

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2015 IN THE
MEETING ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

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

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

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
 1 member of the public

Apologies: Jane Everex, Jane West

2. Minutes of previous meeting – on 4 December 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

3. Parish Councillors – Disclosure of interests on agenda items
None.

4. Meeting open for public debate

The Chairman read a statement to clarify the position of contributions from members of the District and County Councils:

“At the discretion of the Chairman, District and County Councillors may be invited to speak. This must be restricted to relevant facts and not to express an opinion or to take part in the debate.”

The member of the public present said that she was concerned that the litter bin attached to the wall outside the shop has been taped up. She was told that the bin is owned by the shop and is attached to their property, and so the management and use of the bin is a matter for the owners of the shop.

The member of the public present said that there are numerous potholes on Ham Lane. The Clerk will contact Oxfordshire Highways to request that any holes which meet their maintenance criteria are repaired.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) Second community defibrillator
Due to be installed in February.

b) Central Aston post box
C/f – no updates yet from Royal Mail.

c) Sports and Recreation Facilities in Aston – role of Parish Council
Richard Haines said that the Parish Council will need to consider further the response it will be likely to make when/if the Community Trust formally contacts the Parish Council about the proposed additional facilities. It was agreed that the Parish Council would expect any formal correspondence to come from the Chair of the Community Trust. Richard Haines suggested that the information which would need to be supplied by the

Community Trust to support any request for funds would include a clear business case for the pavilion and all the other related works to the field, etc, which would need to include plans showing how revenue income will be generated to maintain the new facilities into the future. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the February meeting.

It was noted that the Community Trust has already raised funds to provide a working balance to support the initial costs of the drawings and planning application for the proposed pavilion.

d) *Anti-social behaviour*

The Clerk reported that there had been a theft of property from outside a house in Aston during December – the police were informed.

6. New Business

a) *BT payphone at entrance to Ham Lane*

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she had contacted BT to ask about the usage of the payphone and to obtain information on the process for requesting its removal, should this be something the Parish Council would chose to pursue in the future. BT has advised that they “will not consider removal of this kiosk as the next kiosk providing service is almost 2400 meters away. BT have to provide access to the general public to make emergency 999 calls in the UK as part of an agreement made when the company was privatised some 30 years ago.” BT has further advised that if the Parish Council has concerns about the impact of the kiosk on the visual splay at the junction of Ham Lane and the High Street, then this should be directed to the highway authority.

The Clerk was asked to contact Oxfordshire Highways on this issue.

b) *Renewal of Clerk’s membership of SLCC*

It was resolved to renew this membership at a cost of £103 for 2015 – proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Paul Sparrowhawk.

7. Parish Infrastructure

a) *Replacement of remaining wooden posts on war memorial green*

MTS Fencing will shortly be advising on the installation date for the posts.

b) *Repositioning of bench on war memorial green*

In hand – c/f.

8. PLANNING

Planning applications granted

14/01496/FUL Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane, Aston
Erection of 7 dwellings and alterations and extension to main dwelling at Thistle Cottage
(subject to conditions and legal agreement)

Planning applications withdrawn

14/1229/P/FP North Street Farm, North Street, Aston
Residential development to erect six new dwellings and extend existing dwelling, with associated works

PLANNING (continued)

Planning applications withdrawn

14/01538/S73 Chimney Farm Barns, Chimney
Variation of condition 4 of planning permission W2001/0924 to allow unrestricted use of the barn

Planning applications refused

14/1282/P/OP The Old Chapel, North Street, Aston
Erection of three detached dwellings with associated garages

Summary of reasons:

- Unacceptable intrusive form of backland development adversely affecting Conservation Area
- Creation of precedent
- Access has adverse impact on setting of Listed Building
- Highway safety due to narrow nature of access
- Detrimental to amenity of existing neighbouring properties

New planning applications

14/02062/FUL North Street Farm, North Street, Aston
Residential development including the erection of four dwellings, the conversion of two redundant agricultural buildings to form two dwellings, extensions to the existing farmhouse and associated access, parking, landscaping and demolition
No objection – letter to be sent raising concern about lack of clarity of the open space outside the garden wall of the existing farm house.

14/02153/S73 3 High Street, Aston
Variation of condition 3 of planning permission 14/1082/P/FP to allow the rear extension to be built in reconstituted stone
Withdrawn by the applicant.

14/02328/HHD Acacia Bungalow, Old Shifford
Demolition of existing garage and erection of new double garage with link to main dwelling
No comments

The issue of the cumulative impact of multiple small separate developments on local infrastructure (including water supply and disposal) and on affordable housing provision was discussed. Richard Haines informed the Parish Council that he has received clarification that Thames Water doesn't have to provide a formal comment on a planning application for fewer than 10 dwellings, and that if no comment is received from them, WODC is unlikely to attach any weight to concerns raised by the local community or parish council. From 28 November 2014 a new ruling from the Government means that no affordable housing financial contribution is required for developments of fewer than 10 units. It was agreed that a proposal to write to WODC expressing concern on the cumulative impact of small developments should be included in the agenda for the February meeting.

9. Finance

a) Account Balances – circulated in the Clerk's Briefing Notes

Balance on Current Account at 31 December 2014	£ 9,958.18
Balance on Deposit Account at 31 December 2014	£16,761.07

Finance (continued)

b) *Receipts & Payments account to 31 December 2014* – noted

c) *Bank Reconciliations at 29 December 2014* – noted

d) *Budget for 2015/16*

A third draft of the budget had been circulated in the Clerk’s Briefing Notes. It was resolved to accept the budget presented, showing revenue expenditure of £19,282 and non-precept income of £1,119. It was further resolved to increase the precept by £6,850 for the next three years (to 2017/18 inclusive) in order to build a recreation facilities reserve of £32,000 by 31 March 2018.

It was resolved to set the total precept at £25,013 for 2015/16.

Proposed by Phil West, seconded by John Ordish, put to the vote, and the vote was unanimously in favour.

e) *December invoices presented for approval and payment*

		Statute
Clerk’s salary and working from home allowance	355.80	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk’s expenses – printing – 72 sheets @ 5p	3.60	LGA 1972 s111
A J Mitchell – bus shelter clean on 8 December 2014	25.00	LG(MP)A 1953, s4
Margaret Johnson – stationery & copying	49.62	LGA 1972 s111
West Oxfordshire District Council – emptying of dog bin in January	20.40	Litter Act 1983
The Society of Local Council Clerks – membership for 2015	103.00	LGA 1972 s111
Total	£557.42	

It was resolved to make the above payments, proposed by Paul Sparrowhawk, seconded by John Ordish. The cheques were signed by Richard Haines and John Ordish.

10. Parish Councillors’ reports from meetings attended since last meeting

John Ordish informed the Parish Council that he attended a meeting of the local Flood Committee in Bampton on 11 December 2014. Whilst the Environment Agency has funds to carry out work on the Great Brook, this is held up by some unresolved issues, including in relation to the protection of the water voles.

Richard Haines informed the Parish Council that he met with the chairmen of Standlake and Northmoor Parish Councils and Charles Mathew on 21 December 2014 to discuss Newbridge. There is as yet no significant progress on the resolution of the enforcement of the weight restriction on the bridge.

11. Matters arising since publication of agenda/

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

Phil West said that a local resident had complained about the tall conifer hedge on North Street overhanging the road. The Clerk was asked to contact Oxfordshire Highways.

12. Date of next meeting: Thursday 5 February 2015, 7.30pm
Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Signeddated.....