

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at Kingston Blount Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. L. French, T. Hill, S. Sowerby and P. Tinson (In the Chair), Tracy Lambourne - Clerk, plus additional members of the public and representatives of various parish organisations.

Apologies: Cllrs. M. Day & P. Hetherington. D/Cllr. Lynn Lloyd.

Mr. Peter Tinson, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed those present to the Meeting.

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th April 2017**, were approved and signed.
- 2. Matters arising from those Minutes** – None.
- 3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.**
Given by Cllr. Peter Tinson
- 4. Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Parish Council.**
Given by Cllr. Peter Tinson
- 5. Statement of Parish Council Accounts to 31st March 2018**
Given by the Clerk, Tracy Lambourne (attached)
- 6. Report from the County Councillor**
No report received.
- 7. Report from the District Councillors**
Not received for the meeting (prepared by D/Cllr. Lynn Lloyd and attached)
- 8. Report from Aston Rowant School**
Given by Laura Donald, Parent Governor (attached)
- 9. Traffic Calming Report**
Given by Cllr. Peter Tinson on behalf of Cllr. Matt Day
- 10. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Report**
Given by Mark Thackeray, Chairman of Aston Rowant Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (attached).
- 11. Reports from other organisations within the Parish:**
 - a. **Footpaths and Amenities Group** presented by Steven Sowerby (attached)
 - b. **Hillwerke Trust Committee** presented by Andrea Tinson (attached)
 - c. **Poors Hillock Allotments** presented by Leslie Martins (attached)
 - d. **Parish Notes.** No report however, The Parish Notes Treasurer (Peter Lambert), wished to publicly record thanks to Sarah for producing such a professional publication and for agreeing to continue in the role. Additionally, thanks to Jenny

Jackson for the years she put in overseeing the distribution of the Parish Notes and to wish her and Ian well following their recent move. He himself has now taken over the distribution.

- e. **Aston Rowant Churchyard Group** No report received.
- f. **Aston Rowant School House Education Trust** presented by Peter Lambert (attached)
- g. **Aston Rowant Cricket Club** No report received.
- h. **Thames Valley Police – Thame Sector** No report received.

12. Open Forum

Questions were asked by parishioners regarding: -

- a. Neighbourhood Plan: - would the site assessments by the external company be made public before November when the draft NP is submitted?
The NPSG Chairman advised that there were so many sites submitted following the recent consultations (40+) and these have not been published yet to avoid developers putting in applications on what they see as a potentially “approved” site. Work is needed to reduce the number to around 10-15 sites and then the landowners would need to be approached to see if they were even willing to have their land promoted as a possible site. This would be the finite list. It was confirmed that even with the current applications ongoing, the NP process would continue and produce the list as described above.
- b. Street Cleaning: - when is this done, and how often?
The Clerk explained that this no longer automatic, and could only be done once a year, upon request. This was last undertaken in October 2017 and would be requested again after the summer break. If parishioners have a particular area of concern, they should advise the Clerk at the time the details are publicised (on web site & KBAR).
- c. Salt Bins: - The salt bin in Pleck Lane is empty, When and how are they filled?
The Clerk explained that all the bins are filled once a year by OCC, and any further requirements covered by the Parish. This Winter’s weather has meant that we needed to refill the bins once (as recorded in the minutes), as well as one which had been missed by OCC. They will all be filled automatically again in the Autumn. It should be stressed that these bins are for use on the Highways and Footpaths only, not individual parishioners’ private driveways.
- d. Kingston Hill and road: - this is becoming like an extension of the M40, and dangerous to residents, pedestrians and horse-riders. Can it have speed bumps installed, or better still, be closed to all but local traffic?
Seemingly, SavNavs are programmed to direct traffic off the M40 @ J5 and down this narrow country C-Road, instead of the more suitable J6/A40 approach. Current traffic-calming is focussed on the main roads, but we are aware of the issues here and Cllr. Sowerby will take this up with Cllr. Day to liaise with OCC Highways and see what, if anything, can be done.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Peter Tinson
Chairman, Aston Rowant Parish Council.

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE REPORT 2017/2018

The precept this year was £22,500.

In addition, we received further grants / donations as follows:

- **£5,000** from SODC towards the cost of producing the A.R. Parish Neighbourhood Plan.
- **£10,000** from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment towards the cost of resurfacing and renovation of the Moors Path.
- **£6,600** from Hillwerke Trust towards the cost of resurfacing and renovation of the Moors Path.
- **£1,000** from a landowner towards the cost of resurfacing and renovation of the Moors Path.
- **£150** from parishioner towards the cost of resurfacing and renovation of the Moors Path.
- **£750** from Hillwerke Trust as a contribution towards grass-cutting on KB playing field.

The final figures show that we largely operated within budget, with the majority of line items under the budgeted costs. As detailed above, we received a significant amount of grant income, primarily for the Moors Footpath improvement which was matched by a corresponding expenditure. We still have 3 invoices from 2017/8 that have yet to be paid, totalling £131.23 and four unrepresented cheques totalling a further £425.32.

We continue to make provision in the budget and build up a reserve to counter against the possibility that there may be a contested election when the local elections are due again in 2019. Previously, councillors have been returned unopposed, but we had more candidates than positions in 2015, and need to make provision should there need to be an election again this time.

the Precept for 2018/2019 is £23,175, an increase of £675 on the 2017/2018 figure of £22,500 which represents a 3.0% increase overall. This allows again for a continued increase in grass cutting & litter picking which are no longer funded by OCC, a further £2,000 towards traffic calming measures, and a provision for possible election costs in 2019 as mentioned above.

This represents a 3% increase overall, for band D households this equates to an increase of £1.05 to £53.99 per Band D household.

The £2,000 allocation from last year towards traffic calming measures in the villages has yet to be used, apart from £160 spent on wheelie-bin stickers to reaffirm the speed limit through our villages, but we are expecting invoices from OCC to cover the cost of the recent consultations on the proposed new chicanes. The same amount has been allocated in this year's budget, with any more required to come from general reserves as agreed and recorded in the minutes in previous years.

Grants to local causes, totalling £1,934, were allocated as follows:

- Chinnor Village Centre £555
- Aston Rowant Churchyard £896
- Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance £110
- South & Vale Carers £58
- CAB £115
- M40 Chilterns Environmental Group £200

RESERVES

We are holding reserves for future expenditure on:

The Play Area, Village Hall, Elections, Parish Notes, Traffic Calming, Trees & Footpaths and the Neighbourhood Plan

District Councillors' Report 2017 / 2018

Dealing with Issues - We have continued to actively support our Parish Councils and residents with questions and issues concerning development ranging from questions about fences and hedges up to issues around new major developments. We have again been to the High Court to challenge a Planning Appeal ruling with Judicial Reviews but unfortunately the Court would not hear our case that the Inspector had miscalculated our Land Supply. We have ended the year with the positive announcement that we now have a 5.4 Year Land Supply.

We have worked with our MP John Howell in trying to get back control of development. John has been the driving force behind the Neighbourhood Planning Law and the proposals before Parliament which are expected to become law later this year.

Didcot Garden Town is a major part of our plan for development in the District, offering a significant number of jobs and home. Work on this project continues with various funding opportunities being announced. Our plans to 'refresh' Berinsfield are progressing at a good pace and will bring significant benefits to this community and the wider district.

Work on the new Local Plan continues and we are entering the final phase. Whilst additional development is never welcome in the majority of our communities but the growing population, and housing, mean that unpopular decisions must be taken.

SODC successes

Community Safety - Even with the major cuts of the austerity years, our Police & Crime Commissioner has introduced initiatives seeing Thames Valley Police Force's performance maintain its position as one of the effective forces, right at the top of the League. Our Community Safety Team work closely with the CS Partnership strengthening the County's contributions for example, by putting together a short guide on how to spot examples of modern slavery. We have also introduced two Public Spaces Protection Orders in Thame and Henley to allow police to target specific anti-social behaviour offences that can occur in public spaces.

Waste And Recycling - For the third year SODC has been awarded top place in the Recycling League Table in the country. At this time last year we were experiencing issues with delayed deliveries due to Biffa's ageing waste collection fleet, Our concerns were shared by Biffa and replacement was under way together with a plan to make the collection service more efficient. These measures are now in place and there has been a significant improvement in the service.

As part of this refresh, a competition was run with schools across the South and Vale Districts, to name the new food waste trucks. This recently resulted in a pupil in each District winning a prize for themselves and for their school. The winning names are Trashosaurus and Munching Molly.

Finances - South Oxfordshire remains a financially sound Council. Despite increasing financial restrictions, we have been able to maintain our full range of services with a minimal £5.00 increase in our part of the council tax. Our sound and prudent approach to money has enabled us to maintain our Capital & Revenue Grants scheme. This scheme has continued to provide much needed funding for facilities in our communities, including funding to help refurbish the Wallingford Cornmarket Exchange, Ewelme Pavilion and play areas at Little Milton. We have awarded a grant of £250,000 to Thame Sports Club, which will help to provide a new building for the whole community to use. Both Thame and Henley Leisure Centres have also benefited from major up-grade to their changing facilities and although mostly not visible to the public, Didcot Wave received major maintenance and refurbishment . Our Councillor Grants Scheme has also enabled councillors to give grants to local causes that may not otherwise have qualified for funding.

First So Community Lottery Draw - Almost 50 charities and voluntary groups have so far applied to benefit from an exciting new community lottery launched in South Oxfordshire (27 March). SO Charitable Lottery has been set up by South Oxfordshire District Council to raise funds for local good causes.

Housing team win silver award - Well done to our housing needs team who have achieved a prestigious silver award from the National Practitioners Support Service for the work they do to help prevent the most vulnerable people becoming homeless. We are only one of 24 councils, out of the 326 councils in the country, to achieve silver or gold and it builds on our previous success of winning a bronze award last year. The team will pick up their silver award in July, building on their success last year when they won to Bronze Award.

New Changing Places toilet in the Orchard Centre, Didcot - Didcot's second Changing Places disabled toilet has opened at the brand-new extension of the Orchard Centre – making the newly improved town centre even more accessible. Changing Places facilities go beyond statutory requirements in helping the those that can not use standard accessible toilets. South Oxfordshire District Council has paid £20,000 to install the new facility, which includes a height adjustable changing bench, hoist and space for up to two carers to help support people that require assistance.

Unitary Authority Bids – Following the County Council's publication of it's revised proposals last this year, we and the Vale council joined them in preparing a combined bid which would deliver based on the strengths of all three councils. This was submitted last year and is with the Secretary Of State. A decision has been delayed by various changes in Central Government and we are assured that one will be made in the near future.

Other Matters

Free workshops for businesses were run as part of the economic development team's support for local businesses, and examples of this included 'Placing a Value on Intangible Assets – Secure and Protect Your Business IP' and 'GDPR – Should you be concerned?'

Go Active Gold are getting great results In the past 2 years with over 2000 people from our rural villages across both districts engaging in Go Active Gold activities. The Go Active Gold team aim to encourage people aged 60 and over living in rural areas to live more active lifestyles. The GO Active Gold team were awarded the Sports Development Project of the Year award at the 12th annual Oxfordshire Sports Awards held at the Kassam Stadium on Friday 19 January 2018

We've also launched Go Active Juniors - a new project for anyone up to 18 years old. The project aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity by getting young people active in our area. The team offer a range of support including helping to find new coaches to deliver sports sessions, assist clubs to set-up new activity sessions and help clubs with equipment.

Food Standards - We are one of only 24 district councils to have completed all the food hygiene inspection programmes for the year according to the Food Standards Agency. We have ensured that 95 per cent of food businesses were considered to be compliant with food hygiene laws. A number of businesses were subject to enforcement notices and we have successfully prosecuted a number for serious breaches of the regulation.

Berinsfield Community Investment Scheme - we have continued working with residents, organisations and businesses based in Berinsfield on the plan to build up to 1,700 homes to help raise the funds needed to provide the facilities and services that residents identified were important.

'Safe Place' Scheme - A new support network is now available for vulnerable people visiting Wallingford and Didcot. Safe Places aims to provide a safe location for someone to go if they are feeling lost, worried or threatened and are identified by a distinctive logo. We are now looking to extend this to other communities including Thame. This is just a short summary of some of the things that the Council has done.

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL REPORT

Pupils at the school continue to progress well and develop into well rounded, happy, confident children well placed to access the next stage of their education.

The school continues to develop its inspirational creative curriculum, with a particular emphasis on outdoor learning. All children take part in Forest School weekly to take advantage of the learning opportunities that our fabulous surroundings enable.

Science is a large part of the school's development plan, with the school working towards the Primary Science Quality Mark and will be one of few schools in Oxfordshire to hold this accolade. The Primary Science Quality Mark is a highly successful, unique award programme to develop and celebrate the profile of science teaching, learning and leadership in primary schools.

The school continues to value its links with the local community. The children have participated in local fetes, the Hillwerke Christmas fair, church services, at the cricket club and regularly visit the local area in conjunction with the curriculum. With a particular mention to those local residents who give their time to help the children learn about their local history/environment and "older" members of the Full Circle Club and Open the Book teams who regularly come in to school to work with the children.

In the last year we have also welcomed Sheila Reynolds, a Kingston Blount resident, to the board of governors.

Claire Rogan
Chair of Governors

Traffic Calming

As you know ARPC has been focused on a new chicane at the entrance to KB. In phase 2 we will be pursuing similar schemes for AR, but for now the priority is KB where there have been numerous accidents at the junction with KB Hill and a number of properties on the High Street have been hit.

The feedback we received from residents was in preference for a chicane at the entrance to the village rather than speed bumps and we have been pursuing this option. For the last 6 months I have been working with the highways engineers at Oxfordshire County Council to produce the detailed plans needed and we have finally got the plans completed. These draft plans have been widely publicised in the Parish Notes, on KBAR and at council meetings. OCC have undertaken a trial of the design using cones and temporary signage to ensure that it is safe and works as intended. We are still waiting for a formal design review from the OCC engineers.

We are all very frustrated that this is taking so long but OCC have to ensure that the design is safe and will work as intended and they do take their time.

Matthew Day

ASTON ROWANT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STEERING GROUP REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL – 11 APRIL 2018

Steady progress has been made with the draft Neighbourhood Plan over the last twelve months. Progress has not been as rapid as we'd like, given the spate of planning applications that have been made with the obvious intent to by-pass the plan process, but it is the nature of the beast that applications can be made and determined relatively quickly, even at appeal, while plans have to follow a set process of assessment, consultation and re-assessment.

This time last year, the Steering Group comprised five members, all putting in their time voluntarily while holding down day jobs. I am pleased to say that, by last autumn, that number had increased to thirteen, allowing for a better distribution of the work and, hopefully, a wider assessment of the issues, notably housing.

Looking for about 17 new dwellings over the plan period to 2033, to meet SODC's draft policy of a 5% increase, did not seem too daunting a task, and that target could well be met by infills, conversions and small-scale developments. The "Call-for-Sites" consultation, in June 2017, brought forward as many as 40 suggestions of sites where housing might be accommodated, some for only one unit or with only one person making the suggestion, but all had to be assessed. This introduced an additional layer into the consultation process, as agreement had to be reached with the community as to how these sites might be measured as to their suitability for new development or re-use. The Steering Group agreed on ten criteria by which each site might be assessed, and these were the subject of a further public consultation (December 2017 – January 2018), including discussions with SODC. The criteria and any subsequent grading of the sites will be the subject of public scrutiny when the NP goes to the examination stage, so it is vital that the process is not open to challenge.

The criteria were agreed in March 2018, subject to revisions suggested by SODC, and a preliminary assessment was undertaken by the Steering Group. On the further advice of SODC, it was resolved that the final grading of potentially suitable sites should be undertaken by an outside body, to maintain an objective position that would withstand challenge by developers whose sites were, perhaps, less suitable than others. The housing assessment has therefore been referred to the government-sponsored body My Locality, who provide technical assistance through their appointed consultants AECOM. They will also assess the matter of "housing need" (housing types, sizes, tenure, etc), though, in such small numbers, this may not be essential.

The various consultations have fixed on the Green Spaces, to be included in the NP as land to be protected from possible development. The criteria for this are set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), so the protection is not, perhaps, as widespread as some residents would like, but the Steering Group will be looking to devise policies which afford more general presumptions against development around and between the principal villages and in the smaller settlements.

While AECOM do the business with regard to the housing, the Steering Group will move on to the wider, hopefully less contentious, policies in the NP – conservation, landscape, ecology, transport, leisure, etc – which will, by-and-large, take their lead from the Local Plan. Accompanying documents (Consultation Statement and Conditions Statement) have to be prepared in parallel, so the updated timetable for the NP looks to a submission in draft to SODC by the end of November 2018.

Mark Thackeray – Chairman, NP Steering Group

Aston Rowant Parish Council Footpath and Amenities Group Annual Report 2017-2018

Parish Councillors

Peter Hetherington (Chairman)

Lynn French

Steven Sowerby

Advisor

Mike Eaton

Co-opted members

Di Eaton

Graham French

Jan Gooders

Tony Hughes

Peter Gibbons

The group have met twice during the year. They always welcome any proposals from parishioners as to how they might improve the Parish and its Environment.

Walks

We organised three parish walks during the year. 58 walkers joined us. These events were joint ventures with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. One walk was at New Year from Christmas Common and it attracted 32 people probably wanting to walk off their Festive season excesses.

IMPROVING THE PARISH ENVIRONMENT

Aston Rowant Discovery Trail

The circular walk Trail remains very popular bringing more trade to the Leathern Bottel. Peter is now leading walks for the Chiltern Conservation Board's Walking Festivals and will include the ARDT in their Autumn programme.

Update on Five Ways, Church Lane, Aston Rowant.

The Parish Council is managing the area around the stream at Fiveways for Nature.

Please read Mike Eaton's reports in The Parish Notes that appear every other edition. There is a lot of progress being made and a lot of further activity to come.

Mike needs more volunteers. So if you are able to help please contact him: 351238.

WORKING WITH CHINNOR AND DISTRICT U3A.

Di Eaton, Jan Gooders and Peter led a historical stroll round Aston Rowant Parish in August and they will repeat a similar but longer walking version round both Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant in May finishing at Aston Rowant Church for tea and cakes (an essential ingredient of a short walk).

WORKING WITH ASTON ROWANT CHURCH.

Snowdrops and Duck Races at Fiveways and Cakes at Aston Rowant Church was repeated again in February. It was an even busier day this year with more children taking part in the Duck Races, and loads of cakes were eaten and teas drunk in the church.

We have already agreed to repeat it next year on Sunday 10 February. Many thanks to all the Committee and Parish Councillors who helped and especially to the Church who worked their socks off and were delighted to see the Church packed to the rafters.

RIGHTS OF WAY

Oxfordshire County Council Countryside Services give us one free annual cut of path vegetation in the centre of the villages. We understand that this will continue as will their seasonal request to farmers to reinstate footpaths after ploughing.

Once again we extend a big thank you to all the Parishioners, the Land Owner, and Parish Organisations (Kingston Blount May Fayre, Hillwerke Trust and Parish Council) who made donations, backed up by substantial grants from Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and the Garfield Weston Foundation to pay for the resurfacing of a large section of the Moors Footpath.

We ask for all horse owners not to ride on this public footpath. Their horses hooves cut up the surface. The surface will need some repair this summer because of the indentations that are developing.

We are in discussions with the Land Owner as to how the upgrade the final section.

ENTRANCES TO THE VILLAGES

Once again, the Parish Council give thanks to Simon Coulon who continues to plant, maintain and water the flower tubs in the villages. He gives his time, the plants and materials free of charge and the results are there for us all to appreciate.

LITTER AND FLY TIPPING

Litter and fly tipping is a constant problem along the roads and we are regularly in touch with SODC and their contractor, Biffa, to have this cleared.

We joined the National Great Litter Pick in March. 3 Parishioners helped fill a disgusting 26 large sacks of litter collected from the top of Kingston Hill road verges back to the village and 1 Parishioner collected in Aston Rowant. ! Litter is a huge problem across the whole country.

We hope to repeat the same event next year but do need more helpers please.

I'd also like to thank our Parish litter picker, Robyn Leinster, and Tony Hughes and Kate for volunteering to litter pick on the sides of the busy roads in the parish throughout the year.

Peter Hetherington

HILLWERKE RECREATIONAL TRUST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH MEETING – April 2018

The hall remains a popular venue for parties, both for children and adults as well as bookings from a range of organisations for practicing folk dancing to running dog shows. We continue to have regular hirers - currently, yoga, Zumba and kettlebell sessions on a weekly basis, a silver wind orchestra on a fortnightly basis and a flower arranging group monthly. Two caravan clubs regularly hire the facilities for weekends and a new caravan group has hired the field for a week which we hope will be a regular occurrence.

The Montessori Pre-School is our largest customer and is the main source of our income. It is because of them we have been able to hold our hire rates at the 2016 level. We have introduced some new rates which cover evening, day and weekend hires at a more competitive rate compared to the standard hourly charge.

I am pleased to report that the online bookings system via our website using the Hallmaster system has been well received along with our request for payment via BACS. I must thank Liz Riley for her hard work in maintaining our finances and matching up payments to bookings.

Last year a decision was taken to mount a keysafe on the outside wall. Hirers are given the code which is changed monthly to gain access to the hall. Last year we mentioned that we were hoping that the hirers will replace the key when they leave and I can report back that so far they have.

Members of the committee conduct a yearly inspection of the hall for health and safety purposes and it is from this that repairs are highlighted. A number of potholes have been repaired but due to the harsh winter a few more have appeared which will need to be dealt with. The gutters have been recently repaired and the roof has been cleaned. We as a committee also make a point of dealing in a timely manner with any issues the Montessori School, our main hirer, may raise relating to the hall and it's maintenance.

As mentioned last year the committee embarked on a refurbishment programme. The hall lighting has been replaced entirely with LED lights. Re-decoration of the hall, entrance lobby and cloakroom areas has also been carried out and in the kitchen area the microwave has been replaced and the hob will be replaced in the coming months.

It is with the maintenance of the hall in mind that I bring to the Parish's attention that a number of long standing committee members are leaving the committee this year. They have been stalwarts in running the village hall and keeping the hall maintained to the high standard that we all enjoy. The committee do need new members who will help in keeping the village hall available for all to use.

I would like to thank all the committee members for the contribution they have made over the past year. Special thanks from the Village have to be made to Lavinia Martins, Honorary Secretary and Rob Holt, past Chair, who between them have notched up over 20 years of service. As acting Chair I have relied heavily on their knowledge and advice - they will be sorely missed.

Andrea Tinson

Acting Chair

THE POOR'S HILLOCK GARDENS
(Registered charity no. 202575)
REPORT TO THE ASTON ROWANT PARISH MEETING 2018

The Poor's Hillock Gardens were established in 1864, providing allotment gardens for the use of the poor residents of Kingston Blount.

The allotment gardens are managed by a committee representing the plotheolders. The management committee currently consists of myself (Leslie Martins) as Chairman; Lavinia Martins, Secretary; and Chris Stockley, Treasurer.

The Charity is overseen by four trustees: Angela Murray (ex-officio chair), Harry Sheppard, Stan Riley, and myself (as beneficiary trustee).

Stan Riley was chair of the management committee, and a beneficiary trustee, until last year when, for health reasons, he gave up his allotment. However, Stan remains as a trustee.

The charity owns approx. 4 acres of land off Brook Street. 2 acres are surplus to requirements and is let for grazing purposes to Kingston Blount Farms. The rent is used to help with the upkeep of the allotments. The remaining 2 acres are divided up to provide 45 allotment plots.

Last year (2017), all 45 plots were occupied. At the end of the year several people gave up their allotments but all the plots have since been re-let. So once again they are fully occupied.

Currently, there are 35 individual tenants (some have more than 1 plot) of whom 31 are residents of Kingston Blount (the other 4 reside in Crowell, Aston Rowant and Postcombe).

As the finances of the charity are sound, rents have been held the same as in the previous year at: £11 for 250m² and £5.50 for 125m², plus a water charge of £5 or £2.50 respectively, and £4 per tenant for liability insurance.

11 of the tenants are beneficiaries (being eligible for the State Retirement Pension) and therefore do not pay the rent (but they have to pay the water charge and for the liability insurance). Non-residents of Kingston Blount pay double rent.

Last year, the trustees agreed to change the financial year from ending on 31st March to the year ending on 30th September as this corresponds with the tenancy period. This meant that the last accounts were based on an 18 month period (from 1st April 2016 to 30th September 2017). The accounts showed a surplus of £355 over expenditure and the charity held £2389 in bank deposits.

Given the funds available, it was decided to replace the main gate in Brook Street which had sagged again and was difficult to open and close. The new gate is a "bi-fold" type so that pedestrians do not have to open the whole gate. Including fitting, the cost was £800.

This year, the allotment gardeners will again be selling plants and produce at the Kingston Blount Street Fayre on behalf of the nominated charities.

Leslie Martins (Trustee) 4th April 2018

ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL HOUSE EDUCATIONAL TRUST

PARISH MEETING 11th April 2018

Two meetings in May & November

Investment Income £2,506 [Last Year £2,467]

9 Applications for Funding

All Accepted-

Aston Rowant School - 2 grants

Other - 7 individuals

1 grant towards participation in an overseas sports competition

1 grant towards a vocational course while studying at University

1 grant for University textbooks

3 grants for Overseas School Trips [2 on the same trip]

1 grant for a volunteering placement in Sri Lanka via their University

Further applications to:- Chairman Mary Williams 01844 353927 or
Administrator Peter Lambert 01844 352617

Also Advertised in the Parish Notes