

## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 11th April 2018 in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs. T. Hill, L.French, S. Sowerby, P. Tinson (Chair).

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. M. Day, P.Hetherington and M. Wodzynski.

- 1) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None.*
- 2) **MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th March 2018, were approved and signed.**
- 3) **MATTERS ARISING.** *None.*
- 4) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** – *The District Councillors report was circulated by email to all councillors. A point was raised that the report mentioned details and progress of several other local Neighbourhood plans, but ours was not mentioned and we need to ensure it is in future. Cllr. Sowerby will raise this with the NPSG.*
- 5) **OPEN FORUM** – *A spokesperson for a deputation of mainly Aston Rowant residents read out a statement introducing a Parish Poll to determine confidence in Aston Rowant Parish Council over recent planning applications, citing a number of concerns. The statement concluded by “regretfully demanding a Parish Poll” to determine confidence in the Parish Council, as permitted by law under the 1972 Local Government Act Schedule 12 Section 18(4). The question to be put to electors is: –*

**“Do you have confidence that Aston Rowant Parish Council will carry out its duties in an open, honest, objective and selfless manner?”**

*As there is no record of such a poll being ever demanded before in this parish, clarification must be sought surrounding the process and timescales involved, as well as the validity of the demand in its current format. The Chairman and Clerk to liaise with SODC Electoral Services and seek their advice as well as from our District Councillors to achieve the desired and correct outcome for all involved.*

### 6) PLANNING

- i. **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:

**P17/S4288/FUL** – Proposed conversion of existing buildings via adaptation and partial demolition to create new dwelling. Provision of new garage. (landscaping plan received 29th March 2018) at buildings adjoining Hill Cottage, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. Amendment No 1. Acknowledgment was made that some changes have been made, these were not sufficient to change our previous response which remains: **SHOULD BE REFUSED.**

**P17/S4443/FUL** - First floor rear extension over existing, single storey rear extension. Conservatory extension to rear, change of use from A4 (public house) to C1/A3 (bed and breakfast and cafe) (revised application form, site plan and parking plan received 31st January 2018 and as amended to enlarge and relocate proposed cafe area) at The Cherry Tree Park Lane Kingston Blount OX39 4SL. **SHOULD BE APPROVED.**

- ii. **Decisions** of S.O.D.C. as follows were noted:

**P17/S3661/FUL** – The erection of 5 two-storey 4-bedroom residential dwellings with associated access off Aston Rowant Road, including parking, landscaping and all enabling and ancillary works (Amended by plans 22/01/2018 to alter car ports) by Rectory Homes Ltd - **REFUSED.**

**P18/S0163/HH** – Two-storey side/rear extension to existing dwelling, replacing existing single-storey element (as amended by plans received 15/03/2018 reducing the size of the proposed extension) at 9 Icknield Close, Kingston Blount – **GRANTED.**

### 7) FINANCE

- i. The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):

	£ p
Clerk February Salary	
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk February salary	
S.Sowerby (salt to replenish salt bins)	31.87
T.Lambourne (Amazon, Printer Inks)	56.34
OALC (2018/9 Subscription)	150.90
Community First Oxfordshire (2018/9 Subscription)	55.00
Local Council PAS (GDPR Pack 2)	30.00

- ii. Receipts as follows to be noted:
 

Walks Booklets	27.00
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- iii. The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):
 

Clerk March Salary	
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk March salary	
T.Lambourne (Expenses – paper, envelopes, postage to 31/March)	26.06
T.Lambourne (Mileage – 15 Oct’17-15 Mar’18)	35.55
SODC (Dog-Bins 1/Jan – 31/Mar)	87.91
Robyn Leinster (Litter March)	25.32
Mh-p Internet (Uploads to web-site for N.Plan)	60.00
Parish Online (Get Mapping) Subscription	18.00
- iv. The current financial situation as at 31st March 2018:
 

Barclays Bank – Community Account	26656.84
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1091.20
National Savings	11345.27
Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)
Play Area Reserve Fund	(56)
Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)
Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	(4617)
Traffic Calming	(1840)
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(2140)
- v. Budget 2017/8 v12. Noted.
- vi. The End of Year accounts now need to be independently checked and audited prior to completion of the new Annual Governance and Annual Return. Quote received from Coco Accounting at £40 + VAT/hour, to be capped at 2½ hours. Agreed unanimously.

**9) HIGHWAYS:** - No report as Cllr. Day absent.

**10) HILLWERKE TRUST** – Cllr. Sowerby reported following the meeting on Monday 26th March:

- i. Still no volunteers to take on the two roles which will be vacant WEF: May. Efforts to recruit will continue.
- ii. Several questions arose at the meeting, mainly due to the period where there was no Trust/Councillor liaison.
- iii. A request to ensure the grass is cut around the Village Hall sign as it was not done on several occasions last year. Cllr. Hill to take forward with the contractor.
- iv. Clarification needed who would deal with a situation of invasion by travellers.
- v. Metal “Do Not Allow Dog-Fouling” sign need replacing.
- vi. Clarification needed as to who is responsible for periodic checks of the defibrillator. Clerk to check with previous clerk and advise.

**11) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** - See finance 8c - further £75.00 + VAT approved for payment to mh-p Internet to ensure amendments to NP section of web-site can be made and & recent uploads completed. It was agreed that the PC would bear this cost.

**12) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE:** Cllr. Hill reported that both George Stevens and MK Watts have been contracted again this year to carry out grass-cutting within the villages and the KB playing field, and while the grass is now in desperate need of cutting, it has been so wet that this cannot occur yet.

**13) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP (FAAG)** - No report, Cllr. Hetherington absent.

**14) CORESPONDENCE:** - Email from KB Street Fayre organiser regarding turning the redundant phone booth at the Cherry Tree into another defibrillator point, using funds from this year’s fayre. We received notification from BT several months ago that they intended removing the KB phone booth as usage had largely ceased. We responded that we had no objection to this and therefore it is believed that the booth is not available for this purpose.

**15) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS:** – None.

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

**17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 9th May 2018 in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.