

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 10th June 2015.

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

1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. L. French & P. Tinson

2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None*

3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 13th May 2015, were approved and signed.**

4) **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Defibrillator for Aston Rowant – Mandy Brine, a Parishioner from Aston Rowant summarised the reasons for the need for another defibrillator to be installed in the Parish with the proposal of it being outside Aston Rowant School. The Parish Council agreed to support the proposal in principle but felt that more work was needed with regards to the location and the funding, being that it is not budgeted for in this financial year. The Clerk handed Mandy a leaflet called 'Adopt a Kiosk' detailing a scheme whereby BT will fund the electricity needed to run a defibrillator if it is installed inside the phone box in Aston Rowant.
- b) Burglaries in the Parish – Following unofficial reports of suspicious activity in the Parish, the Clerk is to put an official note from the Parish Council on the website about calling 101. A link will also be placed on the Community Facebook page. The Clerk will advise the local PCSO what is proposed.
- c) Parish News article in the Parish Notes – Cllr. Green confirmed that he would produce a Parish Report in the Parish Notes from the August / September issue onwards.

5) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** – *The Report from the District Councillors accompanies these minutes.*

6) **OPEN FORUM** – *4 members of the public were present – Mandy Brine, Tom Sowerby, Mike Gorton (for item 4a above), and Jeanette Ewan who had an interest in item 4d below.*

7) **PLANNING**

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

None - Noted

b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:

None - Noted

c) Community led Planning Workshop – *Cllr. Day will advise in writing who will attend the workshop on the 15th July.*

d) Marquee in the grounds of Aston Rowant Cricket Club – *Cllr. Green reported that he had met with the Chairman of the Cricket club. The intention is for the marquee to remain in the grounds for the whole season and they had been told by a planning Barrister on their Committee that planning permission was not needed. Cllr. Green will be discussing this issue again as Cllr Day reported that Planning is required (also confirmed by an email from SODC). Cllr. Green will suggest planning is applied for and he will feedback the outcome of the conversation / meeting as soon as possible & within a week to the Councillors.*

*Cllr Green also reported that the Cricket Club is raising funds for a much needed upgrade to the existing club house. The main fund raiser each year is 'Astonbury' which, this year is a two day music festival being held in the grounds of Kingston House Park Estate. Jeanette Ewan (Parishioner) requested that the Paddocks (which back on to private properties) were not used and only land to the right of the main road through the Estate is used for the event. A separate company has been set up for the purpose called 'Astonbury Enterprises'. Parishioner Mandy Brine reported that she has been informed that all relevant licences have been obtained from SODC and residents consulted. D/Cllr Lloyd said she would ask D/Cllr White to get the details of the licence and to check the licencing rules. Cllr. Day thought it would have been neighbourly to consult the local villagers and that whilst their legal obligations may have been met, their moral ones had not. Cllr. Green will feedback the comments to ARCC and report back to the Council. ***

*** From the next agenda, a separate line item will be created to report on Aston Rowant Cricket Club.*

8) **FINANCE**

a) The following payments were noted:	£ p
Clerk April Salary	
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	28.20
Alice Surman (Litter Picker)	25.32

MK Watts		240.00
Peter Lambert FCCA		75.00
Chinnor Village Centre Annual Grant		555.00
Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust		110.00
Chinnor United Benefice		896.00
M40 CE Group		200.00
South & Vale Carers Centre		58.00
Thame & District CAB		115.00
Dell Laptop for Parish Clerk		493.99
Getmapping PLC (subs)	} Invoices received after the agenda was produced	33.60
Monitor for Parish Clerk		115.00
Green Gardens		37.50
George Stevens		270.00

b) The following payments were approved:

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.

c) Receipts as follows were noted:

SODC (Street Cleansing)	223.83
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d) The current financial situation as at 29th May 2015:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	13691.46
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1089.48
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 – v2 May 2015 – *Noted. The budget is to be discussed at the next meeting.*

f) Election Cost – *The Clerk is to write to SODC suggesting that the Election costs for 2015 are paid over the next 3 years as the Council did not budget for an election. The Council will put a budget in place to replace the expenditure and also to budget for the possibility of another election in 4 years' time.*

9) HIGHWAYS

- a) High Speed train possibility – monitoring of build traffic – *Noted*
- b) *Cllr. Gibbons reported that the clearing of ditches was now complete.*

10) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY – None – *Noted*

11) HILLWERKE TRUST

- a) Play equipment Proposal – *Cllr. Tinson is to explore the possibility of purchasing the proposed playground equipment through the Parish Council so that the VAT can be claimed back. This will be on the agenda for July.*

12) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL – None - *Noted*

13) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- a) Report from Cllr. Hetherington – *Cllr. Hetherington reported that the village flower tubs have been replaced by Michelle Harding and Simon. The Clerk is to send formal thanks to them both for their continued efforts. Cllr. Hetherington will provide contact details. Cllr. Hetherington also reported that*

Chinnor have a plaque showing a plan of dedicated trees that were planted to commemorate WW1. He asked whether the Hillwerke Trust would allow a similar (durable) plaque to be put on the outside of the Village Hall. Cllr. Crossley agreed on behalf of the Hillwerke Trust.

- b) Proposal to further improve the surface of the Moors footpath – *The Moors footpath is deteriorating and Cllr. Hetherington believes 3 more loads of planings are needed (from the Cricket pitch to the school). He will speak to the contractor regarding a quote. The Councillors supported this and it is within budget.*
- c) Quote for work at Fiveways – *The estimate is £350 + VAT which was approved and is within budget.*
- d) Grass Cutting – Responsibility – *Cllr. Green agreed to take over the responsibility of grass cutting from Cllr. Gibbons. Cllr. Gibbons will continue to oversee general maintenance, potholes and ditches etc in the Parish.*

14) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Thank you email from M40 CEG Group for their grant of £200 for 2015/2016
- b) Public Liability Insurance Documents from the Grass Cutting Contractor (With the Parish Clerk)
- c) Thank you letter from Thames Valley Air Ambulance for their grant of £110 for 2015/2016
- d) Thank you letter from Chinnor Village Centre for their grant of £555 for 2015/2016
- e) BT 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme (handed to parishioner Mandy Brine)
- f) Thank you email from South & Vale Carers for their grant of £58 for 2015/2016
- g) Chiltern Magazine – Summer 2015
- h) Letter from SOFEA requesting help with funding
- i) Guideposts Newsletter

15) WEBSITE

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

16) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman

- a) *Cllr. Green reported that he had met with (Area Steward) Keith Stenning. The grass cutting in the Parish was discussed and there is money available if all of the grass cutting is carried out by the Parish Council. He also asked that the Parish Council should consider all the things that OCC may be doing that they are unhappy about and note them. Keith informed Cllr Green that they will continue to cut back bushes etc if there is a safety issue and will only clean street signs for the same reasons. There was no opportunity at the time to talk about anything specific but cases can be put forward on an individual basis.*

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 8th July 2015 at Aston Rowant Church at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN

Ian White and Lynn Lloyd

31st May 2015

District Council Activities

May saw the General and Local Government Elections which resulted in John Howell being returned as our MP, Lynn being reelected to the District Council (SODC) and Ian being elected to join her. Ian faces a steep learning curve, but has the benefit of Lynn's experience to draw on!

After the Getting to Know You Forum, we both attended our first Parish Council Meetings of the term; Lynn at Aston Rowant and Kingston Blount, and Ian at Towersey. These are both new to the Ward together with Sydenham, following Boundary Revisions that came into effect this May.

After meeting with Chinnor Parish Council, we both attended the Taylor Wimpey Planning Appeal in Thame about the land behind Glynswood and Greenwood Meadow, together with Councillor Pat Haywood (Chair, Chinnor Parish Council), Peter Brook (Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan), and Daniel Woodward (Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Society Presentation), all of whom made a presentation to the Appeal. A presentation about the possible impact on wildlife was also handed in to the Appeal by Mr. T C Downey. Now we have to wait for the result of the Appeal!

After that we both attended the first Full Council Meeting of the term. Lynn was confirmed as Cabinet Member for IT, HR, Customer Services and the Corporate Services Project, Ian was confirmed as Committee Member for Licensing, Scrutiny and substitute member for Planning and Joint Scrutiny. Ian was also confirmed as District Council Representative for the Thames Valley Policing and Crime Commissioner Panel.

The rest of May has been taken up with meetings with SODC officers and Cabinet members for Lynn, who has also attended a meeting at Taylor Wimpey's office in Abingdon with members of Chinnor Parish Council, to review progress made by the developer to deliver their commitments for Old Kiln Lakes and agree the next steps. Ian has also attended his first training session on Planning.

In addition, we are dealing with three matters raised by residents about planning and an infrastructure issue raised by one of the Parish Councils. That's it for May!