

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL (ARPC)

MEETING: 10th April 2019 7:30PM

KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs. A.Bernstein, M.Day, P.Hetherington, T.Hill, P.Tinson (in the chair), S.Sowerby & D/Cllrs. L.Lloyd & I.White. Plus, several members of public (MOP).

	Minutes	Actions
1	APOLOGIES: None	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.	
3	MINUTES - of the PC Meeting on 13th March 2019 approved & signed by Chairman.	Clerk: to publish.
4	MATTERS ARISING: None.	
	REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS	
5	No report from County Cllr. District Cllrs. Annual report received but due to Local Elections Purdah period, not presented at the meeting. Attached to these minutes.	Noted.
6	OPEN FORUM: - Rachel Lockwood enquired regarding the wood for replacement of the old-style Village Sign on Aston Rowant Road. Cllr. Hetherington advised that a reply from the supplier has been promised by the end of this week (ie: 15 th April).	Cllr. Hetherington to monitor & take forward.
7	2019 ELECTIONS: - The Statement of Persons Nominated for contested and uncontested parish elections was published on SODC website on 5/Apr – 7 Nominations for Aston Rowant Parish, for 7 positions therefore, no contested election. All existing councillors will be returned (except Cllr. Hetherington who is standing-down) and 2 new councillors will take office.	Clerk to compile new councillor packs & official paperwork.
8	<p>PLANNING: -</p> <p>i. Applications as follows to be confirmed/discussed:</p> <p>P19/S0107/FUL:- Demolition of part of the existing dwelling and the erection of a detached dwelling with parking and access, together with alterations to the existing access at Windrush, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. FULLY SUPPORT. (If approved by SODC, this could attract a potential C.I.L payment of c.£16k of which 15% could be received by the PC - 25% if the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted).</p> <p>P19/S0817/LDE:- Certificate of Lawful Development for use of land as B2 (General Industrial) at Wayside, Stert Road, Kingston Stert. No evidence of prior industrial use and request for a site visit yet to be addressed by applicant. OBJECT.</p> <p>P19/S0876/HH:- Single storey extension at Aston House, Butts Way, Aston Rowant. Although a large extension is proposed, not visible from either the A40 or Butts Way and no impact on neighbouring properties. FULLY SUPPORT.</p> <p>P19/S1119/HH:- 2-storey front extension, plus changes to roof, cladding, windows and new electric gates at The Applegarth, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. (NOT ON AGENDA – details received after agenda publication). Still being considered by councillors – noted.</p> <p>ii Decisions of S.O.D.C. as follows to be noted:</p> <p>P19/S0052/HH: - for Single and 2-storey extensions at Warren Farm, Aston Hill. GRANTED</p> <p>P19/S0089/HH: - for Garden office and workshop at Chestles Barn, The Green, Aston Rowant. GRANTED.</p> <p>P18/S4010/LB:- for alterations to attached outbuilding for Grade II listed building at 20 Church Lane, Aston Rowant. GRANTED.</p> <p>P18/S4243/FUL:- for Variation of condition 2 on P17/S4288/FUL to incorporate design changes at Hill Cottage, Kingston Blount. GRANTED</p> <p>P19/S0107/FUL:- Demolition of part of the existing dwelling and the erection of a detached dwelling with parking and access, together with alterations to the existing access at Windrush, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant. (NOT ON AGENDA – details received after agenda publication) GRANTED</p>	

FINANCE		
9	i. The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):	£ p
	Clerk February Salary	
	HMRC - P.A.Y.E re: Clerk February salary	
	Shelley Signs (FAAG)	1044.00
	M.Day (FAAG)	58.50
	Robyn Leinster	25.32
	Lightfoots (FAAG)	600.00
	Lepus Consulting (NP)	792.44
	OALC 2019 Subscription	158.65
	OPFA 2019 Subscription	42.00
	Hillwerke Trust (NP)	51.00
	ii. Receipts as follows to be noted:	
	Walks Booklets	27.00
	iii. The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):	
	Clerk March Salary	
	HMRC - P.A.Y.E re: Clerk March salary	
	SODC (dog-bin emptying)	91.67
	T.Lambourne/Amazon UK (Printer Ink)	59.41
	T.Lambourne (Mileage & Expenses to 31/Mar)*	55.77
	T.Lambourne – Clerk, Annual Home Working Allowance	216.00
	Parish Online (Mapping Services)	36.00
	Robyn Leinster (Litter Picking for March)	31.65
	MK Watts Groundscare (Grass-Cut 28/Mar)	168.00
	A.Bernstein/Glasdon UK Ltd (Salt Bin x 2)	248.95
	A.Bernstein/Amazon UK (Gloves & Shovels for above)	31.42
* Includes £13.24 not on agenda for Annual Assembly refreshments		
iv. The current financial situation as at 31st March 2019:		
Barclays Bank – Community Account	31223.91	
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1092.28	
National Savings	11428.55	
RESERVES		
Elections	(400)	
Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)	
Play Area Reserve Fund	(200)	
Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)	
Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	(4505)	
Traffic Calming	(3340)	
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(2534)	
v. Budget 2018/9 v11 – Noted.		
vi. Quote for repair of Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Western entrance to Kingston Blount - £127.50 for the part and £50 for the first hour & £40p/h (or part) thereafter for labour – approved 6/0.		
10	GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE: (NOT ON AGENDA) 2 new salt bins now purchased – exact locations need to be decided. Cllrs. Hill (Aston Rowant) & Sowerby (Kingston Blount) to liaise with landowner(s) and confirm.	
11	FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP: (NOT ON AGENDA) i Permissive Footpath to Crowell – work has now started and the primitive path (already being used) needs to be closed to allow grass seed to establish and provide a surface for the mesh to be installed to provide a robust surface. ii Agreement in Principle requested for expenditure of c.£200 for tree-felling at Fiveways. Approved 6/0, subject to quote being obtained. iii Work to clear drain/ditch under B4009 at Stert Road junction has yet to be completed, as requested in meeting between Cllr.Hetherington and landowners.	Clerk to post request to KBAR. Mike Eaton to obtain quote(s). Clerk/PH to follow up.

12	<p>CORRESPONDENCE: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Letter from JCPC further to previous correspondence re: Neighbourhood Plan. Also, notification of a further 6 complaints to SODC Monitoring Officer. Noted. ii. Reply from resident of Pleck Lane further to our letter of 24/Mar re: damage to grass verges, refuting that the damage was done by their builders. Noted. iii. Vision Document received from Strutt Parker re: land to the South of B4009 in Kingston Blount High Street. Document to be circulated amongst councillors for discussion in May, and representative from Strutt Parker to be invited to attend. 	<p>Chair to liaise w. NPSG & SODC.</p> <p>Clerk to respond to Strutt Parker.</p>
13	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Weds 15th May 2019 in Kingston Blount Village hall at 7.30pm</p>	

The meeting ended with thanks being given to Councillor Peter Hetherington who is standing down after 30+ years serving this community. This was his final council meeting and the chairman recorded formal thanks on behalf of the council and made a small presentation.

District Councillors' Report 2018 / 2019

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 continue to see developers submitting speculative applications which are not in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan aspirations but at Appeal, we are having greater success due to the adoption of NDPs as we have maintained Year Land Supply above 5 Years. Additionally, the Growth Board Agreement means we now only need to maintain a 3 Year supply for the time being, although this should be treated with caution as we need to maintain performance above target for when this concession expires.

We continue to work with our MP John Howell in trying to improve control of development. John has been the driving force behind the Neighbourhood Planning Law which is now in place and he is driving a Private Members Bill through Parliament which will seek to limit Developers' right to appeal where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place.

We are delivering affordable housing at a rate well above our target. As at December 2018 we had achieved 263 against the cumulative target of 188 and the Annual Target of 250. Indications are that by the end of the (council) year we will have delivered at least 300 affordable homes.

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 continue to progress and will bring significant benefits to this community and the wider district.

An example of where development can bring benefits is the Market Place Mews development in Henley which brought us £300,000 for the small ransom strip on the edge of the site.

Work on the new Local Plan continues having been paused and revisited following important legal advice and will shortly be submitted for examination by the Planning Inspector. Whilst additional development is never welcome in the majority of our communities, the growing population, and the need for housing mean that unpopular decisions must be taken. Whilst there are various calculations used which suggest a lower level of housing will be needed, we have taken the best possible expert advice in determining the location and scale of development in respect of housing need, environmental impact, pollution mitigation, infrastructure and future employment requirements.

Through our support for the Growth Deal, we are also supporting a bid for the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) which will help provide the much needed improvements to our infrastructure.

Customer satisfaction - The council carries out a survey of residents every few years to learn about peoples' satisfaction with local area and the services we

provide. The latest survey took place in January and February 2018. According to the survey, 77 per cent of residents were satisfied with the council's work. While the same amount felt the quality of services provided by the council was good but the number of residents who agreed the council was providing value for money has dropped by five per cent, in line with the national trend. However, 63-per cent were satisfied – this is higher than the national average, which has ranged from 47 to 56 per cent over the last five years, according to the Local Government Association.

The survey also found rated most important by residents were community safety, waste and recycling, street cleaning, environmental protection and sport and leisure – and three-quarters or more of people were satisfied with the way these services were delivered.

Business Support And Development – We have set up the South and Vale Business awards to celebrate our fantastic business community with the Award Ceremony to be held at the fantastic Williams F1 Facility at Grove, near Wantage. Another initiative is the Pop-Up Business School to help future entrepreneurs get started (each a week long). The next one in Berinsfield starts on the 29th April. Although a joint OCC, SODC & BT initiative, the Better Broadband project continues to generate benefits for our communities with the 600th cabinet going live on the 15th March at Sydenham/Emmington near Chinnor.

Community Safety - Our Community Safety Team work closely with the CS Partnership strengthening the County's contributions; for example on how to identify cases of Female Genital Mutilation and on how to spot examples of modern slavery. We continue to grow the Safer Places initiative across the District and the "Ask For Angela" Scheme continues to grow in the District's pubs.

Waste And Recycling - We have again performed well in these areas being ranked 1st Place on the County and 2nd place nationally.

Our level of complaints in respect of bins and waste collection is the lowest in the top 50 performers, running at less than half the average rate per 100,000. This is a good performance given that we make over 1,000,000 collections per annum. Performance has also been greatly improved by the introduction of the new fleet of vehicles by Biffa ahead of schedule due to reliability issues.

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. We are conscious that pressures will increase as the Central Government Support Grant is now zero and we still do not have agreement on Business Rates Retention or New Homes Bonus (the grant given for houses that have been completed.) Our sound and prudent approach to money has enabled us to maintain our Capital & Revenue Grants scheme.

Community and Grants - This scheme has continued to provide much-needed funding for facilities in our communities. For example, a community pub is due to be renovated and brought back into use thanks to a £50,000 grant from South Oxfordshire District Council.

Other projects include a new outdoor gym in Warborough, improvements to the village shop in Little Milton and a new roof for the village hall in Sonning Common.

Goring Village Hall will get new lighting, sound equipment and curtains to improve its stage, and Woodcote Village Hall will benefit from electrical and lighting improvements and a new projector.

Woodcote Parish Council is also receiving money to help install a pathway from its new zebra crossing, across the recreation ground to the school.

Over the course of the current financial year, the council has awarded more than £820,000 to community projects across the district.

At last summer's Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards, the South Stoke Community Village Shop won the best group in South Oxfordshire, an award which was sponsored by the district council. This was in recognition of the hard work by the volunteers to create this community hub in a rural part of South Oxfordshire. This has obviously been appreciated by local people judging by its success.

SO Community Lottery Draw – Over £28,000 has been raised by our local lottery which has been given to 67 good causes locally. Remember that we make no money from this; after costs all of the money is distributed to local good causes.

Leisure and well-being – Use of our leisure facilities continues to increase with over 750,000 visits to SODC Leisure facilities in the period April – December 2018.

Go Active Gold continues to grow, as does its off-shoot Go Active Juniors, helping people at both ends of their lives who might not otherwise do so, to get involved in sporting activities. The Go Active Gold team aim to encourage people aged 60 and over living in rural areas to live more active lifestyles. Go Active Juniors is 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 continue to maintain the high standard of service by our Team in this important area. A number of businesses were subject to enforcement notices and we have successfully prosecuted a number for serious breaches of the regulation.

This is just a short summary of some of the things that the Council has done. If you are interested in a more in-depth report of the metrics of how we perform as a Council, these can be found in the monthly reports on our web site at:

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/policy-and-performance/performance-reports/performance-reports-201819>

Editor - Cllr Ian White (Ian.White@southoxon.gov.uk) Twitter feed: @IanWhite_DC

Chinnor and District District Councillors Report

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White

Lynn has been a Cabinet Member for portfolios including Housing, Community Services, Leisure and Art, and has been the Chiltern Conservation Board member for the district. Ian has served on Planning, Licencing, Scrutiny, Growth Board Scrutiny and Electoral Governance Committees, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Panel and chairs Audit and Governance.

Since last year, we have;

- Given £20k of Councillor Grants to local organisations like Chinnor Village Hall, Towersey Playing Fields, the Methodist Hall, Chinnor Community Pavilion, the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Society and Chinnor Village Centre
- Supported applications to the Capital Grant scheme for local groups like Chinnor Tennis Club, Chinnor Parish Council and Chinnor pavilion
- Supported the Neighbourhood Plan production and review and helped Councils and residents with Planning Applications and Appeals
- Supported District Leisure Facilities with projects for Go Active Gold, Diabetese mitigation and support, and Community Cycling events
- Supported the reduction of homelessness
- Supported safeguarding and removed dangerous or incompetent taxi drivers
- Supported new initiatives about volunteering in line with SODC's corporate objectives
- Improved communication of Council activities through the Chinnor Pump, Parish Council and Planning Newsletters and reports to Parish Assemblies
- Put forward the Local Plan 2034 for Inspection
- Agreed the Growth Deal for Oxfordshire which will unlock funding for Infrastructure
- Proposed a Council Motion on defibrillator provision

This is just a sample of our activities