

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 12th June, 2013.

Present: Cllrs.P. Gibbons (in the Chair), P. Hetherington, P. Rooksby, J. Knight and M. Day. Also present were C/Cllr David Wilmshurst & Alex Green (on behalf of The Poors Hillock Trust)

1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. R. Armitage (holiday), G. Crossley (previous engagement) and D/Cllr. D. Brown.

2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** - None.

3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 8th May, 2013, were approved and signed.**

4) **MATTERS ARISING**

a) Storage of Hard & electronic files for the Parish Council – The parish Council decided not to purchase a fire-proof safe for the storage of documents but to utilise a locked store room in the village hall loft for the purpose. Parish Clerk to arrange with Rob Holt (Chairman of the Village Hall)

5) **OPEN FORUM** – Nothing to report

6) **PLANNING**

a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:

P12/S2796/FUL Demolition of existing 15 Flats and erection of 6 flats (4 x 2 bed & 2 x 1 bed) & 4 semi-detached houses (3 x 3 bed & 1 x 2 bed) and 1 x 3 bed detached house with associated parking, bin/bicycle store & garden sheds (amended plans received 26/04/13) at Bakers Piece House, Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SN – *Rejected by the Parish Council. No final decision has yet been made and is still pending though it is recognised that the loss of trees is considered to be too significant a loss.*

P13/S1232/HH Demolition of the existing outbuilding/store and construction of a new garage, utility snug / office, shower & wc at 2 Icknield Close, Kingston Blount OX39 4SRS – *Should be approved*

P13/S1256/AG To construct roadways through woodland and repairs to tracks for extraction of timber at Kingston House, Kingston Hill, Kingston Blount, (in the Parishes of Aston Rowant and Crowell) OX39 4SW – *No strong views*

P13/S1625/LB Replacement windows and back door at Chiltern Cottage, Pleck lane, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RU – *Should be approved*

b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.**

No decisions made

c) It was agreed that the clerk should email the Parish Council details when it arrives before sending out the hardcopy for approval so that the Councillors are aware of what is coming. The Address is to be included in the Subject heading as well as the reference.

7) **FINANCE**

a) The following payments were noted:

	£	p
Clerk – April salary		
B. Wilson – April salary		
B. Wilson – expenses		66.55
Jack Brown – Litter Picker		24.76
S. Johns – mileage (includes VAT course)		48.75
S. Johns – Minutes & Meetings Course (25/06/13)		42.00
Chinnor Village Centre annual grant		555.00
Chinnor United Benefice – churchyard maintenance		896.00
– Chairman's allowance		95.00
– Vice-Chairman's allowance		80.00
Thame and District C.A.B. annual grant		115.00
M40 group grant		200.00
Thames Valley Air Ambulance annual grant		110.00
South & Vale Carers annual grant		58.00
Zurich Insurance – annual premium		645.80
HM Revenue & Customs		47.80
MK Watts – April Grounds Maintenance		240.00

b) The following payments were approved:

Clerk – May Salary	
Brenda Wilson – May Salary	
S. Johns – Stationery & postage (stamps) expenses	7.97
Mh-p Internet Ltd	54.00
The Post Office (HMRC)	47.80
SODC – Local Development Framework Hard Copies	60.00
Retirement gift for Brenda Wilson	25.00
Peter Lambert – Audit of accounts 2012 / 2013	75.00
Oxon South and Vale CAB	115.00
MK Watts – May Grounds Maintenance	240.00
Spirehead Properties Ltd (Materials for KB play area painting)	337.78

d) Receipts as follows were noted:

No receipts

d) The current financial situation as at 31st May, 2013:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	10759.19
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1088.36
National Savings	10917.05
Village Hall Sinking Fund	(1555.41)
Play Area Sinking Fund – main.	(4476.90)
Play Area Sinking Fund – capital	(2704.95)
Parish Notes Sinking Fund	(1000.00)
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Fund	(5376.38)
VAS Maintenance Fund	(538.00)
Poors Hillock Admin. Sinking Fund	(250.00)
Cash	1.19

8) HIGHWAYS

Nothing to report

9) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY

- Parish Clerk to write to Colin Grenville advising him that he needs to resign as a new trustee has been sourced. He is also to be thanked for his services to the Trust. A new trustee will be appointed at the next Parish meeting in July.
- Alex Green to write to the Charity Commission asking them to clarify the purpose of the charity.

10) **HILLWERKE TRUST** – Nothing to report.

11) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL

- The ‘Moors March’ – a new initiative to encourage walking to School and improve the traffic problem at the School. – All the Parish Council agreed this is a worthy cause and a cheque for £100.00 was raised and signed in order to help with costs.

12) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- Report from Cllr. Hetherington – There is a Parish walk arranged for Saturday 20th July at 10am. This will be the new Aston Rowant Discovery trail (5.3 miles).
- Protecting Aston Rowant’s Village Pubs – Parish Clerk to write to D/Cllr. D. Brown / SODC asking for information about the legislation that allows Parish Councils to have their village pubs listed by South Oxfordshire District Council as South Oxfordshire District Council as assets of community value, making it harder for property developers to strip a village of its’ social hubs
- Village Entrance Flower Tubs – It was noted that the Lambert Arms are unable to finance Aston Rowant’s flower tubs.

13) CORRESPONDENCE was circulated

- Letter of thanks from The Village Centre for the Parish Council’s donation of £555.00

- b) Letter of thanks from South & Vale Carers Centre for the Parish Council's donation of £58.00
- c) Email of thanks from M40 CEG for the Parish Council's donation of £200.00
- d) Reminder from Complete Weed Control for 2013 – Parish Clerk to find out when (and if) the deep clean is arranged for the area as the weed controlling will depend on this, and feed back to Cllr. Hehterington.
- e) Email of thanks from the CAB for the parish Council's donation of £115.00 (& request for a revised cheque due to their change of name)
- f) Letter of thanks from the Air Ambulance for the Parish Council's donation of £110.00.
- g) Chalk and Trees (Chiltern Conservation Board Magazine) Summer 2013
- h) Chiltern Magazine – Summer 2013

14) WEBSITE

- a) Upgrade site to 'One a month' permitted changes at a cost of £60.00 per year (£120.00 saving) – This was agreed by the Parish Council. Parish Clerk to arrange. Parish Clerk to write to the Webmaster to ask what clarifies a change.

15) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) Report from D/Cllr. D. Brown (See attached)
- b) C/Cllr. David Wilmshurst gave a report on the reorganisation of the Council. He will communicate with the Parish Clerk following their inspection of the Roads in the Parish once he receives feedback from Keith Stenning. The outcome of this will depend on the budget.

16) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman

Nothing to report

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 10th July, 2013, at Kingston Blount Village Hall, at 7.45pm.

CHAIRMAN

Report from District Councillor Dorothy Brown

Planning Update New Permitted Development Rights

New Planning development rights from 30th May 2013.

Contact – Planning Paula Fox – Development Manager South Oxfordshire -
Paula.Fox@southandvale.gov.uk 01491 823741

Among the changes are an increase in the extent to which householders can extend their properties without the need for a formal application. This will allow owners of terraced and semi-detached properties to add single storey rear extensions of up to six metres in depth and owners of detached properties up to eight metres provided their house is not within a CONSERVATION AREA or area of outstanding natural beauty. There will, however be a requirement to notify adjoining neighbours and if objections are received planning officer will be required to consider whether the impact of the extension on neighbours amenity is acceptable.

Information can be viewed at

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/neighbour> consultation scheme guidance may13.pdf

There is also legislation for the change of use of some offices to residential purposes without the need for planning permission.

A briefing for Parish councils on the changes will take place in due course.

Fly Tipping

The employment of Seth Cornfield who joined the Environmental Protection Team last March has significantly increased the enforcement work and has developed our working relationship with Biffa (our waste contractor) responsible for clearance of fly- tipping, TVP also being involved.

Effective fly-tipping enforcement relies heavily on information supplied by members of the public.

Work is being carried out to put up more signs around hot-spots to give information on who to contact.

Seth.Cornfield@southandvale.gov.uk 01491 823000 asking for Environmental Health Services

Towns and larger villages infrastructure fund 2013 -15

SODC has set aside £150.000 over a two year period to fund infrastructure improvements in towns and larger villages in our area this includes Chinnor.

The following projects are examples of what is likely to be eligible for funding: seating : shop front improvements or empty shop projects : signs : notice boards : floral planters : Christmas lights : banners etc : village and town signs and fingerposts.

The grant is for a maximum of 50 percent of the cost of the project. Eight rounds of application and the first deadline is 28th June 2013.

info trudy.godfrey@southoxon.gov.uk 01235 540346

Please do not hesitate to contact on 01844 358283 e.mail dorothy.brown@southoxon.gov.uk