

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 11th February 2014.

Present: Cllrs.P. Gibbons (in the Chair), P. Hetherington, G. Crossley, M.Day, R. Armitage & P. Rooksby

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. J. Knight, C/Cllr D. Wilmshurst & D/Cllr. D. Brown
- 2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – Cllr. P. Gibbons declared an interest in item 8a (Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount). Cllr. Hetherington chaired this part of the meeting.
- 3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 8th January 2014, were approved and signed.**
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING**
Crisis Skylight Oxford – *The Parish Council had received an email requesting a meeting with the Director to discuss building local partnerships. The Clerk is to reply explaining that as a small Parish, we do not have the resources to form such a partnership, and our budget for 2014 / 2015 is already agreed.*
- 5) **OPEN FORUM** – *Joanna & Simon Whitfield attended the meeting from the public, with an interest in Item 8a (Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount).*
- 6) **PLANNING**
 - a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
 - P14/S0156/HH** Alterations and extension of existing house to provide kitchen / dining area and new bedroom. Existing porch removed and new porch added. Demolition of existing garage replacement with 3 bay garage with annexe space above at 14 Aston Park, Aston Rowant, Oxon, OX49 5SW – *In process but should be approved*
 - b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:
 - P13/S3506/HH** Erection of a first floor gable extension and a single storey rear extension at Upper Chalford Farm, Chalford, Oxon, OX39 4NH – *Granted - Noted*
 - 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 – *Granted - Noted*
 - c) **Local plan** – Should this be considered for our Parish? – *Cllr. M. Day has done some extensive research on this and the decision was taken not to pursue with a Local plan for our Parish due to the costs and resource involved measured against the possible benefit.*
 - d) **SOHA Development** – *All monies released from the development will be allocated to Aston Rowant School.*
- 7) **FINANCE**
 - a) The following payments were noted:

	£	p
Clerk December Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	71.40	
Diane Malley	12.35	
OACC Subscription	50.00	
Alice Surman (Litter Picker)	24.76	
 - b) The following payments were approved:

Clerk January Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	75.60	
Alice Surman (litter Picker)	24.76	
SODC (Dog Bin Emptying)	175.81	
B.G. Hutton	85.00	
Blanchfords	4.60	
Stephanie Johns (Stationery)	34.99	
Brissco Signs & Graphics (Approved by 4 Councillors prior to the meeting)	600.00	
 - c) Receipts as follows were noted:

National Savings Interest	141.07	
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 - d) The current financial situation as at 30th January 2014:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	5502.88	
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1088.64	
National Savings	11058.12	
Village Hall Sinking Fund	(1555)	
Play Area Sinking Fund	(5435)	

Parish Notes Sinking Fund	(1000)
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Fund (1158)	
VAS Maintenance Fund	(538)
Cash	

1.19

- e) NS&I – Authorised signatories to be approved – *New address & signatories approved and signed.*
- a) Budget 2014/2015 – *Updated version 8 distributed to the Councillors*
- b) Parish Clerk Salary & Pension – *Councillors agreed a pay increase for the Clerk – from 1st April 2014. Clerk to research Pension for approval.*

8) HIGHWAYS

- a) **Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount** – *S. Whitfield stated further developments. Small Laurels have now been planted along the line of the fence. The main issue now is the fact that the bank has substantially eroded. Cllr. Hetherington proposed that the Parish Council discuss whether there is anything they can do to help the situation. He stated however that it would not involve building a retaining wall. Joanne & Simon are confident that the village will pull together to assist with a reolution. Simon Whitfield stated that both the Whitfield and the Noble family would be willing to contribute financially to the costs but it must be a permanent fix and not a temporary resolution. Joanne & Simon Whitfield then left the meeting. The Councillors then deferred the decision until March when the weather has improved. A site meeting is to be held in the meantime and a report will be made at the March Parish Council meeting. Cllr. Hetherington will arrange this and all Parish Councillors are to attend.*
- b) **Traffic Issues – Parish Representative** – *Cllr. M. Day to attend the initial meeting. Clerk to confirm in writing.*

9) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY - None

10) HILLWERKE TRUST

- a) Minutes of the Hillwerke Trust Meeting – *It was proposed by Cllr. P Gibbons that £100 be put aside in reserves for the Hillwerke Trust from the 2014 / 2015 budget. This was seconded by Cllr. Hetherington and Cllr. Armitage. This is instead of the previous amount of £1800, which the members of The Hillwerke Trust have agreed can be put towards one of the defibrillators for the Parish.*
- b) Playing Fields weed and feed quote – *This was considered too expensive. Cllr. Gibbons is to write to M.K. Watts.*

11) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL - None

12) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- a) Protecting Aston Rowant's Village Pubs – *It was agreed that it is worth applying under the Localism Act, nominating the Cherry Tree Pub as a Community Asset. This was proposed by Cllr. Gibbons and seconded by Cllrs. Day & Hetherington. The Clerk and Cllr. Gibbons will complete the necessary paperwork for this.*
- b) Community Right to Bid – Assets of Community Value – *See 12a above.*
- c) The Discovery Trail – Report from Cllr. Hetherington – *Cllr. Hetherington reported that The Continuity signs are paid for and will be delivered on 17th February 2014. They will be erected over the next month.*
- d) Parish Consultation draft Rights of Way Management Plan – *The right to make representation was noted.*
- b) Flooding Debrief – *Cllr. Gibbons will complete the form and submit. Cllr. Gibbons will also attend the Member Flood Forum on 1st March 2014. Clerk to confirm in writing.*

13) CORRESPONDENCE - None

14) WEBSITE

- a) Item for amendment on the website – *It was agreed that the Discovery Trail information on the website should remain as 2 documents and not merged into one. Cllr. Hetherington is to email a list of all sites that would benefit from the link to the information and the Clerk is to write to them with the correct links.*

15) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS - None

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

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 12th March 2014, at Kingston Blount Village Hall, at 7.45pm.

CHAIRMAN