

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 8th June 2016.

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

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. P. Tinson
- 2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None*
- 3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 11th May 2016, were approved and signed.**
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING** – *Cllr. Tinson has written to the Parishioner regarding the ARCC funding (Item 17a from May Meeting minutes) explaining that the grant given in 2006 was towards restoration works at the Pavilion. He received thanks and therefore this matter can be closed.*
- 5) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** – *The Report from the District Councillors & County Councillor accompanies these minutes.*
- 6) **OPEN FORUM** – *Five members of the public were present. Questions were raised with regards to Item 7c – See below.*
- 7) **PLANNING**
 - a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
 - P16/1564/HH** Single storey extension and associated improvement works to the house and garage at Ferndale House, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ – *Recommendation: Should be approved*
 - P16/S1565/LB** As above (Listed Building consent) – *Recommendation: Should be approved*
 - P16/S1597/HH** First floor extension at 2 Aston Park, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SW: *Currently in circulation*
 - b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:
 - P16/S1153/HH** Erection of a new attached outbuilding to replace existing hardstanding outdoor tennis court at Orchard House, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ – *Granted - Noted*
 - c) **Neighbourhood Plan – Boundaries** – *Cllr. Green reported that no residents from Crowell attended the ‘kick-off’ meeting on 10th May and they also have not attended this Parish Council meeting, so it was proposed by Cllr. Hetherington that the boundaries for the proposed Neighbourhood Plan would be fixed as the Parish boundary. This was seconded by Cllr. Day and was a unanimous decision. Cllr. Green noted that it is possible for Crowell to be added at a later date if there is interest in supporting and be involved with the plan. Cllr. Green attended a SODC meeting on 7th June and reported that SODC 2011 is due to be replaced by SODC 2032. Not all the information is yet in the Public domain. Small villages have a target of 5% development (Potentially 20 houses in the Parish of Aston Rowant). The target is a total of 20,000 homes in the next 15 years. Cllr. Green will hold a Neighbourhood Plan meeting before the July meeting in order to share the information gathered and have further discussions. The Neighbourhood Plan will therefore be on the July agenda.*
 - d) **Asset of Community Value – The Cherry Tree Pub** – *The Clerk is to write to the Policy, Partnership & Engagement Manager at SODC asking whether there are any costs involved to register the Council’s intention as a bidder. If there are no costs then intention will be registered, whereby a 6 month full moratorium period will commence and end on 17th November 2106. This will give the Council time to assess whether there is interest from the community to develop plans and raise funds to bid for the land. This decision was proposed by Cllr. Hetherington and seconded by Cllr. Crossley.*
 - e) **Open Spaces Audit Consultation** – *Discussion on this was postponed to the July meeting once the Centenary Fields Plan (a nationwide programme to secure recreational spaces in perpetuity) has been fully investigated.*

8) FINANCE

a) The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):	£	p
Clerk April Salary		
S. Johns (Printer Cartridges)	26.99	
Alice Surman (Litter)	25.32	
Peter Lambert	75.00	
George Stevens (Grass Cutting)	175.00	
Drain Gain Ltd	3480.00	
MK Watts	240.00	
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

b) The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):

Clerk May Salary	
S. Johns (Windows 365 annual subscription)	79.99
Alice Surman (Litter)	25.32
Dab hands	25.00
George Stevens (Grass Cutting)	225.00
Chairman Annual allowance	95.00
Vice Chairman Annual allowance	80.00
Chinnor Community Pool	50.00
AON UK Limited	395.44
The Chiltern Society (Annual subscription)	30.00
Kingston Blount Street Fayre (Queen's Birthday Grant)	427.00
Complete Weed Control (Not on Agenda)	240.00
MK Watts (Not on Agenda)	240.00

c) Receipts as follows were noted:

SODC (Street cleansing)	226.29
SODC (Queen's Birthday grant)	427.00
SSE (Grant for Memorial Plaque)	450.00

d) The current financial situation as at 27th May 2016:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	15020.25
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1090.05
National Savings	11224.62
Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)
Play Area Reserve Fund	(5350)
Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(5531)
Cash	1.19

e) Budget 2016 / 2017 v2 – *Noted*

f) *Bank Signatories – Following the resignation of Cllr. Gibbons, Cllr. Day was proposed by Cllr. Hetherington as the new signatory, this was seconded by Cllr. Crossley. New bank mandate forms were signed by Cllr. Day and will be signed again by Cllr. Tinson. One all the individual forms have been signed and forms of identity approved by the bank, the Clerk will send them off so that bank approval can be given.*

9) HIGHWAYS

a) *Traffic Calming – Cllr. Day presented draft plans for suggested traffic calming measures in the parish. He will get some costs and present them at the next meeting.*

10) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY – None – Noted

11) HILLWERKE TRUST

a) *Cllr. Crossley reported that the car-park has been re-painted and repaired. There have been problems with the hinges on the main doors for which 2 quotes were obtained and all hinges on both doors are to be replaced.*

12) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND None – Noted

13) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL – Cllr. L. French reported that a new key-stage 2 teacher has been recruited and will be starting in September. The existing acting head teacher will take on the permanent role of head teacher, which has already taken effect.

14) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE

a) *Cllr. French is unable to carry out this responsibility currently and therefore Cllr. Green agreed to continue responsibility for grass cutting with Cllr. Crossley taking over responsibility for the Kingston Blount Playing Field*

cuts. C/Cllr. Wilmshurst advised that any excess growth on dangerous bends or covering street signs should be reported directly to him.

- b) Oxfordshire Together have still not given the Parish Council a correct map with regards to what they do in the parish.*

15) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB (ARCC)

- a) Cllr. Green reported that the cricket club are working on new plans which will be submitted to SODC. A request was made by the club to consult with the Parish Council about the plans but not at a public meeting. After consulting with Democratic Services at SODC, this was declined by Cllr. Day on the Parish Council's behalf.*

16) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES (FAAG) -

- a) Report from Cllr. P. Hetherington:
- I. Removal of Hybridised Bluebells from Fiveways - Bluebells have been removed and a refund made. English daffodils will be planted in the autumn.*
 - II. AR7 Moors Path and Fiveways update – The view of TOE2 is that now the additional parking has been removed from current planning application on the second pitch of the cricket club, the path upgrade can go ahead, subject to funding. Plans are on hold for the time being. The Clerk will request some funding from the Kingston Blount Street Fayre.*
 - III. Aston Rowant School Visit – Members of the FAAG took years 3 & 4 from Aston Rowant School to Fiveways which was very well received. The children were also introduced to some of the history of Aston Rowant village.*

17) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS

- a) Resignation of Cllr. P. Gibbons / Appointment to Chinnor Village Centre – *Cllr. Gibbons has resigned from the Parish Council and a Casual-Vacancy notice has been placed on the Noticeboards and website. If a by-Election is not required, the vacancy will be filled by co-option at the September meeting. The Clerk is to write to Mr Gibbons giving formal thanks for his time with the Council and Cllr. Hetherington proposed that a bottle of wine be given to him as a thank you gesture from the Parish. This was seconded by Cllr. Day and Cllr. Hetherington will take care of this. Cllr. Hetherington will take on the role of liaison with Chinnor Village Centre.*
- b) The Number 40 Bus update – *Cllr. Crossley reported that the Number 40 bus route is to continue on an indefinite basis. Everyone agreed that this is excellent news.*
- c) Clerk's contract and job description – This was discussed but as some of the councillors had not read the contract, it was agreed that they would approve it by email and then ratified and a minute made at the July meeting.
- d) Clerk's pay review 2016 / 2017 – *This will be agreed at the July meeting.*
- e) Standing Orders – *This was postponed until the July meeting.*
- f) Fields in Trust – Centenary Fields Programme – This was postponed to discuss at the July meeting once the Clerk has made some enquiries.

18) CLERK'S REPORT – ITEMS NOT NEEDING NOTICE OF DECISIONS – None - Noted

19) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Acknowledgement of grant by M40 CE Group*
- b) Acknowledgement of grant by South & Vale Carers*
- c) Outstanding Chilterns magazine 2016*
- d) Acknowledgement of grant by Chinnor Village Hall*
- e) Acknowledgement of grant by South & Vale Citizens Advice Bureau*
- f) Acknowledgement of grant by Thame Valley Air Ambulance*
- g) Home Start Southern Oxfordshire request for Parish Council Support*
- h) Chiltern Society Magazine – Summer 2016*

20) WEBSITE

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

21) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman – None - Noted

22) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 13th July 2016 at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm

CHAIRMAN

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL **JUNE 2016** FROM CLLR DAVID WILMSHURST

GENERAL OCC REPORT

PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

As previously reported, Oxfordshire's District Councils have appointed consultants PwC to prepare a report on the future of local government in Oxfordshire, and OCC has appointed consultants Grant Thornton to do the same. The districts' previously preferred option that comprised four unitary councils, including parts of Gloucestershire and Nottinghamshire has collapsed because of legislative issues relating to cross-border authorities. It is unclear whether the reduced size of four unitaries that don't include the neighbours could be viable.

PwC will report in June, followed by Grant Thornton in July. All councils will then submit proposals to central government in the autumn, following a period of public consultation. In advance of this, stakeholders can participate in a 'call for evidence' here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/oxfordshire-evidence>

Additionally, town and parish councils are invited to attend workshops to discuss the issues on the following dates:

Date	Locality
Mon 6 June	Thame
Tues 7 June	Henley
Thurs 9 June	Witney
Tues 14 June	Chipping Norton
Wed 15 June	Banbury
Thurs 16 June	Faringdon
Tues 21 June	Bicester
Wed 22 June	Abingdon
Tues 28 June	Didcot
Wed 29 June	Wantage

Names of delegates and the preferred meeting should be emailed to:
ask@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

SUBSIDISED BUSES UPDATE

Bus subsidies will end on 20 July. A full update on the work that has taken place to minimise the impact of the withdrawal of the subsidises (including using public buses for home to school transport, allocating S106 funding where available and the launch of a new pilot scheme using the downtime of our fleet vehicles) can be obtained from the OCC website here:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/subsidisedbuses.

OXFORDSHIRE'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES SCORES IN TOP 5%

Recently announced results show that last year, Oxfordshire's Adults Social Care services ranked as the 6th best of 152 upper tier authorities in achieving outcomes judged against the 'Adult Social Care Outcome Framework'. This framework measures how well services achieve outcomes that are most important to people and informs the development of reporting local priorities and progress to citizens. Last year Oxfordshire performed above the national average on 20 of the 27 measures included in the framework.

OXFORDSHIRE CARE HOME WINS RARE 'OUTSTANDING' RATING

Vale House, a 40 bed specialist dementia home in Sandford, has recently been inspected by CQC and as a result was given the most positive grading available to the inspectorate. It is the first in the county to be rated 'outstanding' by the CQC – a feat achieved by only one per cent of homes in the South East. The home is privately run and the organisation is 'not for profit'. The original Vale House was located in Botley, and began operating in 1990. It relocated to Sandford in 2012, after the organisation bought the land from Oxfordshire County Council. Vale House had won a competitive tender process to build their new home, fulfilling the ambition of OCC to use the land for a specialist Dementia Care Home for the people of Oxfordshire. OCC buys 25 of the 40 beds in the home and has ambitions for similar projects elsewhere in the county.

EIGHTEEN LOCATIONS FOR NEW CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

A £2m boost to the future provision of children's services in Oxfordshire has been agreed by OCC's Cabinet with a further £1m of one-off funding set to help communities keep yet more of the current children's centres network open. The plans build on the brand new service for 0-19 year olds agreed by the Cabinet in February and deliver services from 18 locations with strengthened outreach services – as opposed to the eight originally proposed. The new £14m service includes £2m of additional money agreed by county councillors in February and would provide a safe, effective and co-ordinated system that targets resources on protecting the most vulnerable families - and works hand-in-hand with schools, health services, voluntary and community groups. By combining children's social care and early intervention in one seamless service, it represents a completely fresh approach to delivering services for children, young people and their families at a time of rising demand and reduced Government funding.

POSITIVE RESULTS FROM INITIATIVE TO TACKLE DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE

A new initiative by OCC and NHS has seen then number of delayed transfers of care reduced by 30% since December 2015, despite higher demands over the winter and a reduction in hospital beds. The Oxfordshire health and social care system has long struggled with the timely discharge of patients from acute and community hospitals to the next stage of their care. This is often referred to as 'bed-blocking' or 'delayed transfers of care', which are costly to the system as a whole and can increase people's dependence rather than promoting their independence. The initiative involved the block purchase of 150 care beds and the development of an integrated hub to manage assessments and bed allocations.

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WAINE ELECTED NEW OCC CHAIRMAN

OCC elected a new Chairman for the 2016/17 council year at its Annual General Meeting in May. Cllr Michael Waine is OCC's elected representative for the Bicester Town Division. He taught in Oxfordshire for 37 years, 27 of which were as Headteacher of Glory Farm School in Bicester. He previously served on OCC's cabinet and is chairman of the Bicester Learning Academy.

DECISION TAKEN ON LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR A40

A landmark decision to take decisive action to solve transport problems on the A40 between Witney and Oxford has been made by OCC's Cabinet. A long-term strategy will be pursued which will focus on a new dual carriageway from Witney to a new Park and Ride at Eynsham, as well as further bus priority lanes connecting the Eynsham Park and Ride toward Oxford. Council transport planners will now draw up more detailed plans which, it is hoped, will help to secure more than £50m in government funding to make the proposals a reality.

SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View
(Or What The Council Is Doing)

June 2016

Firstly my apologies for this newsletter being late; unfortunately I have been laid up with a nasty little infection that three lots of antibiotics and Granny's Herbal Horror have failed to cure so far. Apparently there is a lot of it about (the bug and not the herbal Horror.)

New Telephone numbers

The new telephone system at 135 Milton Park is now up and running and hopefully everyone will be aware of the new contact numbers, but just in, case our main customer service number is **01235 422422**.

Our new department numbers are:

Planning - **01235 422600**

Building control - **01235 422700**

Environmental health, food and safety - **01235 422403**

Licensing - **01235 422556**

Elections - **01235 422407**

Car parks - **01235 422417**

Community safety - **01235 422590**

Street naming and numbering - **01235 422344**

Oxfordshire Vision

Work continues on our bid for Devolution with our consultants Price Waterhouse Cooper. The media recently reported that the work had pretty much hit the rocks with the withdrawal of South Northants and Cotswold. As is sometimes the case, they had rushed the headline before reading the detail.

In fact, the work with PWC and the Ministry had identified that 'crossing the County Boundaries' would require Primary Legislation and as the Parliamentary Timetable for the next session is already full, the two Non-Oxon Councils agreed that it would be best for them to withdraw.

Our Plan continues to evolve and be refined, and the best source of information is the web site. This also has accurate up-dates through the Latest News Link.

<http://www.oxfordshire.vision/>

Planning and Development

Since the last report, the High Court found against us in the Judicial Review, meaning that we now do not meet the Five Year Land Supply. This is disappointing as in January this year in the Appeal against development in Greyhound Walk Thame, the Secretary of State said we did have one. This means that developers are in a much stronger position to force their applications through using the appeal

system, and it makes it all the more important for our communities to get Neighbourhood Plans in place as quickly as possible, whilst maintaining a high standard. As a Council, we are organising even more resources to support this and both Lynn and Ian are in almost constant dialogue to help support this and working on how responses to planning consultations can be improved.

As mentioned before plans for major development across the border in Buckinghamshire, for Aylesbury Vale of around 33,000 homes together with those for Wycombe DC, are being brought forward. As this has significant concerns for us, it is good that we continue to be consulted by these Authorities.

Helping People Find Homes

We've launched a brand new service to help people looking for a suitable home - it provides users with a personalised action plan that explains exactly what options are available to them, and what they should try first. It's available through our Homechoice website.

We've significantly improved the Homechoice website as well, including making it mobile-friendly so people on the housing register can search for homes to bid on when they're out and about.

The web address is:

<http://www.southoxfordshirehomechoice.org.uk/>

New section 106 bulletins for Towns and Parishes

If you're interested in how we're securing and spending infrastructure money in your area, head to the websites for our latest parish by parish bulletins on the funds we're raising through Section 106 agreements. We're also sending these bulletins directly to the relevant town and parish councils, so they can stay up to date. We'll issue these bulletins twice a year.

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/delivering-infrastructure/section-106/se-0>

PCSO update

Each year we provide £100,000 to part fund six PCSOs. Here's a quick update of just some of the activities they carried out to support people in South Oxfordshire during Quarter four.

Between 1 January and 31 March 2016 our PCSOs organised and attended a number of events, including visiting schools in Didcot to engage with staff, pupils and parents and to address parking issues, attending a Schools' Community Action Day in Thame, and holding a well-attended fraud awareness event in Wallingford which received very positive feedback. They also assisted 227 victims of crime.

Neighbourhood Planning

Berinsfield - The independent examiner has recommended that the Berinsfield neighbourhood plan should not proceed to referendum as it doesn't meet the basic conditions. We are now discussing possible ways forward with Berinsfield parish council.

Sonning Common - Subject to several modifications, the examiner has recommended that the Sonning Common neighbourhood plan can proceed to a referendum. We'll look at the recommendations that have been made and decide what action to take before moving forward with plans for the referendum.

Cholsey and Whitchurch - Cholsey parish council and Whitchurch parish council are starting to work with their local communities and are preparing their applications to set the areas covered by their respective plans.

Towersey – Towersey parish council has submitted its application and this is now going to consultation.

Rubbish And Waste – Garden Waste Discounts

Don't forget, if residents sign up to our garden waste service in June or July, they'll get 10 per cent off their annual fee. Existing garden waste customers can order an extra bin at the discounted rate.

Full details are on our web site in the 'Recycling Rubbish and Waste Section at

www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/household-collections/garden-waste

Grants

The Capital Grants Scheme window for applications is now open until 1 July 2016 for decisions by 15 October 2016. Full details are on the web site in the Grants And Community Loans Section at;

www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants-and-community-loans/capital-grants

There will be opportunities later this year;

- Round three open: 1 August to 30 September 2016 for decisions by 10 January 2017
- Round four open: 31 October to 23 December 2016 for decisions by 1 April 2017

Runners-up at inaugural Games

A team of South and Vale residents finished runners-up in the inaugural Better Club Games, an Olympic-style event for people over 55 organised by our leisure contractors GLL.

The games took place at the Windrush Leisure Centre in Witney on Saturday 21 May and featured 120 people from eight teams from across the south east and the midlands.

Web Links

In previous editions we have included HTML Links to internet sites, but the point has been well made that these don't work from a paper copy of our newsletter. If the web address is simple, we will include it here, but as some come as frankly bewildering mixes of letter, numbers and symbols, if you want to know more about a topic, it is best to go to the SODC web site and search for that piece of information.

This is just a brief summary of the work we are doing.

Editor - Cllr Ian White (ian.r.white@btinternet.com)