

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
Thursday 8 December 2022 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
R Anstee

In Attendance: Elaine Anstee – Clerk
Cllr Dan Levy (OCC)
5 members of the public

1. **Apologies from Members:** None
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** of the Parish Council on 10th November 2022 were agreed as a true record and it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte and seconded by A Chapman, 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 Anstee declared an interest in Item 17.
4. **Meeting Open for Public Participation – None**
5. **WODC/OCC Matters**
Cllr D Levy (OCC) – update at appendix 1.
Cllr C Maynard (WODC) – update at appendix 2.
6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

a) Traffic Calming Update

The Parish Council understood that it would have the final say on the implementation of the speed limit changes as stated in para 14 of the report dated 13 Oct 22 by the Corporate Director for Environment and Place to the Cabinet Member for Highway Management on the proposed speed limit reductions in the Parish 'The consultation proposal put forward a scheme that encompasses the whole village but this extent may be reduced **prior to implementation** in accordance with your comments **and in discussion with the Parish Council.**'

Additionally, OCC policy on 'The 20mph Restriction Programme' states '**This initiative is not compulsory and needs to be supported by the parish/town council** and by the local county councillor'.

Lastly it is not clear why Aston and Cote were put through in conjunction with the Bampton parish changes as they are separate parishes.

Councillor D Levy, OCC, will investigate why the above discussions were not initiated by OCC Highways and why the two parishes were consulted on together.

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Of particular concern to the Parish Council was the 20mph on the B4449 through Cote where the traffic goes from national speed limit to 20mph, back to national speed limit between Cote and Aston, then back to 20mph. The joining up of the speed limit from Aston to Cote having been missed of the consultation though originally requested by the Parish Council.

As decided at the Parish Council meeting on the 10th November the council debated the proposed changes and RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish, seconded by B lings, with all in agreement, to agree the 20-mph implementation in Aston and Cote.

This will be reviewed in Spring 2023.

b) *Footpaths – deferred to January meeting with Treescapes.*

c) *Anti-Social Behaviour*

None reported.

7. Planning

New planning applications

Reference	22/02997/HHD
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Validated	Fri 28 Oct 2022
Address	3 St Joseph's Court Bampton Road Aston OX18 2BU
Proposal	Conversion of existing home office and one carport space to form a self-contained annexe, ancillary to the main house.
Status	Under consideration
No objection but ask for condition that it remains ancillary to the main house.	

a) **North Farm** – no update.

b) **Hawthorns** – Retrospective planning application 22/02636/FUL refused. Clerk to ask when action on removal of the fencing should be expected.

c) **Marsh Furlong** – no update.

d) **Terra – 22/00986/FUL** – 22/00986/FUL went to Lowlands Planning Committee on 5th December and was refused. It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish, seconded by B Lings, with all in agreement to pay Invoice 44088 from The Flying Press for £59.45, for the colour leaflet produced to support the parish objection to the proposed development.

e) **Children's Home** – Work on the building was due to start on 31st October 2022 with completion in August 2023 however nothing has happened to date.

Update on Previous Planning Applications

Reference	22/02636/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-11309050
Application Validated	Fri 30 Sep 2022
Address	Land East Of 55 Bull Street Aston Bampton Oxfordshire
Proposal	Erection of 1.8m high close board timber fencing. (Retrospective).
Status	Decided
Decision	Refuse
Decision Issued Date	Fri 11 Nov 2022

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Reference **22/02510/HHD**
 Alternative Reference PP-11413350
 Application Validated Thu 29 Sep 2022
 Address 17 Pound Field Road Aston OX18 2FR
 Proposal Alterations to existing garage to include installation of a door and window and replacement of existing main garage door with electric roller door. Erection of detached outbuilding, a greenhouse and a pagoda. Works to rear garden to include formation of raised flower beds and erection of wrought iron Arbours for climbing plants. (Part retrospective)
 Status Decided
 Decision Approve
 Decision Issued Date Mon 14 Nov 2022

Reference **22/02767/CND**
 Alternative Reference PP-11562380
 Application Validated Fri 07 Oct 2022
 Address Cote Farm Barn Cote Bampton Oxfordshire OX18 2EG
 Proposal Discharge of condition 4 (details of windows and doors) of planning permission 20/00067/HHD
 Status Decided
 Decision Approve
 Decision Issued Date Mon 21 Nov 2022

8. New Business

a) *Annual Parish Meeting – 18th April 2023*

It was decided to invite those who invited in 2021 being:

- TVP – Speed watch
- Fix My Street Super User
- Community Trust
- Aston and Cote

Clerk to send notification to Robert Courts MP in case he wishes/is available to attend.

9. Governance – Policies for Adoption.

a) *New Dignity at Work Policy from NALC Model Policy*

b) *Equality and Diversity Policy from NALC Model Policy*

It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish, seconded by B Lings, with 4 members in agreement and one against, to adopt both policies. A review date of December 2026 was set unless new legislation comes first.

10. Community Trust

There is no meeting in December.

11. Parish Infrastructure

a) *Village maintenance*

Concerns were raised about the quantity and slipperiness of the leaves along the path and specifically around the bus shelter on the High Street in Aston. Clerk to ask D Johnson if he has availability to clear this area and to request from Ubico a visit from the road sweeper.

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12. FINANCE

a) *Account Balances – noted*

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

Noted and J Ordish passed on a thank you from St James Church for the grass cutting grant.

c) *Draft Budget 2023-2024*

WODC has advised that the council tax base will be 606.48. This is an increase of 1.5% in band D properties in the parish. Keeping the precept at £49.74 for 2023/24 will give an increase of £451.00 for the year on the Precept.

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte and seconded by B Lings, with all in agreement,

- that the budget for 2023/24, as presented be approved,
- That the precept be set at £30,166 and that the council makes no increase to the precept for 2023/24, being £49.74 per Band D equivalent household.
- That the new budget format be adopted with effect from the 2023/24 financial year,

d) It was RESOLVED as proposed by J Ordish and seconded by P Sparrowhawk with all in agreement to approve the following payments for the period December 2022.

	NET	VAT	Gross Amount
Clerk's expenses 351 x 7p/Microsoft Office £43.20/	60.57	7.20	67.77
WODC – Dog Bin emptying – Invoice 33498639	20.17	4.03	24.20
S Ramsden – Xmas Tree – Invoice	100.00		100.00
The Flying Press – Invoice 44088	59.45		59.45
Total to be decided and approved	£240.19	£11.23	£ 251.42
Monthly Standing Orders/DDs			
Clerk's Salary including WFH Allowance	387.16		387.16
HMRC PAYE	92.20		92.20
Total SDOs	£479.36	£	£479.36
Total	£719.55	£11.23	£730.78

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM to be discussed in closed session

As no public present no resolution to resolve to exclude the press and the public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 was required.

R Anstee left the meeting at 21:14 hours.

14. Confidential – Clerk's Pay Review, Hours and Appraisal

- REDACTED

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

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16. Matters arising since publication of agenda/

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

Footpaths and the labelling of areas in the parish as 'private' or 'residents only'.

17. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 5th January 2022 at 7.30pm –Monthly meeting of Parish Council

Meeting closed at 21.31pm.

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

Appendix 1

County Councillor report. 08 December 2022 Aston

Environment and transport

HIF2

As you will have seen, the likely cost of the HIF2 A40 scheme is now judged to have exceeded the funding from Homes England, because of the high level of inflation. The scheme has therefore been

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paused to be reviewed. I spoke at Cabinet last week to call for the review to be thorough, and to retain those parts of the scheme which add most value. It was predicable from the start that the scheme would cost more than planned and that the benefits are difficult to be confident about, and my predecessor as your County Councillor, Charles Mathew, and I were united in our position on the scheme. It is likely that the review will report back to Cabinet by March 2023.

Oxford traffic filters and Botley Road:

At a rather rowdy Cabinet meeting last week, the proposals to introduce traffic filters to the city were passed. As a reminder, there will be nowhere in the city that cannot be reached by car that currently is accessible to cars. The filters just make the route different, to speed up buses. A small number of those speaking against the scheme actually based their objections on what is being proposed. Interestingly, nobody called for the removal of the traffic filters which have been in place for decades, such as the one on the High Street. Rather more disruptive will be the closure of Botley Road by Network Rail, at the railway bridge. This will last for a year from January. Buses will continue to run, up to the west side of the bridge, and pedestrians and cyclists will be able to cross the railway. My expectation is that more people will use the train to get to the city centre and have asked Network Rail to assess whether parking provision is adequate at Hanborough, Radley and other stations.

Freight strategy.

The cabinet member responsible has suggested that the new strategy is being prepared. I will continue to press for heavy traffic to be routed away from villages and for proper enforcement – the use of APNR cameras on Newbridge demonstrates their effectiveness. There clearly is an issue that stopping essential traffic in one place moves it to another, and that is particularly acute in places where the rivers act as a barrier to alternative routes.

Budget

The County Council budget is out for consultation, as is that of WODC. There will have to be cuts, unless HM Government provides adequate funding in its settlement, which seems very unlikely. Council Services are already stretched, in key areas including Adult Social Care, Special Education Needs, and highways maintenance. The County Council has outlined savings of c £35m in an already threadbare budget. Please do take part in both consultations. **Parliamentary Constituencies**

As expected, the Boundary Commission issued its final report on the new boundaries, which will come into effect for any general election after June 2023. Aston will be in the Witney constituency, whereas Eynsham will be in the new Bicester and Woodstock constituency. Farringdon, over the river, will be added to Witney constituency. There are no changes as part of this parliamentary review to the local government boundaries.

Aston and Cote Day Centre

It was good to see Karen and the day centre of BBC South this week, along with my colleague Cllr Tim Bearder, making the point that keeping our older residents active is good for everyone. It would be really helpful if more residents could find the time to volunteer in this and other brilliant local community initiatives.

And finally. WODC Planning

It was a pleasure to speak as your county councillor at the Lowlands Planning meeting to urge rejection of the Terra proposal. The Aston community did a brilliant job in presenting why the proposal was unsuitable, and the committee unanimously refused planning permission. The committee carefully ensured that its grounds for refusal are ones that should stand up in an appeal, if there is one. I do think it likely that the applicant will appeal the decision, so I see this success as part of the process and not the end. But for now, well done Aston!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dan Levy

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Appendix 2

District Councillor update, 8 Dec 22

Charlie Maynard

Cost of Living – please see Dan Levy, county councillor, update for key developments there.

Terra Development at Marsh Furlong at Aston – as you’ll be aware already, at the WODC planning meeting on Monday 5th December, the application for 40 houses was turned down on a number of grounds. The application was turned down unanimously by all councillors on the committee, including by both your district councillors. It’s possible that the developer will appeal. Very well done to everyone who worked so hard leading up to the meeting.

Sewage

1. Lidia Arciszewska, Alaric Smith, WODC officers and I have now met Thames Water three times in three months. The more we get into TW’s data, the less sound it is. We’re seeking to come to an understanding of which sewage treatment works are below their capacity requirements and what work will be conducted to upgrade them when.
2. We’ve been working with WODC planning officers to ensure that every development that comes forward now must include key data on the relevant sewage treatment works as part of the standard development “Validation Check List”. This will make it immediately clear whether there is or is not sufficient capacity in the sewage treatment works to accommodate further development.
3. We’re also working with officers to include a standard condition so that a sewage treatment works must have sufficient capacity before new houses are occupied. We’ve been told by Thames Water that a stronger condition where the works must have capacity before construction starts will be struck down by national inspectors.