

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2017 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

1. Members **John Ordish (Acting Chairman)**

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

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
 Hilary Fenton – West Oxfordshire District Councillor
 Two members of the public

Members’

Apologies: Richard Haines

2. Election of Chairperson for the meeting

John Ordish was proposed, seconded and duly elected to chair the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meeting – on 7 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Jane West, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

4. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items

Jane Everex, as the owner of the land affected by the application, the planning application for Cote Farm Barn, Cote.

5. Public Representation

A member of the public present told the Parish Council about the issues that the planning application for Cote Farm Barn would cause him – he has a legal right of access over the vehicular access which the application proposes to close. This is the only access he has to the rear of his property. He has not been consulted by the neighbour who is proposing to block the access. He expressed the view that the legal access issues need to be resolved before the planning application can be properly considered. The member of the public told the Parish Council that he intends to object to the District Council.

The members of the public left the meeting.

6. WODC/OCC Matters

Hilary Fenton told the Parish Council that West Oxfordshire District Council has for a long time been sharing services with Cotswold, Forest of Dean and Cheltenham Borough Councils. This has been very successful and has saved the four councils a significant amount. This arrangement is now going to be put on a more formal footing, and a company has been formed, called Publica, that will run the shared services. Each Council will remain responsible for delivering services to their local communities, and residents contacting the council are unlikely to be aware of any change.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) *Maintenance of parish benches*

The new bench which is being ordered to replace the Southlands bench is back in stock with the suppliers and the proforma invoice is included in the invoices for payment at this meeting. It is hoped that the plaque on the existing bench will be able to be removed and put on the new bench.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the expected cost, including delivery, for the replacement plastic slats for the VE/VJ bench is £294.94. The slats are designed primarily for decking use and are grooved on one side. The Clerk will check whether they are smooth on the reverse. It was agreed to order the new slats, subject to them being smooth on the reverse – proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by John Ordish.

b) *Meeting with Robert Courts, MP*

It was agreed that this had been a valuable and positive meeting. Mr Courts has said that anybody who needs help in any matter should be encouraged to contact him. Mr Courts recommended that the Parish Council considers developing a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that this issue would be put on the agenda for the November meeting.

Traffic issues, particularly the A40 had been discussed with Mr Courts. He informed the Parish Council that the funds being used to construct the bus lane on the A40 are from a dedicated source that can only be used for this purpose.

c) *Litter bin on Aston garage land*

Phil West agreed to deal with this issue.

d) *Anti Social Behaviour*

A recent incident of flytipping on the Great Brook Road had been dealt with by Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

Jane West said that there have been recent issues in Chimney with young people arriving on bicycles, and then drinking, smoking and playing loud music. BBOWT has helped to move them on, but Jane expressed concern that they may relocate their activities to other places in the parish.

8. New Business

a) *Donation request – Voices*

It was resolved to give the requested donation of £1,000. Proposed by Jane Everex, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

b) *Donation request from West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice Bureau*

It was resolved to give a donation of £150. Proposed by Ben Lings, seconded by Jane Everex.

c) *Developer consultation on relocation of “Aston” sign at North Street entrance to Aston*

It was agreed that there does not appear to be a need for the sign to be moved 65m towards the A415; the houses have been occupied for some time, presumably with Oxfordshire County Council satisfied that the egress from the site is safe. The Clerk was asked to inform the developer that the Parish Council would rather the sign is not moved, and if it does need to be moved, that 65m is considered to be too far.

New Business (continued)

- d) *Oxfordshire County Council – formal adoption of Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy*

After approval by the Inspector, this plan was formally adopted by Oxfordshire County Council on 12 September 2017.

9. PLANNING

New planning applications

- 17/02772/FUL Cote Farm Barn, Cote
Close existing and relocate vehicular access

The Parish Council had been made aware by a neighbour of this property earlier in the meeting that there are legal issues around the proposal to close the existing access which need to be resolved. In the light of this it was resolved that the Parish would object to this application, advising the District Council that the Parish Council considers that the legal issues must be resolved before the planning application can be determined.

Planning applications approved

- 17/02403/HHD Ferndale, Back Lane, Aston
Erection of natural stone boundary wall to replace timber fencing

Follow up to previous planning applications

- 14/01496/FUL Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston – visual splay/obstruction of highways verge

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the planning department at West Oxfordshire District Council has advised that the only issues they can take action on are those considered to be “development” under planning legislation. This includes, for instance, the installation of fences and bollards, but does not include soft landscaping such as hedging or other planting. WODC is taking action to achieve the removal of the fence uprights and concrete bollards, but cannot take action on the hedging.

The Clerk further informed the Parish Council that Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed that the area of land that was intended to be dedicated as visibility splay has been sold on by the developer as part of Birchwood and Rose Cottage. In order to provide the required visibility, the developer would now have to repurchase the land they sold from the current owners and complete a Section 278 agreement and highway dedication. OCC has not suggested it will be taking any action in order to achieve this. OCC has further advised that the hedge has been planted on a line that was agreed with OCC.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will take no further action on this issue as the only authorities that can act are West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, and their stances have been made clear as outlined above. The Parish Council stance remains that there was a highway verge at the front of these properties before the conversions were carried out, and that this verge is now obstructed, to the detriment of the safety of people using Ham Lane.

10. Community Trust

John Ordish gave an update on matters relating to the Community Trust. The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for the donation of the additional litter bin (to be moved from the garage). Mr Ordish said that he is aware that there have been concerns raised about metal goal pegs having been left in the ground, as these are a hazard and would damage the mower. This issue will be discussed at the next Community Trust meeting.

11. Parish Infrastructure

a) Replacement bins

Thanks to WODC who have now replaced the litter bin on the green in the centre of Aston and the dog waste bin at the end of Bull Street (next to footpath to village hall), at the Parish Council's request.

b) Parish Walkabout with Highways – 25th September 2017

Richard Haines had provided a written report on his meeting with Andrew Vidovic from OCC. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Vidovic to thank him for arranging the walkabout and to ask for his support on the issues identified – he had provided some names of people to contact, but the Parish Council does not have access to their contact details.

c) WODC grass cutting contract

It was noted that there had been some ongoing issues with the work being completed by the contractor (some missed cuts and some areas where the full area was not being cut). The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she had been in touch with the contractor on many occasions over recent months, and that the missed areas have now been cut and the contractor has given assurances that they will not be missed in the future. The issues are currently resolved, therefore.

12. FINANCE

a) Account Balances – noted.

b) Future precept plans

The Clerk gave a brief update on the results of the public consultation which had closed on 30 September. To be discussed in more detail at the November meeting

FINANCE (continued)

c) September invoices presented for approval and payment

		Statute
Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	381.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing, 133 sheets x 7p, £10 mobile phone top up	19.31	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – one cut of verges and war memorial in July & one in August (seven invoiced in year to date)	785.96	HA 1980, s116
Des Johnston – two cuts of playing field in September	144.00	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
The Flying Press Ltd (printing of budget surveys)	79.20	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in October	21.94	Litter Act 1983
The Garden Furniture Centre – new bench for Southlands	389.98	Parish Councils Act 1957, s1
Donation to Voices (Aston Newsletter)	1,000.00	LGA 1972, s142
Donation to West Oxfordshire Citizen's Advice Bureau	150.00	LGA 1972, s142
Total	2,971.39	

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

Signeddated.....