

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH APRIL 2017 IN THE
VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

1. Members **Richard Haines (Chairman)**

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

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
 Charles Mathew, Oxfordshire County Councillor, arriving at Agenda Item
 10
 1 member of the public

**Members’
Apologies:** Jane Everex

2. Minutes of previous meeting – on 2 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items
Ben Lings, as the applicant, the planning application for Mayville, Back Lane, Aston

4. Public Representation
The member of the public present asked for clarification of the discussion and confirmation of the Parish Council’s decision on his request to plant the verge opposite his property (discussed at the Parish Council meeting in March). The Chairman confirmed the decision made. The member of the public then said that he had written to request information from the Parish Council. The Clerk informed the member of the public that his letter had been received and that it would be dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) Potential relocation of dog bin on Ham Lane

The District Council has now confirmed that the bin will continue to be emptied free of charge even if it is moved. Richard Haines agreed to meet with the District Council representative on site to finalise the new location for the bin.

b) New noticeboard for Southlands

One quotation had been received. There was a discussion about the type of wood the noticeboard should be built from and it was confirmed that the contractors could provide alternative quotations for different wood types. It was resolved to carry this item forward so that more quotations can be obtained.

c) Maintenance of parish benches

The Clerk advised that she has not yet obtained the quotation for the work required to the benches. Item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings (continued)

d) *Anti Social Behaviour*

Concerns were raised about the way some of the agricultural vehicles are driven through the parish. An agricultural vehicle has recently damaged one of the pillars of Chimney Bridge. Richard Haines informed the Parish Council that a member of the public had witnessed this incident which took place on 5 April and has reported it to both the County Council and Thames Valley Police. The March Neighbourhood Team update included information on recent burglaries in Aston and Cote. These were of business premises and outbuildings. Two people have been arrested and are under investigation. Thames Valley Police is reminding residents to ensure that their outbuildings and sheds are secure.

6. New Business

a) *Maintenance agreement for St James' clock*

It was resolved to enter into a new three year maintenance agreement with Smith of Derby at a cost of £509.00 + VAT. Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

b) *West Oxfordshire District Council inflationary increase on service contracts for 2017*
The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the cost of the services supplied by WODC (dog bin emptying and grass cutting/war memorial planting) will increase by 3.2% in 2017.

c) *Annual renewal of membership of OALC*

It was resolved to renew the Parish Council's membership of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils at a cost of £195.29 + VAT. Proposed by Ben Lings, seconded by John Ordish.

d) *Annual renewal of membership of Community First Oxfordshire*

It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, would renew its membership of Community First Oxfordshire at a cost of £70.00 for 2017/18. This is, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Proposed by Jane West, seconded by John Ordish.

e) *Renewal of membership of CPRE*

It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, would renew its membership of Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost of £36 for 2017/18. This is, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by Jane West.

f) *Councillors' Travelling Allowances Scheme*

A report on the renewal of the scheme had been circulated in the Clerk's Briefing Notes.

It was resolved to readopt the scheme – proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Ben Lings.

New Business (continued)

g) Oxfordshire County Council Grass cutting Agreement

The Agreement received from Oxfordshire County Council under which the Parish Council will carry out the grass cutting of the highway verges was reviewed. It was resolved to accept and sign the Agreement. Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

7. PLANNING

New planning applications

17/00395/HHD Ferndale, Back Lane, Aston
Conversion of existing garage to create additional living space and erection of detached double garage with workshop. Closure of existing and formation of new vehicular access in revised position

It was resolved to object to this application on the grounds that the proposed garage is too large (its height in particular) and therefore out of keeping for the location. It was further resolved to request that if the District Council approves the application that a condition is put on the approval that the roof space of the garage block cannot in the future be converted to residential or other use.

17/00490/HHD Mayville, Back Lane, Aston
Alterations to include conversion of store to playroom/office, erection of single storey extension and outbuilding.
Ben Lings left the meeting.
It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object to nor comment on this application.
Ben Lings rejoined the meeting.

17/01043/HHD 55 Bull Street, Aston (Alma Villa)
Insertion of dormer window to serve existing bathroom
It was resolved that the Parish Council would not object to nor comment on this application.

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 no response to the Parish Council's letter about this issue has been received from David Nimmo Smith, County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment.
The Parish Council has been made aware that the County Council legal team is continuing to seek a resolution to this issue so that the visibility splay is restored.

16/03309/S73 Land East of Saxel Close
Discharge of condition 10 – new application 17/01075/CND
The applicant has been in communication with Thames Water and WODC planning to seek to have this condition relating to the sewerage connection discharged. The evidence presented indicates that Thames Water has confirmed that the sewerage problems relating to the Bull Street pumping station are linked to connections 4801 and 4805 which are on Bull Street itself. The applicant has provided a sewerage map indicating that the outflows from the development will flow into the

sewerage system at connections points on the development land and not via connections 4801 and 4805.

Planning applications approved

17/00121/HHD 5 The Courtyard, Aston
Erection of conservatory to rear elevation

17/00264/FUL Penny Black House, High Street, Aston
Conversion of part of outbuilding to annexe

Planning applications refused

17/00060/FUL Land North of Paradise Farm, Bull Lane, Aston
Erection of four dwellings and associated works

Planning appeals dismissed

16/03227/HHD The Old Dairy Barn, Cote
Single storey rear extension

8. Community Trust

The minutes of the recent meeting were put in the folder.

9. Parish Infrastructure

a) Village maintenance

The Clerk was asked to request a quotation from Ubico for weedspraying the main roads/footpaths through Aston.

Thanks were expressed to Phil West who had arranged for the traffic signs and benches to be cleaned and for the signs to be straightened and overgrowing vegetation cut back from them.

b) Metal chicanes/barriers at footpath ends – Woodbridge Close, Cote Road, Bull Street

The possibility of installing a further barrier at the kerb edge in front of the footpath was discussed. It was resolved not to proceed with this proposal. The Clerk was asked to chase again for a response to the Parish Council's complaints about the poor standard of the work carried out.

10. Oxfordshire County Council Matters

Charles Mathew arrived at the meeting. Mr Mathew expressed support for the Parish Council's complaint about the quality of the work done to the barriers at the end of the footpath between Woodbridge Close and Cote Road by the County Council contractor and requested that he be copied into the correspondence with the County Council officer.

11. FINANCE

a) Account Balances – Noted

FINANCE (continued)

b) March invoices presented for approval and payment

		Statute
Clerk's salary and working from home allowance	374.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – printing – 404 sheets @ 7p	28.28	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in April	21.94	Litter Act 1983
West Oxfordshire District Council – winter planting of war memorial flower bed	239.50	HA 1980, s116
John Ordish – replacement plaque for new bench	20.00	PCA 1957 s1
Des Johnston – 1 cut of playing field (1 cut invoiced in year to date)	72.00	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils - subscription	234.35	LGA 1972 s111
CPRE - subscription	36.00	LGA 1972, s137
Community First Oxfordshire - subscription	70.00	LGA 1972, s137
Total	1,096.07	

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

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

John Ordish informed the Parish Council that he had recently attended a meeting of the Bampton Surgery Patients' Participation Group. He said that he will put a copy of the minutes in the folder when he has received them.

13. Matters arising since publication of agenda/

Matters which Councillors wish to raise for inclusion on next agenda (for discussion only)

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that BT has confirmed that when the telephone is removed from the payphone on the High Street in Aston the kiosk will also be removed and the ground reinstated. BT has not yet provided an indication of when this work will be carried out.

Signeddated.....