

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2016 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

1. Members Richard Haines (Chairman)

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

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
Hilary Fenton, West Oxfordshire District Councillor
Charles Mathew, Oxfordshire County Councillor

Members’

Apologies: None

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

Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane Everex.

3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items

None

4. West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council Matters

Hilary Fenton informed the Parish Council that the waste collection contract has been awarded to a new supplier, effective from 1 April 2017 (Ubico). This will mean changes for all waste collections. From 1 April 2017 anyone who wishes to continue to use the green-waste collection service will have to pay £30 per bin per annum. A licence will be stuck to the bins that have been signed up to the scheme, and only bins with a current licence will be emptied. From October 2017 the current black recycling boxes will be replaced with a wheelie bin for mixed recyclables (apart from glass which must continue to be put into a separate black box). The wheelie bin will have the same capacity as 5-6 recycling boxes and will be collected fortnightly. It is also possible that the current residual waste wheelie bins will be replaced.

West Oxfordshire District Council has arranged another meeting with Thames Water to discuss the issue of the inadequate sewerage system in many areas of the district. The updated Local Plan is out for consultation.

Charles Mathew spoke about matters relating to the County Council. The County Council has nearly finished drafting the proposed unitary plan which will soon be out for consultation. Mr Mathew called for all local councils and residents to look at the plan as a new way of delivering services across the county. The County Council is consulting on its proposals for improvements to the A40 which include the construction of a Park and Ride service at Eynsham together with a bus lane which will run to the canal bridge at Dukes Cut where the bus will rejoin the shared road. The County Council estimates that these changes will cost £36 million. Richard Haines asked whether the required funding has been confirmed by the Government. Mr Mathew advised that it is not yet guaranteed, and that the funding is now being administered by the Oxfordshire Growth Board.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

- a) *Closure of Great Brook Road to allow replacement of the metal bridge at the end of the footpath from Ham Lane*

This work was originally scheduled for the end of September, but has been rescheduled (again) to start on 28 November for up to 3 weeks.

- b) *Meeting with representatives of Thames Valley Police to discuss speeding concerns in our parish*

Richard Haines reported on his meeting with Inspector Fishwick and PC McHale on 15 November. Mr Haines said that he had informed the police representatives that there are three main areas of concern in the parish – the crossroads in Cote, past the school on Cote Road and the Bampton Road entrance to the village. The police representatives had re-raised the idea of a community Speedwatch group being set up in the parish. Mr Haines said that he had informed them that the enforcement of speeding is considered by the Parish Council to be a matter for the Police. The police representatives had told Mr Haines that when a speed check exercise was last carried out in Aston 3 people were caught in a two hour period; in Cassington over the same length of time 22 people were caught, and therefore our parish does not get allocated much police resource for speed enforcement. The enforcement van cannot be safely positioned on Bampton Road due to the sightlines. At the end of the meeting it was agreed that PC McHale would be tasked with visiting the parish occasionally with the speed gun. Mr Haines said that he had suggested that this would be best done at the start or end of the school day so that there would be maximum awareness of the Police presence in the community.

There had been a discussion about on-street parking and the police representatives had repeated the point made historically, that the presence of vehicles parked on the street is considered to be one of the best ways of reducing speeding, and the Police will not therefore strictly enforce on-street parking restrictions, including near junctions.

Mr Haines said that he had told the police representatives that, speaking as a member of the Voices team, he would ensure that a future edition of Voices includes an article about community Speedwatch groups, inviting any local residents interested in establishing a group in the parish to contact the Police in the first instance, and repeating the message that the Parish Council would consider offering funds to a group if support were needed to meet any necessary expenditure.

Mr Haines asked the Parish Council whether they still were of the opinion that they wouldn't want a Community Speedwatch group to be established and operated by the Parish Council itself, and councillors reaffirmed that this is the case.

6. New Business

- a) *Revised West Oxfordshire Local Plan*

It was resolved that the Parish Council would respond to the Local Plan consultation as follows: the housing target seems to be far too large for the infrastructure which is in place. There is no significant funding available to improve the road or rail network to accommodate the housing growth; if infrastructure improvements would be required to accommodate new housing, where would the funding come from? The Plan as presented will put significant pressure on schools, medical services, the water supply, and sewerage services, which may not be able to cope with the housing growth. It was acknowledged that the intention to focus development on the larger towns and settlement where there is some established infrastructure was a positive part of the Plan.

New Business (continued)

It was also resolved that the Parish Council response would ask whether it would be possible to place a cap on the growth of individual villages and whether it would be possible for the District Council to refuse new planning applications when there are already existing developments with approval which haven't yet been built.

7. PLANNING

New planning applications

- 16/03654/HHD Birchwood Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston
Erection of detached garage
It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object but would ask the District Council to check whether this proposal breaches any agreement with the developer, given that it is a new build property.
- 16/03716/FUL Ferndale, Back Lane, Aston
Proposed detached timber framed garage block with double garage and one bedroom first floor ancillary accommodation together with conversion of existing garage and formation of new vehicular access. The application was discussed at length. It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object but would raise serious concerns about the scale of the proposed garage block, which may be out of keeping for the area and is next to an open field. The Parish Council would also ask for a condition to be put in place to prevent the garage block from being used for anything which is not ancillary to the main house (such as a tourist let) and from being sold as a separate dwelling, given the unsuitability of Back Lane for increased vehicular use.

Planning applications approved

- 16/03040/HHD The Limes, High Street, Aston
Erection of single storey conservatory to rear elevation
- 16/03315/HHD Nethercote Barn, Cote, Bampton
Conversion of garage roof space to create home office/study

Planning applications refused

- 16/03227/HHD Old Dairy Barn, Cote
Proposed single storey rear extension
- 16/02723/FUL Penny Black House, High Street, Aston
16/02724/LBC Conversion of outbuildings to create two dwellings

Planning appeals decided

- 16/04419/S73 Chimney Farm Barns, Chimney
Removal of condition 4 of Planning Permission W2001/0924 to allow unrestricted use of C3 dwellings – appeal allowed

8. Community Trust

John Ordish provided an update on matters relating to the Community Trust:

- Installation of commemorative bench – in hand
- Discussion of the Trust's previous request in relation to funding for the relocation and re-equipping of the younger children's play area – the Trust has made a decision on the choice of contractor and is hoping to provide the Parish Council with more information for the February meeting.

9. Parish Infrastructure

a) *Village maintenance*

There was concern raised about leaves blocking the road-edge gulleys. The Clerk will ask West Oxfordshire District Council when the road sweeper is next due to visit Aston.

A resident has expressed concern about standing water covering the width of Ham Lane in certain areas after heavy rain. It was noted that there has always been an issue with drainage on Ham Lane and that this doesn't seem to have been made worse by the Thistle Cottage development.

10. FINANCE

a) *Account Balances* – Noted

b) *Budget for 2017/18*

It was resolved to keep the precept at the same level (for a Band D property) as in the prior year. Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

It was resolved to approve the budget as presented. Proposed by Phil West, seconded by John Ordish.

c) *November invoices presented for approval and payment*

		Statute
Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	374.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing – 135 sheets @ 7p	9.45	LGA 1972 s111
Des Johnston – two cuts of Aston playing field (16 cuts carried out in season)	144.00	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
AJ Mitchell – cleaning of bus shelters on 31 October	27.00	LG(MP)A 1953, s4
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in December	21.25	Litter Act 1983
Total	575.70	

It was resolved to make the above payments, proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Jane Everex.

Signeddated.....