

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 8th February 2017.

Present: Cllrs. G Crossley, M. Day, T. Hill & P. Hetherington (In the Chair).

APOLOGIES: Chairman. P. Tinson, Cllrs. A. Green, L. French and D/Cllr Lynn Lloyd.

- 1) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – None.
- 2) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 11th January 2017, were approved and signed.**
- 3) **MATTERS ARISING** – None.
- 4) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** - *The District Councillors report is attached to these minutes.*
- 5) **OPEN FORUM** – *3 Members of the public attended the meeting with specific interest in The Great British Spring Clean and drainage on the B4009 where flooding occurred in the winter of 2013/4.*
 - i. *The Great British Spring Clean is a nationwide campaign, supported by SODC which aims to bring people together in their local communities over the period 3 – 5 March to clear up litter, additional to the work already undertaken by our parish Litter Picker. This will occur in our Parish on Saturday 4th March concentrating specifically on Kingston Hill and back towards the villages. Concerns were expressed about the danger faced in working on that stretch of road, but it is too late to arrange a temporary road closure and, unfortunately, that date also coincides with the first Point-To-Point meeting of the year, which would disrupt traffic arriving at the race course. It was proposed to make an early 9AM start in order to finish before arriving traffic, and a couple of parishioners have agreed to do a follow-up clean on the Sunday to ensure any litter from the event is also collected. Volunteers are sought to assist and notices will be placed on the Parish Noticeboards and the KBAR Facebook page.*
 - ii. *There is a collapsed drainage grate on the B4009 just after the turn-off the Aston Rowant Village (travelling towards Chinnor). This has been reported to Oxfordshire County Highways Dept. with repairs to follow, but it has been noticed that the adjacent gully has become blocked once again, which will cause further flooding if significant rainfall is seen. 3 years ago, OCC agreed to suck out the sumps under the extra drainage grill they installed to prevent this and, we have been in contact with OCC once more to ensure this does occur. Chairman Tinson will take this forward for the future to ensure this happens annually as previously agreed.*

6) PLANNING

- i. **Applications as follows were confirmed/discussed:**
 - P17/S0145/FUL.** Demolish existing barn used for office and storage at present. Construct new "granny" annexe with home office and storage over. Should be approved.
- ii. **Decisions of S.O.D.C. as follows were noted:**
 - P16/S4104/HH.** Removal of roof canopy and construction of new porch at 1A Icknield Close, Kingston Blount.
GRANTED.

7) FINANCE

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

	£	p
Clerk December Salary		
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk December salary		
P. Hetherington (Wine for Simon Coulon/Xmas)	16.80	
Ridgeway Woodlands (work, as pre-approved, at Fiveways)	350.00	
Mike Eaton (Plants for Fiveways)	42.12	
Robyn Leinster (Litter Picker, December)	25.32	
- ii. Receipts as follows to be noted:

	NONE
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- iii. The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):

Clerk December Salary		
HMRC/PAYE Re: clerk Dec salary		
S. Johns (Training Session with clerk)		
T. Lambourne, expenses (Postage & Mileage Nov-Feb)	76.58	
Low Carbon Products Ltd (Bench at Fiveways)	461.40	
OALC (Clerk: Training Course – Introduction to Local Council Finance)	78.00	
SODC (Dog Bin Emptying 1/Oct-31/Dec)	87.91	
T. Lambourne (Amazon) Printer Inks	51.98	

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| | Robyn Leinster (Litter Picker), January | 31.65 |
| | Mh-p Internet Ltd (P. Council Hosting 1/4/17-31/3/18) | 108.00 |
| iv. | The current financial situation as at 31 st January 2017: | |
| | Barclays Bank – Community Account | 15588.65 |
| | Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account | 1090.47 |
| | National Savings | 11292.06 |
| | Village Hall Reserve fund | (690) |
| | Play Area Reserve Fund | (5636) |
| | Parish Notes Reserve Fund | (1000) |
| | Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund | (7069) |
| v. | Budget 2016/2017 v9 – <i>Noted.</i> | |
| vi. | Quotes for 2017 from Complete Weed Control and MK Watts Grounds Maintenance (KB Playing Field Grass-Cutting) discussed and approved. The clerk is to write to Complete Weed Control when returning the accepted quote to ascertain exactly where they operate within the Parish. | |

8) HIGHWAYS: -

- i. *Traffic Calming – Cllr Day reported following a meeting with an OCC Highways engineer who confirmed that a speed camera would **not** be approved anywhere in the Parish. These are all now owned and operated by the Police who will only approve use of cameras where there is a high accident rate due to speeding which, statistically, is not the case here. Our best option is a double chicane (like the one in Benson) at the entrance to Kingston Blount coming downhill past the Cricket Club, combined with a couple of speed “cushions” which would be more effective in slowing vehicles down even when no other traffic is approaching from the opposite direction, and reduce the need for further speed cushions throughout the length of the village. Other options would be to move the 30mph limits further out from the entrances to each village, reduce the speed limit between Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount to 40mh and a possible reduction of the road width once more when past the chicane. The next steps are for the OCC Design Engineer to give a detailed quote and budget for any works and draw up plans which will then enable us to get a fixed price for the work to go ahead.*
- ii. *Drainage on B4009 – See point 5b under Open Forum.*
- iii. *Other measures to reduce speed within the villages – see point 17i*

9) HILLWERKE TRUST – *Cllr Crossley reported that the new signs were up at Kingston Blount Village Hall, to great acclaim. Work is now needed on repairs to the car park and plans are in place for upgrades inside the hall – new heating, new lighting (in the main hall and possibly outside), and re-painting walls throughout, particularly the smaller committee room. The Trust is also to act as sponsor for a grant for repairs to the Moors Footpath between Kingston Blount and Aston Rowant.*

10) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – *The latest meeting was held on Tuesday 7th February, which was poorly attended with no members of the public present, despite a recent write up in the Parish Notes. The committee has asked for the opportunity to make a presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting in April and this was agreed and will be publicised on the KBAR Facebook page and in the next edition of the Parish Notes. Concern was raised that their own section of the Parish Council Web-Site was not yet in place and Cllr. Tinson has agreed to ensure priority is given to this in the next month. Two members of the NP committee attended the recent Neighbourhood Planning Conference held by MP John Howell, and reported that there are two grants that the NP committee/Parish Council could apply for. One was for up to £9k from the Dept. For Communities and Local Govt (DCLG) and one was for £5k from SODC. The committee are submitting an expression of interest in the former (which is the first step) and an application for the latter. There was also a pack circulated which contained information about the parish which could be used to provide evidence for some of the claims that might be made in the eventual plan.*

11) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND – *The Clerk reported that the playground inspection rota for 2017 was now in place but one of the volunteer inspectors has advised that they cannot continue due to other commitments. There is therefore a vacancy and it was agreed that a notice be placed in the next edition of the Parish Notes and on KBAR Facebook page to recruit a replacement.*

12) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL – *No report as relevant councillor was absent but the Christmas 2016 Newsletter has been received from the Head Teacher detailing various activities during a very diverse and active autumn term.*

- 13) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE** –Cllr. Hill advised that she has now taken over the reins from Cllr. Green in this respect, but had nothing further to report this month.
- 14) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB (ARCC)** – No report received this month. It is expected that there will be a revised planning application for the new pavilion/club house soon.
- 15) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP (FAAG):** - Report from Cllr. P. Hetherington:
- i. An invoice has been received and payment authorised for the order of the new bench at Fiveways, partially funded by donation from a parishioner as detailed in the January minutes. It is proposed to engrave the seat with the word “FIVEWAYS” to discourage its theft and installation is planned for Spring.
 - ii. The upgrade of the Moors Footpath is now 70% funded and the committee are now seeking private donations to cover the remainder, including the grant from the Weston Foundation which will be applied for via the Hillwerke Trust (as detailed in point 9 above).
- 16) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS** – None.
- 17) CLERK’S REPORT:** –
- i. Approx. 50 households could be contenders to display the Speed Awareness stickers on wheelie bins – chiefly along High Street and the Stert Road, with a few at the entrances to Pleck Lane and Baker’s Piece. While some properties along the B4009 in Aston Rowant already have these items, it has not been rolled-out generally and a further 30+ properties should also be included. The minimum order is for 100 stickers, but as each property has two bins on alternate weeks our requirements may be nearer 150-200. It was agreed to follow through and approach supply companies for costings & delivery timescales and then to invite those relevant households to advise if interested so a firm order can be placed.
 - ii. Barclays Bank has now forwarded details for the Clerk to sign up for Internet Banking (for viewing the statement online) and if successful and feasible, to be rolled out for setting up payments in future for dual-authorisation and replacement of cheques as a payment method for regular payees.
- 18) CORRESPONDENCE:** –
- i. Email received about the proposed merger of five existing Local Councils in Oxfordshire into one single Unitary Council for the whole county. Comments are invited during a six-week consultation period from 7th February to 21st March. With implications for our Neighbourhood Plan currently in development, it was agreed that a full complement of parish councillors was required to discuss this, and will be done at the March meeting.
 - ii. Email received via the Parish Council Web-Site regarding the future of the Cherry Tree Pub, enquiring if the council would have any objection to an application for change of use to a residential property. The proposal is to turn the existing building into a family home, rather than allow developers to knock it down and rebuild. The council is resigned to there being little interest in preserving the Cherry Tree as a pub as no approaches have been made in the ample time which has elapsed since Brakspears put it up for sale, and would therefore consider a change of use, subject to the correct planning application/procedures.
- 19) WEBSITE** – In addition to the new area needed for the Neighbourhood Plan, many other areas are out of date and in need of refreshing. The chairman and clerk are to give this priority and liaise with our Web-Host/Provider in the next few months to achieve this going forward and prior to expiry of the current contract.
- 20) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman** – None.
- 21) DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 15th March 2017 at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN