

## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**Present:** Cllrs. G. Crossley, M. Day, L. French, P. Gibbons, A. Green (In the Chair), P. Hetherington, P. Tinson & D/Cllr L. Lloyd.

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** None
- 2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None*
- 3) **MINUTES** of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015, were approved and signed.
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING**  
None
- 5) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** – *The Report from the District Councillors accompanies these minutes.*
- 6) **OPEN FORUM** – *3 members of the public were present as well as representatives from Aston Rowant Cricket Club*
- 7) **PLANNING**
  - a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
    - P15/S1970/HH** Erection of first floor side extension, front dormer window and front entrance porch (resubmission of P11/S0034) at Little Spinney, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SH – *Should be approved*
    - P15/S2073/HH** Installation of two conservation roof-lights to bathrooms at Lower Farm barn, Brook Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RZ – *Still to be reviewed*
  - b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:  
**None - Noted**
  - c) **CEMEX Appeal** – *Cllr. Matt Day attended the CEMEX appeal meeting and gave a presentation, primarily focussed on the increase / impact of the traffic in the Parish. No analysis had yet been given and therefore no assessment had been made to date. Cllr. Day requested that if any S106 funds or similar were awarded, a proportion is given to Aston Rowant Parish Council but there is no guarantee that there will be any funds. Cllr. Gibbons had spoken to CEMEX and was under the impression that nothing will come from SODC. September / October is the expected time for a decision to be made. If CEMEX lose the appeal, no further application will be made though they could try again at a later date. D/Cllr. Lynn Lloyd also attended the meeting and said that it is now just a waiting game.*
  - d) **Marquee at Aston Rowant Cricket Club** – *See below (Item 15) under Aston Rowant Cricket Club*

### 8) FINANCE

- a) The following payments were noted:

	£	p
Clerk May Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	24.00	
Alice Surman (Litter)	25.32	
Complete Weed Control	240.00	
AON Insurance (Public Liability)	494.86	
Vice Chairman's Allowance	80.00	**
Plant for ex-Parish Clerk as get well gesture	40.00	
George Stevens (Bits & Pieces cut)	190.00	
MK Watts	240.00	
The Chiltern Society (Subscription)	25.00	

\*\* The Chairman waived his right to an allowance so an allowance was only paid to the Vice Chairman.

- b) The following payments were approved:  
Clerk June Salary

Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	24.00
Alice Surman (Litter)	25.32
Matthew Parry Computer Services	105.00
S Johns (Stationery – Printer Cartridges)	38.49
Alex Green (Playground refurbishment)	1531.20
George Stevens (Approved though not on the agenda)	180.00
Ridgeway Woodlands (Approved though not on the agenda)	420.00

- c) Receipts as follows were noted:  
Interest (Business Saver Account)) 0.15

- d) The current financial situation as at 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015:
- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Barclays Bank – Community Account           | 11,289.30 |
| Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account      | 1089.63   |
| National Savings                            | 11141.06  |
| Village Hall Reserve fund                   | (1230)    |
| Play Area Reserve Fund                      | (7317)    |
| Parish Notes Reserve Fund                   | (1000)    |
| Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund | (3641)    |

Cash 1.19

- e) Budget 2015/2016 – v3 June 2015 – *Noted. The budget is to be discussed at the next meeting. The Parish would like to see whether there is adequate funding to contribute to the cost of a new defibrillator in Aston Rowant. Cllr. Green also mentioned that according to the 1970 Agreement, the costs for the maintenance of land pertinent to the Hillwerke Trust should be shared.*

## 9) HIGHWAYS

- a) Speed Survey & OCC Highways – *The speed survey carried out in Kingston Blount was completed months ago. Cllr. Day has requested a meeting with the appropriate person with OCC but has been unable to progress. D/Cllr. Lynn Lloyd suggested contacting Keith Stenning, however Keith has already suggested that he doesn't believe there to be any problems in the village. It is possible to apply for a decrease in speed limit but this would take some time. Cllr. Day will speak to independent engineers to see whether there is a possibility of getting some pro bono advice. He will also investigate making an application for a 20 MPH speed limit.*

## 10) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY – None – Noted

## 11) HILLWERKE TRUST

- a) New Playground Equipment – *The Hillwerke Trust have now received 3 quotes for the new equipment and installation is planned for the end of the school holidays. The best proposal was considered to be from Wicksteed at a cost of £11,800 + VAT. Cllr. Tinson explained the proposal of the Parish Council funding the project and possibly claiming back the VAT (The Hillwerke Trust would reimburse the Council for full amount until such funds were reclaimed) to the tax office. He was told that if it is for the good of the Community, this was permitted. The Hillwerke Trust will make provision in their budget for this cost to be covered should it not be refunded. The Council voted for this to go ahead (4 were in favour / 3 abstained) as long as the accountant agrees it is good practice. Cllr. Green expressed concern that no more fundraising activities were planned for maintaining the Hillwerke Trust fund. Cllr. Day seconded this opinion.*

## 12) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND

- a) Complaint about playground equipment – *A complaint has been received from a Parishioner about the 'Spinner' in the playground – Noted. The Council have taken all necessary steps to ensure proper*

*risk assessments are carried out on the equipment and this is assessed by a professional body (Rospa) on an annual basis. The Clerk is to write to the Parishioner explaining this.*

### **13) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL**

- a) *Report from Cllr. Lynn French – Cllr. French reported that only one application had been received for the role of Head Teacher following the retirement of the current head at the end of December. The School will be re-advertising the role in September.*

### **14) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE**

- a) *Strimming around the Playground – Cllr. Green will ask the Contractor whether this is / should be carried out as when the Playground Contractor was painting the Play Area he said it hadn't and did it himself.*

### **15) ASTON ROWWANT CRICKET CLUB**

- a) *Astonbury – Presentation by Aston Rowant Cricket Club – A presentation was given by Francois from the Cricket Club. Cllr. Green explained that there had been concerns expressed by some of the parishioners and it was generally felt that more communication and consideration to the residents would have been appreciated. Francois completely accepted this and it would be noted for next year. He then explained the following:*

- i. More money spent this year on the services of a professional management company.*
- ii. Badged Security Officers & volunteer marshals.*
- iii. Shortcuts through the stables etc would be closed and staffed.*
- iv. TKK Welfare are offering a 'Lost & Found' service and a safe place if help is needed*
- v. Security will be briefed to protect properties.*
- vi. Licence for up to 5000 though so far, only 300 tickets have been sold. There were 1500 last year and some were turned away.*
- vii. 2.5km of secure fencing would surround the perimeter of the event.*
- viii. Fully insured for Public liability / Indemnity.*
- ix. First Aid on site.*
- x. Start time for bands is 5pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August, finishing at 11pm but a disco will continue until 1.30am inside a marquee.*
- xi. Start time on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August is 12pm with the finishing time as above.*

*A question was asked as to why not the Point to point land but this had not been considered. The area was chosen for the back drop, shelter for families and because of the very generous offer from the landowner.*

*Concern was expressed about the noise and Francois explained that the staging & speakers would be directed at the trees away from the village and would have hay bales behind them as extra sound insulation from the village. Any sound after 11pm would be inside the marquee which will also have hay bales behind it as sound insulation.*

*Security was also a concern and Francois explained that a 2.5km fence would be erected around the whole event.*

*The Council thanked Francois for his presentation and wished the cricket club every success in its fundraising event.*

- b) *Marquee at Aston Rowant Cricket Club – Further to previous concerns about whether Planning was needed, the Council had been told planning would be applied for if needed but nothing has been communicated since & nothing was on the SODC website. Cllr. Day asked what the marquee is for and how long would it be there for. Francois explained that it would be used for Cricket Club and associated use only and the intention is for the summer months only. The Club have also proposed to Aston Rowant School that some of their art (perhaps a competition) be displayed in the marquee. Cllr. Day had spoken to SODC and as long as the marquee is there for cricket use only, no planning is necessary.*

### **16) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES**

- a) Report from Cllr. Hetherington – *Cllr. Hetherington proposed printing 500 more Walks leaflets as these are proving to be very popular. This would be at a cost of £706.63 and is within budget. The resale value will be rising to £3 each which more than covers the cost. The Council agreed with this proposal. Cllr. Hetherington also proposed that a repair is made to the Moors Footpath. He and Cllr. Gibbons are negotiating a cost with Aston Park Stud that they will lay the planings.*

**17) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS**

- a) Appointment of replacement Parish Member to the Chilterns Conservation Board - *The Council voted that Duncan Boulton is their preferred choice. The Clerk is to respond on their behalf.*

**18) CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Thank you email from Thame & District Citizen's Advice Bureau for their grant of £115 for 2015/2016 - *Noted*  
b) The Clerk Magazine – July 2015 - *Noted*

**19) WEBSITE**

- a) Item for amendment on the website – None - *noted*

**20) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman**

None

**21) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**CHAIRMAN**

Lynn Lloyd and Ian White

30th June 2015

#### District Council Activities

Now that we are in June, things are beginning to get busy. Ian continues to learn the ropes, With training on Planning, Audit and Governance under his belt and Licensing with more Planning coming up, Ian is getting a much better understanding of how things work. He has also had his first briefing for his role as the District's representative on the Police And Crime Commissioner's Panel which gives us the opportunity to influence the strategic aims of the Police and make challenges to ensure that the community's requirements are met where possible.

Lynn is taking the lead in supporting the Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan Initiative, and both Lynn and Ian have attended the Steering Group Meetings lead up to the Launch Event on 2nd July.

We both supported the Sydenham Fair and the Chinnor Open Garden Events, and the weather was very kind to both! The same could not be said for the Windmill Open Day or the Village Centre Food Festival, but in spite of the wind, rain and cold, Ian attended and enjoyed the events, and we hope that these will both be run next year, with more sunshine and no rain!

We both attended the Cemex Development Appeal against the housing proposed between Old Kiln Lakes and Greenwood Avenue and again, Councillor Pat Haywood (Chair, Chinnor Parish Council), and Peter Brook (Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan), were among those who make presentations on behalf of the Community.

Ian visited the Agrivert Recycling Centre at Benson, which processes our food and garden waste, with output being in the form of compost, a very high quality liquid fertilizer for

farmers, and the generation of up to 2.5 megawatts of electricity produced by generators burning the methane gas which would otherwise degrade the ozone layer.

Lynn has attended a number of meetings with the developers at Old Kiln Lakes, continuing the process to ensure that the developer delivers the promised additional benefits, and she has also attended a meeting supporting Sydenham Parish Council at SOHA to discuss the way forward in respect of their property in Sydenham.

We are also working with Aston Rowant Parish Council to help facilitate various matters around the Astonbury Music Festival, later this summer at Kingston Blount.

Lynn has also attended a conference in London in which future developments in IT were showcased and the possible use for Local Government were explored.

Lynn also had the pleasure of representing the District at the Chiltern Conservation Board's Farming Awareness Day and at the Chilterns Building Design Awards.

In addition to the above, we are also dealing with a further three matters raised by residents and two matters additional raised by the Parish Councils.

That's it for June.