

MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Thursday 2nd April 2026 at the Village Hall, Aston, at 7.30pm

Members R La Forte (Chair)

Present: J Ordish
Ben Lings
R Anstee
D Outen

In Attendance: E Anstee – Interim Clerk
D Shenton (RFO)
8 members of the public

1. **Apologies from Members:** There were apologies from G Ball and P Sparrowhawk.
2. **Parish Councillors - Disclosure of interests on agenda items** – R La Forte declared nonpecuniary interests in items 11 and Item 9, planning applications relating to the MUGA, as a trustee of the Community Trust.
3. **Minutes of the previous meetings** of the Parish Council on 5th March 2026 were agreed, and it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by R Anstee, with all in agreement, that the meeting Chair signs them.
4. **Meeting Open for Public Participation.**
A member of the public reported that there had been a dog attack on the Cote Road on the 16th March 2026. It has been reported to the police but the person and dog concerned were not known. This in addition to the increase in dog fouling, particularly on green spaces in Aston, is of concern to residents. It was suggested that an article in the next Voices to remind dog owners to keep their dogs under control and tidy up after them. R La Forte to include the matter in the next Parish Council article for Voices.
5. **WODC/OCC Matters**
No reports.
6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**
 - a) *Quick updates:*
 - i) **Traffic Calming** – deferred until results of VAS installations effects analysed.
 - ii) **Footpaths/Treescaping** – volunteers have been identified and hope to start in April 2026.
 - iii) **Thames Water/St James Court** – still working in Aston and Bampton on the storm overflow programme. The ditch opposite Kingsway Cottages has been cleared by the landowner, up to the Westmoor Lane track. But the actual culvert under the track does not appear to have been reinstated so the link up to the Aston Ditch is still not in place. The landowner is waiting clarification from the Land Registry on ownership of the track and if it is confirmed to be his will clear the culvert. Additionally, the culvert under the Bampton Road from the Kingsway Cottage side is blocked with debris. P Sparrowhawk to speak to OCC Highways about getting this cleared. Only when both culverts

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd April 2026

are cleared will the water flow correctly along the Aston Ditch and effectively manage the flood water in the area.

- iv) **Great Brook Bridge** – No update since last meeting. First raised as an issue in 2015. Further concerns have been raised frequently ever since. The OCC Chief Exec has been shown the issue.

The most recent information is, following contact from a resident of Chimney, the MP Charlie Maynard has been in contact with Sean Rooney, Head of Service – Highway Maintenance and Road Safety who has advised that the work on the bridge can only go ahead in the 2026/27 financial year if the design is completed by March 2026. This work has been given priority, but no guarantee of when it will be completed has been given. In the meantime, **and subject to budget**, OCC will review the visibility of the existing “Unsuitable for HGV’s” signage.

- v) **North Street** – Following District Cllr Cosier liaising with OCC the stretch along North Street was properly repaired in February 2026 but further pot holes have appeared before and beyond the repaired areas.

- vi) **Beddles Turn** - Raised with OCC Highways in 2018 and was most recently raised in February 2025.

- vii) **Cote Mile Bridge** – No outstanding reports on Fix-My-Street.

- viii) **Defibrillators** – Living Space (Brier Furlong /Aston Pottery) will supply the defibrillator that they have had on site and pay for a box for it to be installed on an external site at Aston Pottery. Confirmation of the type of defibrillator will be needed to confirm that it needs a heated cabinet, in which case it will have to be attached to a power supply. This needs clarification. RFO to check with G Ball who has been liaising with the Aston Pottery.

Aston & Cote Primary School have been supplied the box for the defibrillator and have said they will arrange installation but it has not happened yet.

- ix) **Crossing on Cote Road between the end of Marsh Furlong and Poundfield Road.** Currently awaiting scheduling at OCC. OCC have confirmed that the parish will be consulted.

- x) **OCC Grant Funding for Flood Management** - A re-submission of our request for £5k Grant Funding for a flood management plan for the Parish (or part thereof) was submitted, as requested by James Feest OCC Flood Mitigation Officer. The quotes will have to be in by 31st March 2026 to ensure receipt of grant funding. A new supplier has been recommended and R La Forte will be meeting with them on the 7th April following which an indicative quote will be submitted to OCC.

The parish now has two volunteer Flood Wardens who have successfully completed their training with OCC. A second grant application has been recommended in relation to the Great Brook Road for funding for:

1) Flood storage to store road flooded signs. Highways will have to agree to the road flooded signs and a formal agreement will need to be signed that allows local volunteers to put out the road flooded signs during times of flooding.

2) River level gauge that can be added beside the road. This can warn people that the water is deeper than it may appear to be, so no-one tries to drive through it assuming they can get through.

3) Potential for a new telemetry river sensor to be added to the Great Brook.

- b) *Data Loggers and Project Groundwater*
Reports from loggers supplied by D Outen by email.
- c) *History Board Update*
A revised proposal is being discussed and a visit to the printers.
- d) *Local Elections – 7th May 2026*
The local elections will be on the 7th May 2026 so the next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on the 14th May 2026. This will start with the Annual Parish Council Meeting.
- e) *Anti-Social Behaviour*
See ‘Public Participation re dog issues.
The brambles along Back Lane and North Street are pushing pedestrians into the path of traffic. This has been reported on Fix My Street.

7. PLANNING

New planning applications

Reference	26/00414/CND
Alternative Reference	PP-14715301
Application Validated	Fri 13 Mar 2026
Address	Land South of The Paddocks Aston Bampton Oxfordshire
Proposal	Discharge of condition 3 (stone sample) of planning permission 24/03177/FUL.
Status	Under consideration
No comment	
Reference	26/00488/S73
Alternative Reference	PP-14735380
Application Validated	Wed 18 Mar 2026
Address	Land South of The Paddocks Aston Bampton Oxfordshire
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 of permission 24/03177/FUL to allow the erection of an attached garage
Status	Under consideration
	The original Parish Council objection still stands and to be reiterated.
Reference	26/00562/CONBGP
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Validated	Thu 05 Mar 2026
Address	Playing Field Cote Road Aston Oxfordshire OX18 2DU
Proposal	Discharge of Biodiversity Gain Plan Condition relating to planning permission 24/01374/FUL.
Status	Under consideration
No comment	

Reference 26/00540/CND
 Alternative Reference PP-14737709
 Application Validated Thu 05 Mar 2026
 Address Playing Field Cote Road Aston Oxfordshire OX18 2DU
 Proposal Discharge of condition 8 (Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme) and condition 10 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) of planning permission 24/01374/FUL.
 Status Under consideration
 No Comment

Reference 26/00640/TCA
 Alternative Reference Not Available
 Application Validated Fri 13 Mar 2026
 Address The Old Chapel North Street Aston Oxfordshire OX18 2DJ
 Proposal Willow (T1) - Reduction of crown by 2m in height and 2m width leaving crown height of 6m and spread and 6m to bring back into boundary
 Status Under consideration
 No Comment

Update on Ongoing Planning Applications – For Information

- a) **22/00986/FUL Brier Furlong** – no update since last meeting.
 - 100% occupation.
 - Mears are not engaging with Thames Water (who will decide whether the subject work is acceptable), OCC or WODC so adoption of the foul water system is still not being discussed/resolved.
- b) **15/01550/OUT Marsh Furlong** – no update since last meeting.
 - The Brier Furlong site manager who confirmed that all connections to the pumping station for foul water at the back of Marsh Furlong had been finalised. Concerns were subsequently raised by residents following tests of the system at the end of July.
 - As above, update from District Councillor - Drainage repairs to be carried out by Mears, then Thames Water can assess so that the County Council can then adopt the road.
- c) **25/00853/OUT North Farm** – No update since last meeting.
 - The WODC Case Officer has accepted that the application is for '9+3' units not 12 and additional affordable housing should not be required. However, he still has to discuss this with the housing officer before this position is finalised.
 - EA objected to connecting to foul water system but subsequently withdrew this objection. It was noted that the default would be to connect to mains water system.
 - Still in limbo and no updates on the planning portal since the 26th January 2026, Road Safety

- d) **24/02466/OUT Potential new development** – Lone Star Land (land agents) – 27th March 2026, OCC Highways have removed their objection following revised submission by applicant. The Planning Authority has expressed concerns about the achievability of the affordable housing requirement but not objected. The objection from WODC Design and Conservation Officer is still outstanding.
- e) **25/01247/OUT Land south of Bampton Road** – Croudace. No decision made yet.
 - Applicant has submitted revised FRA. LLFA(OCC), EA and ourselves (with Technical Note) have all objected again. Biodiversity objection still extant. Repeated Thames Water responses inconsistent and incomplete.
- f) **25/01702/FUL Proposed Mount Field Solar Farm** – land between Bampton, Aston and Lew.
 - Approved at Lowlands Planning on Monday 9th March 2026.
 - The split on the income for the affected parishes is to be sorted by them direct with the developer, Ampyr. The time frame for this will depend on when they get agreement to connect to the national grid. It could be 2030 before this would come on-line. In the meantime and beforehand, construction is anticipated to take 18 months to complete.
- g) **25/01422FUL Land South of St James’s Court, North Street** – not yet decided; objection agreed at Aug meeting.
 - WODC Conservation objected and developer submitted a revised design. WODC Conservation noted changes but concerns remain.
 - 5th March 2026 – Biodiversity at WODC posted a no objection.

Update on Previous Planning Applications

Reference	25/03096/TPO
Alternative Reference	PP-14572586
Application Validated Wed	17 Dec 2025
Address	Merton Cottage Bampton Road Aston Oxfordshire OX18 2BT
Proposal	T2 TPO - Sycamore - to be removed TCA - No objections T1 - Yew to be reduced by 3.5m in height T3 - Monterey Cyprus to be crown lifted over roadway T4- Lawson Cyprus Remove deadwood and crown lift over roadway
Status	Decided
Decision	Refuse
Decision Issued Date	Tue 03 Mar 2026

8. New Business

- a) Annual Parish Meeting – 22nd April 2026
 - Draft Agenda was approved.
 - RFO to contact local organisations for speakers.

9. Community Trust

- MUGA Update- installation is complete and due to be inspected for signed off. RFO to ask SLCC Advice line for process for the Parish Council to ‘gift’ the MUGA to the Community Trust.
- Path from MUGA to changing rooms will cost circa £16k. The design/plan is finalised and once any surplus from the S106 monies for the MUGA has been returned to WODC an application will go in to use this towards the path.
- Solar Panels and electrical works at the village hall – S106 funds have been identified to be used to pay for this project. Application to be submitted once Parish Council has resolved against the quotes.
- Other infrastructure projects – the older children play area continues to be rejected by WODC S106 team for the funding requested.

10. Parish Infrastructure

a) *Village maintenance.*

- *Street signs* – a walk round on Saturday 21st March identified 10 that either need replacing or new ‘No Through Road Stickers. RFO to put request through to WODC.

11. Governance – Policies for Review and Resolution - None

12. FINANCE

- a) Account balances – Noted – provisional year end figure of a £10k surplus.
- b) It was, RESOLVED, to approve the following payments for the period April 2026 as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by B Lings, with all in agreement.

	NET	VAT	Total
D Shenton – March pay & WFH	483.76		483.76
HMRC – PAYE on above	137.44		137.44
D Johnston – Grounds Maintenance	160.00		160.00
Total to be decided and approved	£686.20	£0.00	£686.20
Monthly Standing Orders/DDs			
Lloyds Bank Card – Bank Charge £3	3.00	0.00	3.00
Total SDOs	£3.00	£0.00	£686.20
Total	£689.20	£0.00	£686.20

13. Confidential Item



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

15. Matters for inclusion on next agenda.

Trees for retiring councillors.

16. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 14th May 2026 at 7.30pm

Being the Annual Parish Council meeting and monthly meeting of Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 21.31 hrs.

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

DRAFT