

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016 IN THE  
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

**1. Members**                    **Richard Haines (Chairman)**

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

**In Attendance:**        Helen Sandhu – Clerk  
                                     Hilary Fenton, West Oxfordshire District Councillor

**Members’**  
**Apologies:**                Jane West

**2. Meeting open for public debate**

Local residents have complained about the length of the grass verge adjacent to the footpath between Aston and Cote. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council to request that the grass is cut.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting** – on 2 June 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Jane Everex, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

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

John Ordish as church warden, the request for a donation towards the cost of the grass cutting at St Mary’s Church Shifford, discussed as agenda item 7c.

**5. County and District Council matters**

Hilary Fenton informed the Parish Council that the waste contract is due to be renewed in October 2017 and there will be changes to the collections – a wheelie bin will be provided for mixed recyclables (in place of the black boxes) and will be collected fortnightly. Glass will need to be separated and placed in a black box. Residents will be able to request more than one wheelie bin for recyclables. From April 2017 the free green waste collections will be withdrawn and a £30 annual charge per bin introduced for people who want to continue receiving a green waste collection.

The Oxfordshire district councils are continuing to work towards unitary options; West Oxfordshire District Council would be likely to combine with Cherwell District Council. All of the district councils will continue working together under the 2020 Vision partnership programme.

The faster broadband service is being rolled out across the rural areas of the district. Hilary Fenton encouraged residents to respond to the Police & Crime Commissioner Survey.

## 6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

### a) *90th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen*

Jane Everex gave a verbal report on her presentation of the medals to the children at Aston & Cote Preschool Playgroup and Aston & Cote Primary School. Richard Haines thanked Mrs Everex for representing the Parish Council at these two events.

It was resolved to donate the remaining medals to St James' Church Aston for them to be distributed (possibly via a raffle) at the Queen's Birthday Tea Party on 6 August.

John Ordish thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Church.

The wording of the commemorative plaque for the bench was agreed. John Ordish agreed to find out what size plaques are available from the Witney Trophy Centre.

### b) *Proposed closure of Thames Valley Police office in Eynsham*

Kath Lowe, the Local Police Area Commander has responded to the Parish Council's email (sent after the last meeting):

"Thank you for your email. I can confirm that we will be retaining our presence in part of the Village Hall. This has now been ratified at HQ.

It has always been our intention to maintain the work of our Neighbourhood team in Eynsham and the surrounding parishes, albeit delivering the service in a different way. Thames Valley Police is keen to invest its limited financial resources in people rather than bricks and mortar i.e. police stations and offices some of which have barely any visitors. Technology now allows us to work very differently and not be dependent on buildings. You will still have a neighbourhood team dedicated to your area.

I note your comments that you would like more coverage from us especially to tackle speeding and so I have asked the neighbourhood inspector for your area Matt Fishwick to make contact and see what we can do differently."

## 7. New Business

### a) *Millennium Clock on St James' Church*

John Ordish reported on his meeting with Smiths of Derby. The fuse on one of the four motors which control the hands had blown; the representative from Smiths replaced the fuse which immediately blew again. The hands on the clocks are touching slightly and this may have caused the fuse to blow; however, the representative stated that he did not consider the contact to be serious enough to mean that the hands need to be straightened at this point, particularly as this would require the erection of scaffolding which would be very expensive. Smiths of Derby is recommending that all four motors are replaced and will be sending a quotation for this work shortly.

There was a discussion about the best course of action to rectify the problem. It was agreed that John Ordish will circulate the quotation once it has been received and the Parish Council will then consider the best course of action via email.

### b) *Mobile Library Service – to cease on 16 September*

Oxfordshire County Council has now confirmed that the mobile library service will cease in September due to financial cutbacks.

### c) *Donation for grass cutting – request from St Mary's Church, Shifford*

It was resolved to give a donation of £240.00. Proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Ben Lings.

### d) *August meeting*

It was agreed that a meeting will only be held in August if urgent business arises which cannot be postponed.

## 8. Community Trust

John Ordish will put a copy of the minutes of the recent meeting in the folder.  
On behalf of the Community Trust Mr Ordish thanked Phil West for donating yellow road paint to the Trust.

## 9. Parish Infrastructure

### a) Village maintenance

Chris Smith has completed the weed spraying in Aston.

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

The payment has been sent to OCC – information on approximate date of work awaited.

### c) Hedge & tree maintenance

Phil West volunteered to cut back the large bramble which is growing alongside the field on the corner of Back Lane & North Street.

John Ordish volunteered to sever the ivy stems growing up the sycamore tree in Vicarage Close.

## 10. Planning

### New planning applications

16/01647/HHD Gaythorn Cottage, Aston Road, Ducklington  
Alterations and erection of single storey extensions, erection of garage and new gates to existing access  
*No comments*

16/01897/HHD The Old Well House, North Street, Aston  
Conversion of existing garage to living accommodation and construction of garage/car port  
*No comments*

### Planning applications granted

16/01235/FUL North Street Farm (plot 3)  
Amendments to Planning Permission 14/1229/FUL to allow the erection of a detached double garage

16/01379/FUL North Street Farm (plot 4)  
Amendments to Planning Permission 14/1229/FUL to allow design changes, including the installation of two dormer windows on the front elevation

### Updates to previous planning applications

15/01550/OUT Land North of Cote Road, Cote Road, Aston (Gladman site)  
Residential development for up to 41 dwellings (outline)  
Traffic calming measures  
Oxfordshire County Council was unaware that the Parish Council will receive £10,000 for traffic calming measures on Cote Road. The Principal Transport Planner for OCC has advised that “We currently do not have any recommendations for traffic calming measures here, and it is not a priority site in terms of its safety record. I think that what can be provided (taking into account design costs) with this sum will be quite limited.” The Planner has suggested that the Parish Council contacts

the local Area Steward to discuss what minor measures may be possible, and the Clerk was asked to do so.

Open space

It was resolved that the Parish Council would seek ownership of this space, assuming that this will be possible. The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department of WODC to indicate this and to ask if they have a record of the size of the space so that further consideration can be given to what it could be used for.

14/02062/FUL North Street Farm, Aston  
Contact has been made with the Planning Officer responsible for this application with the Parish Council's questions and concerns about the open spaces at the front of the development – response awaited.

14/01496/FUL Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston  
The Clerk has been in communication with West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council about the need for the former highway verge at the front of this site to be reinstated, now that the work is nearing completion and some of the front gardens have been laid out. The Planning Enforcement Officer for WODC has visited the site and subsequently made contact with the developer who has advised that the fence and hedge will be installed at the front of the site, in accordance with the planning permission and offset from the road to reinstate the public verge, once the newly laid lawn has become established.

**11. Finance**

*a) June invoices presented for approval and payment*

		Statute
Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	374.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing – 131 sheets @ 7p	9.17	LGA 1972 s111
St Mary's Shifford – donation towards grass cutting	240.00	LGA 1972 s214
Margaret Johnson Ltd – printing for APM	20.88	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in June	21.25	Litter Act 1983
Oxfordshire County Council – amendments to pedestrian barriers	421.81	LGA 1972 s137
Des Johnston – two cuts of playing field (7 in season to date)	144.00	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,471.11</b>	

It was resolved to make the above payments, proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Phil West.

**12. Parish Councillors' reports from meetings attended**

John Ordish told the Parish Council that the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Bampton Surgery will restart in September. He put a copy of the results of the patient survey which was carried out before the previous PPG closed in the folder.

Richard Haines reported on his attendance at the Annual Formal Reception at RAF Brize Norton which included a flypast by a Spitfire and several of the aircraft stationed at the base.

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