

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 11th December, 2013.

Present: Cllrs.P. Gibbons (in the Chair), P. Hetherington, R. Armitage, P. Rooksby, J. Knight & D/Cllr D. Brown

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. G. Crossley & M. Day
- 2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – Cllr. P. Rooksby declared an interest in item 6a (Planning) as it is his property.
- 3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 13th November, 2013, were approved and signed.**
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) Defibrilators – Clerk to confirm the costs at the next meeting in January 2014.
- 5) Old Documents from Jan Brant (nee Barwick) – Clerk to distribute these as correspondence around the Councillors – purely for information and interest before they are archived.
- 6) **OPEN FORUM** – Joanna Noble and Joanna Whitfield attended the meeting from the public, with an interest in Item 8a (Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount)

7) PLANNING

- a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
 - P13/S3506/HH** Erection of a first floor gable extension and a single storey rear extension at Upper Chalford Farm, Chalford, Oxon, OX39 4NH – *Should be approved.*
 - P13/S3583/LB (Listed Building Consent)** Erection of a first floor gable extension and a single storey rear extension at Upper Chalford Farm, Chalford, Oxon, OX39 4NH – *Should be approved.*
- b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:
None

8) FINANCE

- a) The following payments were noted:

	£	p
Clerk October Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	71.40	
Playsafety Ltd (Playground)	96.00	
S.Johns – Stationery (Ink cartridges & box file)	47.99	
Alice Surman (Litter Picker)	24.76	
MK Watts	120.00	
P Gibbons – Mileage & postage expenses	21.22	
Buryhook Countryside Management	900.00	
- b) The following payments were approved:

Clerk November Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	84.00	
Alice Surman (Litter Picker)	24.76	
MM Denham Construction Ltd	223.26	
SLCC Subscription	101.00	
- c) Receipts as follows were noted:
None
- d) The current financial situation as at 29th November, 2013:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	7102.75	
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1088.50	
National Savings	10917.05	
Village Hall Sinking Fund	(1555.41)	
Play Area Sinking Fund – main.	(2759.42)	
Play Area Sinking Fund – capital	(2704.95)	
Parish Notes Sinking Fund	(1000.00)	
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Fund	(1844.79)	
VAS Maintenance Fund	(538.00)	
Cash		1.19

- a) Precept 2014 / 2015 – *Approved as £18,100, A 3.3% increase from 2013/2014, representing a 2.14% increase per band D household in the Parish. Clerk to write to Ray Hipkin of The Poors Hillock Trust, agreeing a grant of £200 for the next financial year. Cllr. P. Gibbons to speak to Alex Green of the Hillwerke Trust about austerity in their grant for the next financial year.*
- b) NS&I – Authorised signatories to be approved – *Deferred to the January 2014 meeting.*
- c) Blanchford Building Supplies – Credit account approved – *Noted.*

HIGHWAYS

- a) Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount. – Joanna Noble and Joanna Whitfield both read out letters explaining their disgust and disappointment in the felling of the trees outside Town Farm on the Stert Road, Kingston Blount on 28th October 2013. A letter from Sally White of the Parish was also read by the Clerk as well as an email from Jim & Jamie Clark, explaining that the conifers were removed as they were causing subsidence and cracking the walls and floors in their barns adjacent to Stert Road. They stated that there will be a fence erected and a conservation hedge planted with intermittent laurels in the area where the conifers were. *Cllr. J. Knight stressed that he is not sure that anything can be done in terms of enforcement by the Parish Council but he would be willing, on behalf of the Council, to write to the Clarks with some suggestions of resolutions. Joanna Noble and Joanna Whitfield both agreed to come up with some ideas of resolution and feed this to the Clark and Cllr. J. Knight.*
 - b) Footpath stile at 5 ways and the footstool needs attention. – *Cllr. P. Hetherington to talk to Jamie Clark and ask for the stile to be fixed.*
 - c) Half load of chippings left at 5 ways for spreading – *Deferred to be addressed in the Spring of 2014.*
 - d) Grass cuttings in the ditch opposite Kingston Blount Green and alongside Jamie Clark’s field. - *Noted*
 - e) Planting the village tubs – *Now re-planted*
- 8) Grips to be cut in Aston Rowant – *Noted. Cllr. P. Hetherington has arranged and for the leaves to be blown.*

9) **POORS HILLOCK CHARITY** - *None*

10) **HILLWERKE TRUST** – *None*

11) **ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL** - *None*

12) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- a) The Discovery Trail – report from Cllr. P. Hetherington – *Noted*
- b) *The Clerk will advertise on Facebook that the next walk is at 10am on 5th January 2014, starting at Crowell Green.*

13) CORRESPONDENCE was circulated

- a) M40 Chilterns Environmental Group – Annual Report
- b) Chiltern Society Magazine – Winter 2013
- c) Clerk Magazine – SLCC (November 2013)

14) WEBSITE

- a) The Discovery Trail Map – *Cllrs P. Hetherington and R. Armitage will discuss this outside of the meeting to agree which version of the map should be used on the website.*
- b) Item for amendment on the website – *Discovery trail map, once confirmed as above.*

15) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) D/Cllr. D. Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

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

17) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – **Wednesday, 8th January, 2014, at Kingston Blount Village Hall, at 7.45pm.**

CHAIRMAN