



## 9) FINANCE

	£	p
i. The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):		
Clerk March Salary		
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk March salary		
P.Hetherington		12.88
Robyn Leinster (Litter, February)		25.32
T.Lambourne (Annual Home Working Allowance)		200.00
T.Lambourne (Speed Awareness Stickers)		160.00
Robyn Leinster (Litter, March)		25.32
George Stevens		270.00
SODC (Dog-Bin Emptying)		87.91
MK Watts (Grass-Cutting, March)		154.28
ii. Receipts as follows to be noted:		
SODC (Precept 2017/8 – Part 1)	11250.00	
Wayleaves	10.00	
iii. The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):		
Clerk April Salary		
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk April salary		
T.Lambourne (Microsoft 365 Subscription Renewal)		79.99
Green Gardens (Chq 101456 2/Mar/16 but never presented – reissued)		60.00
P.Lambert (Internal Audit Fee)		75.00
MK Watts (Grass-Cutting, April)		308.56
OALC (Clerk, course – The Clerk’s Year)		78.00
Aon UK Ltd (Annual Local Council Insurance Renewal)		404.47
Robyn Leinster (Litter, April)		31.65
iv. The current financial situation as at 30th April 2017:		
Barclays Bank – Community Account	25681.57	
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1090.47	
National Savings	11224.62	
Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)	
Play Area Reserve Fund	(5636)	
Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)	
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(7069)	
v. Budget 2017/2018 v1 – <i>Noted</i> .		
vi. The Statement of Accounts for year ended 31/03/2017 was approved.		
vii. The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31/03/2017 was approved.		
viii. The Annual Local Council Insurance Renewal was approved (see item 9iii for payment to Aon UK Ltd).		

## 10) HIGHWAYS: -

- i. *Traffic Calming – Plans for the staggered chicane proposed at the western entrance to Kingston Blount are now being produced in detailed draft design by OCC engineers and will be available shortly. Queries have been raised as to why only Kingston Blount is being considered and the Chairman’s comments from the April meeting should be reiterated, in that priority is given in view of recent incidents and significant damage to properties in the High Street. Unfortunately, traffic calming measures are extremely expensive and we simply cannot afford to do all that we would currently like to.*
- ii. *Unfortunately, uptake of the wheelie-bin stickers has been slow despite being advertised on the three parish noticeboards, the Parish Web-Site and the KBAR Facebook site. Councillors and the clerk will now start to deliver stickers to properties in affected areas to boost awareness.*
- iii. *Email received from concerned parishioner on the A40 Aston Hill regarding the “race-track” mentality of users of that route, particularly at weekends, and certain types of traffic. Whilst we sympathise, and would like to help, it was agreed this is primarily a police matter at this stage. The clerk to respond accordingly.*

**11) HILLWERKE TRUST: -** *No report in the absence of a current council representative.*

**12) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** – Cllr. Hill attended the meeting held on Tuesday 9th May and reported:

- i. A discussion was held regarding various options available for suitable publicising of the open evenings to be held on 20th – 22nd June. Royal Mail would charge £500 to distribute leaflets, and delivery with the Parish Notes would be too close to the events and runs the risk of not enough notice for people to attend. Some members of the council offered to help with delivery of leaflets.
- ii. SODC offer to help parishes formulate their Neighbourhood Plan, and Ricardo Rios continues to guide the steering group. Community First Oxfordshire could also help with production of the feedback document, but with a fee of c.£10,000 it was felt that maybe a better option would be to copy from another Parishes web-site and adapt to our needs instead. The need to engage the populace with feedback and ideas was positively reinforced.
- iii. Regarding the current building programme in Chinnor, concerns were raised that Crowell have not made a start on a plan yet. Whilst they could eventually join in with us, it would be a retrograde step and involve going back over a lot of work that has already been done, effectively ensuring we would have to start again.

**13) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND**

- i. The last two monthly inspections have highlighted a couple of small issues which may need remedial action soon. It was decided to either engage a local contractor to fix, or leave until the next RoSPA inspection.
- ii. Email received via the parish web-site regarding the amount of bird mess on the swings and enquiring if plastic anti-bird spikes could be fitted to discourage the birds from sitting on them. As this may invalidate our insurance, guidance is to be sought (possibly from RoSPA as above) before responding.

**14) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL** – April and May newsletters received and are attached to these minutes. Since the last meeting, the school has had an Ofsted inspection and been rated “Good”

**15) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE** – The cutting schedules for Spring/Summer are now underway, with additional work by local contractors ensuring our villages remain attractive and safe for traffic vision.

**16) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB (ARCC)** – No report received.

**17) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP (FAAG): -**

- i. Full funding has now been achieved for the upgrade to Footpath AR7 Moors Footpath, a.k.a the “Coffin Path” between Kingston Blount Stert Road and the end of the cricket ground in Aston Rowant. The final £6,048 needed was raised by a grant of £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation (via the Hillwerke Trust), two individual donations from parishioners who wish to remain anonymous and the final £48 an extra amount from the Parish Council (in addition to the £2,000 already promised). This was proposed by Cllr. Hill and seconded by Cllr. French.
- ii. Work will commence in the first week of the school summer holidays (to minimise disruption and diversions) from Monday 24th July, and is expected to take just the one week
- iii. Thanks are recorded to Cllr. Hill and Mr Hill for their prompt clearance of the fallen tree at Pleck Wood, leading onto the footpath towards the Lower Icknield Way.
- iv. It has been requested that consideration for the next project would be given to upgrade the village lanes in Kingston Blount which become muddy in parts in poor weather and are used extensively, particularly by school children avoiding the roads used by traffic. This will be considered once the Moors Footpath upgrade is completed.

**18) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS** – None.

**19) CLERK’S REPORT** – An email has been received from the Hillwerke Trust advising of their AGM on Monday 15th May and inviting a Council member to attend in the absence of a current council representative. Cllr. Hetherington will attend, and respond.

**20) CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

**21) WEBSITE** – A review has been offered by our current web-master and while we should take this up to refresh the appearance and content, prior to doing so we need to seek the opinions of all councillors and other interested parties. This has been deferred until next month when we should have a full complement of councillors and possibly two new councillors. The Clerk agreed to speak to a local web-designer who helped Cllr.Hill as to the current content and what suggestions they would make. Cllr Hetherington wished to record an objection to the present Webmaster asking us to sign a 5 year contract if he makes improvements to the website. Full discussion to be had in June.

**22) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman** – None.

**23) DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 14th June 2017 at Aston Rowant Church at 7.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**