cloudy Group were approached for a free review of the council's current technology and to provide a quote for comparison purposes. The clerk and a representative reviewed the hardware, software requirements, website and email provision currently in use on the 23rd June 2020. The quote from Cloudy Group and the original hardware/software quotes done by the clerk were discussed.

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte and seconded by J Ordish with all in agreement to purchase a laptop and Office 365 software with emails for councillors and new email for parish with gov.uk. B Lings was nominated to work with the clerk on the purchase and installation of these items.

c) Community Response for COVID 19

We have had two requests for assistance this month. The clerk will continue to arrange with volunteers any requests for the collection of pre ordered shopping and prescriptions.

d) Bampton Meadows – Traffic Management Plan

A response was received from WODC Officers on 22nd July and circulated to councillors. In summary OCC considered all options and the route over the Aston Hills and through Aston Square was deemed the best as all other safe routes also passed through villages and schools.

e) Anti-Social Behaviour

There was a report of burnt out car at Shifford which had been recovered on the same day.

9. Planning

Documents emailed to councillors on the 27th July for perusal prior to the meeting also available at <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/view-planning-applications/>

Reference	20/01929/HHD
Application Validated	Mon 06 Jul 2020
Address	Blythehale Cote Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2EG
Proposal	Front and rear extensions
Status	Under consideration
No comment	

Reference	20/01667/HHD
Application Validated	Mon 06 Jul 2020
Address	Western View Cottage Back Lane Aston Bampton OX18 2DQ
Proposal	Erection of rear conservatory.
Status	Under consideration
No comment	

Update on Previous Planning Applications

Reference	20/01358/HHD
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Validated	Fri 15 May 2020
Address	Novita Cote Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2EG
Proposal	Erection of a replacement garage
Status	Decided
Decision	Approve
Decision Issued Date	Wed 08 Jul 2020

10. New Business

a) Small Grant Application – Aston Community Store CIC

It was RESOLVED as proposed by G Ball and seconded by P Sparrowhawk with all in agreement to make a grant of £500 from the small grant budget. The clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of the parish council purchasing shares in a CIC.

Note: The clerk asked the SLCC National Finance and VAT Advisor about buying shares to which the response was that investing in a business, even a CIC, whilst not illegal is problematic. A regular annual grant for something specific such as a coffee machine would be much less problematic and open to challenge.

b) Consultation on England's Economic Heartland's draft Transport Strategy

The Parish Council did not wish to make a response at this time.

c) CPRE Oxfordshire Parish Council Members Survey Summer 2020

The response to be drafted by the Clerk and circulated for reference before submission.

d) WODC Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule

It was decided to make the following statement and support the joint draft statement that has been proposed by the Chairman of Chipping Norton Town Council.

CONSULTATION ON WODC DRAFT CIL CHARGING SCHEDULE 2020 – COMMENTS FROM ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD AND CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon your draft CIL charging schedule 2020.

Before turning specifically to your proposals, they need to be seen in the broader context of recent announcements by the Government indicating an imminent major overhaul of the

planning system, as detailed in last week's White Paper - 'Planning for the Future'. Needless to say, we as a parish council are alarmed at the clear potential in these proposals to undermine the democratic voice of the communities most affected by the developments in question. Indeed, some have termed the proposals a 'Developer's Charter', and we are minded to agree. We would be grateful for more clarity accordingly, including the WODC position and intent with regard to these proposals. Regarding the CIL, the Government's proposals include the potential scrapping of both CIL and Section 106, to be replaced by a single infrastructure levy. With the draft charging schedule suspended/withdrawn since September 2015, we wonder whether the current work will be overtaken by events?

Notwithstanding the above, we offer 3 comments on the draft charging schedule in question, none of them very supportive, I'm afraid. Firstly, you assert that a/the major principle in determining the level of CIL rates is to ensure that that 'they are set at a level that does not hinder new development', or even threaten the viability thereof. We seriously question the underlying premise of this pivotal assertion. If media reports are to be believed, 9 out of 10 planning applications are approved nationally and more than a million homes for which planning permission has been granted, are yet to be built. More locally, we see absolutely no evidence of new development being 'hindered' across the District and County – indeed, quite the opposite is the case. To exacerbate the issue, the vast majority of this rampant rate of over development is occurring on greenfield sites, with commensurate environmental concerns. In our parish for example, we are facing in excess of a 20% increase in housing stock in the space of a couple of years – much of it in the teeth of local opposition and despite woefully inadequate increases in supporting infrastructure (in our case, drainage and sewerage in particular). It is a similar story in neighbouring Bampton. We have also previously questioned why the WODC Local Plan 2011-2031 requirement for 15,950 new homes exceeds, inter alia, the predicted population growth by the Office of National Statistics.

So what? This leads us to our second point – that the proposed charging schedule is simply not ambitious enough. The proposals indicate a minimum Total (Infrastructure) Funding Gap of £198million by 2031, yet claims that the £24million raised under the proposed charging schedule will make a 'significant contribution'. Simple arithmetic would seem to belie this bizarre deduction.

Thirdly, we question in the strongest terms why the 5 strategic sites in the District will be exempt from CIL altogether, thus surrendering £40 million of potential revenue to the pockets of the developers rather than addressing the already alarming infrastructure funding gap alluded to previously. The funding for supporting infrastructure would thus fall solely upon Section 106 funding. Putting aside the inadequacy of the amount of funds thus raised, then if this is to be the case then there must be more transparency and local community input into how Section 106 contributions are calculated.

e) WODC Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Parish Council was invited to consult on the above schedule by the 21 August 2020 but felt that the existing policy in the Local Plan 2031 was sufficient.

11. Community Trust

The minutes of the July meeting had been circulated by email prior to the meeting for information.

12. Parish Infrastructure

a) Village maintenance

There have been several complaints about the pavement to Cote being overgrown and this has been reported on Fix my Street.

b) Defibrillator for Cote

Southern Central Ambulance has supplied lots of information including suppliers for the defibrillator.

There is no power in the telephone box and getting it reinstalled is going to be challenging and expensive. OCC are investigating this on behalf of the Parish Council but we will have to put in a new supply as the one that was disconnected had the cabling cut off at the pot and legally cannot be reused.

c) VE75 Bench

The bench has been installed in St James churchyard and the plaque commemorating VE/VJ day ordered.

13. FINANCE

a) Account Balances – for information.

b) 1st Quarter Bank Reconciliation

This was presented and assigned to B Lings for checking.

- c) It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte and seconded by J Ordish with all in agreement to approve the following payments for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 July 2020

	NET	VAT	Gross Amount
Clerk's expenses – 269 sheets x 7p/ Zoom £14.39/	30.82	2.40	33.22
WODC - Grass Cutting Inv 33365810	963.94	192.79	1156.73
Des Johnson - Recreation Ground Grass Cutting – Inv 2055	170.00	0.00	170.00
Aston Community Shop Grant	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total to be decided and approved	£1,664.76	£195.19	£1,859.95
Monthly Standing Orders			
Clerk's Salary	318.48		318.48
WODC Dog Bin emptying Inv 33366003	19.95	3.99	23.94
HMRC Paye	75.00		75.00
Total SDOs	£413.43	£3.99	£417.42
Total	£2,078.19	£199.18	£2277.37

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

Land East of Back Lane site visit – JO and RLA 22/07/2020
1/8/2020 - Matthews Homes – RLF and EAA

15. Date of next meeting: Thursday 3rd September 2020, 7.30pm
Monthly meeting of Parish Council

Meeting closed at 9.34pm

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