

ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK'S BRIEFING NOTES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 3 January 2019

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Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Correspondence sent since 6 December 2018

All correspondence carried out via email

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Survey on an increase in council tax to help protect operational policing

Dear Parish Council

Anthony Stansfeld, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has launched a survey on an increase in council tax to help protect operational policing. Please can you share the information below with your local residents and encourage them to have their say.

Survey on an increase in council tax to help protect operational policing is launched

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, has launched a survey seeking the public view on an increase in the police element of the council tax by £2 a month*

On Thursday 13th December the Home Secretary announced the provisional police funding settlement for 2019/20. In response to the exceptional operational demands on the police, particularly in areas such as Thames Valley, the Government is increasing the funding available to PCCs by up to £813 million. However, this is provided all PCCs increase the police portion of the council tax by £2 a month or £24 a year (equivalent for a Band D property), which, collectively, will raise £509 million of the £813 million increase in funding.

Anthony Stansfeld said: "The Thames Valley Police budget has been cut by £101 million over the last eight years which has resulted in significant cuts to police officer and staff numbers. This year the Government has encouraged all PCCs to raise the policing element of the council tax precept for all households. To prevent further damaging cuts to policing and restore some important frontline policing capability I would like to make use of this Government advice and raise the council tax precept accordingly.

"Demand on police forces nationally has risen significantly in the last year as a result of an increase in non-crime business, higher crime numbers, the increasing complexity of crime, and the increasing reach of criminals both physically and via technology. Throughout this Thames Valley Police has been efficient and effective but having already faced significant cuts since 2010/11 the process of identifying new cash savings is becoming ever more challenging. However, we are committed to making policing even more efficient and have already identified over £4m of new savings in 2019/20."

"My focus for the future continues to be on delivering strong neighbourhood policing for all of the communities across the Thames Valley whilst addressing the serious threats and hardship posed by criminals. With this in mind the extra cash generated from the proposed increase in council tax will be spent on operational policing. The draft budget for 2019/20 includes additional funding to increase local frontline policing, recruit more investigators and improve contact management with the aim to reduce call waiting times on 101 calls."

The survey and more information, including the proposed amounts from each council tax band can be found by visiting: <https://bit.ly/2QEkGkk>

Closing Date: Wednesday 9th January at 5pm

*this is the equivalent for a Band D property. The increase for other property Bands is set out in the table available with the survey on the above link.

Sarah Stokes

Communications and Engagement Officer

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Farmhouse

Thames Valley Police Headquarters

Kidlington OX5 2NX

www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Dear Parish Council Clerk

Applications are invited for nominations for the High Sheriff Awards for the year 2018/2019.

Every year the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire invites nominations for approximately 20 High Sheriff Awards in recognition of individuals in Oxfordshire who have **made outstanding contributions to the communities in which they live and work**. Nominees will usually have had a high impact on the lives of others over a sustained period of time and will be recognised by other people working in the nominee's area as inspirational and as setting an example for others to follow.

The High Sheriff Awards will not normally be made to people whose work and commitment has already been recognised by the award of a National Honour or by bodies such as the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service and Oxfordshire Charity and Voluntary Action.

As a former Parish Councillor I know that Parish Councils are the 'eyes and ears' of our local communities and I hope you may know of individuals who might be suitable for nomination. I hope you will be able to publicise this High Sheriff Award at your next Parish Council Meeting or publicise this in your Parish Magazine.

Nominations can be made by anyone who lives or works in Oxfordshire or who is representing an organisation in the public, voluntary and charitable or private sectors. All nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence and nominees should not be informed that they have been nominated as it can be very disappointing to raise expectations which are then not met.

The Nomination Process

All nominations should be made on the form which has been prepared for this purpose and should include the contact details of the nominee as well as the nominator together with a brief summary (400 words max) of the reasons why the nominee merits a High Sheriff's Award. A copy of the form is attached.

The deadline for nominations is Thursday 10th January 2019. Successful nominees will be contacted in early February and the High Sheriff Awards will be conferred at a ceremony in central Oxford on a date to be confirmed to which nominators, families and friends will also be invited.

Contributions to Community Life

Nominations will be welcome for people who have made outstanding contributions to any aspect of community life but in the current year nominations in the following area will be particularly welcome from individuals who are, or have been, involved in:-

- **Coaching or volunteering in Youth Sport and Youth Leadership organisations.**
- **Youth projects associated with the Arts and Education.**
- **Mental health work in the community.**
- **Communication initiatives in communities.**

Nominations should arrive with the High Sheriff before **Thursday 11th January 2019** and sent via email to this email address or by post to:-

The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, c/o VSL & Partners, 22 Bankside, Kidlington, Oxon, OX5 1JE. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Kind regards.

Lizzie Young

On behalf of Richard Venables DL

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2018-2019

E: oxfordshirehighsheriff@outlook.com

W: www.highsheriffoxford.co.uk

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Dear Elaine,

Thank you for contacting the Environment Agency with your concern for the Parish you represent.

The area surrounding the Parish of Aston, Cote, Shifford & Chimney does benefit from some maintenance activity which is on occasion undertaken by the Environment Agency. We use our permissive powers and available resources to do work which has a benefit to a community as a whole but this work does not take away any responsibility that the owners of these watercourses have which requires them to undertake the maintenance they are responsible for. In all cases of main river the riparian owners are responsible for the maintenance of the channel up to the centre of the channel they own. Where we can see some benefit in reducing flood risk consequences we can ask DEFRA for resources to undertake maintenance on behalf of these owners. With the need to act responsibly and with transparency we do this only if we can justify the benefit to a community by undertaking some maintenance.

In your Parish we do ask for maintenance resources for the Shill Brook and the Great Brook because we can show that these watercourses leave houses at risk of flooding and maintenance is a good option to help reduce impacts. This justification is based on our mapping system which shows where people are at risk of flooding and from what watercourses. The Aston Ditch, Bull Lane Ditch and the Cote Ditch are also main river and are investigated to see if we can ask for funding. However there is little evidence that a large number of houses are at risk of flooding as a result of these watercourses. This means we cannot currently justify any allocation of public funding to undertake routine maintenance. This leaves the riparian owners in a position where they need to undertake maintenance as per our published documentation which is [Available Here](#).

We will attend the watercourses under our emergency response duty and we are available for assistance in times of high water.

If you have any further questions please contact me again.

Regards

Shaun Shackelford

Technical Specialist

Asset Performance Upper Trib

Environment Agency - Thames

Osney Depot, Bridge Street, Oxford, OX2 0AZ

Tel: 020 302 59869

Email: shaun.shackelford@environment-agency.gov.uk

Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council

Public Consultation on the Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

As part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal agreement with the Government, the six Oxfordshire authorities have committed to producing a joint statutory spatial plan (JSSP), known as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

The Plan will relate to a broad range of social, environmental and economic issues affecting the county up to 2050.

As part of the Plan, we're asking for people's views on our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The document sets out how the Oxfordshire Plan making team will engage with people throughout the plan-making process.

We recognise how important it is to engage with as many people as possible in the creation of the Plan, as it will guide development and growth across the county for many years.

We have committed to consulting communities, interest groups, stakeholders and specialists to ensure the Plan is fit for purpose and addresses varied needs over the Plan period.

The SCI sets out our proposed approach to engaging with these groups through the plan-making process.

We would like your views on whether the proposed approach and timing of engagement activity is considered to be appropriate and if you have any suggestions as to how the approach could be improved.

To take part in the consultation please visit: <https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti>

Andrew Smith

Communications Officer (West Oxfordshire District Council)

Workings days: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

andrew.smith@publicagroup.uk

01993 861616

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Aston, Cote, Shifford and Chimney Parish Council**ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL****Financial Matters****1. Cash Balances**

£

UNITY TRUST CURRENT ACCOUNT

Balance at 30 November 2018

31,141.63

December payments

(3087.25)

Balance at 31 December 2018**28054.38***NATIONWIDE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT*

Balance at 30 November 2018

39,106.79

Transactions in month

NIL

Balance at 31 December 2018**£39,106.79***SANTANDER BUSINESS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT*

Balance at 30 November 2018

536.85

Transactions in month: interest received

0.15

Balance at 31 December 2018**£537.00****TOTAL CASH HOLDING AT 31 December 2018****£67698.17**