

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 11th March 2015.

Present: Cllrs. A. Green, G. Crossley, M. Day, P. Gibbons (in the Chair) & J.Knight & C/Cllr D. Wilmshurst

APOLOGIES: Cllr. P. Hetherington

- 1) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None*
- 2) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 11th February 2015, were approved and signed.**
- 3) **MATTERS ARISING** – *None.*
- 4) **OPEN FORUM** – *5 member of the public were present – Brian Hutton, Lynne French, Peter Dennis, Mike Gordon & Peter Tinson.*
- 5) **PLANNING**
 - a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
 - P15/S0051/FUL** Retention of two cabins to be used temporarily for 3 years. (See previous permission P11/E1816) at Aston Rowant Cricket Club, Chinnor Road, Aston Rowant, OX49 5ST – *Should be approved*
 - P15/S0265/HH** Erection of two storey front, side and rear extensions, single storey side extension and pitched roof over front porch at Mead House, Aston Rowant Road, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SN – *Should be approved*
 - P15/S0136/HH** Garage conversion into living accommodation, erection of front dormer window, relocation of existing velux window and insertion of new access door at The Garden House, The Green, Aston Rowant OX49 5ST – *Should be approved*
 - b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:
 - None** – *Noted*
 - c) 2031 Refined Options Consultation – *The SODC 2031 Local Plan is under consultation and it is estimated 15,000 houses will be needed, equivalent to six Chinnors. On top of that, Oxford City have a need for 3000 houses and a new town of 3000 houses at junction 7 of M40 is being consulted on to accommodate this need. Cllr. Day attended a meeting in Chinnor, representing Aston Rowant Parish Council. He talked to other Parish Councillors who said that they would consider the comments from Aston Rowant parish Council in their Neighbourhood Plan. The main concern is the traffic and it is hoped that Chinnor will also consider our comments and results from the recent traffic survey carried out in Kingston Blount. The intention of the Council is to get the Parish infrastructure needs included and therefore receive possible funding for future needs. Cllr. Day encouraged everyone to look at the Chinnor Neighbourhood Plan. The Consultation finishes on 2nd April 2015. A discussion took place amongst the Parishioners and there is much concern about the increased traffic and development. Cllr Day will circulate the information around the Parish Council and all will respond. The Clerk is to respond on behalf of the Parish Councillors once all the comments have been received.*
 - d) Parish Plan – *Cllr Day revisited the prospect of having a Parish Plan whereby local residents engage with the Community to tackle important issues that will influence the neighbourhood in the future such as how new housing fits in with local character, traffic calming or protecting green spaces. This is an alternative to a Neighbourhood Plan which is not suitable for a parish our size with no housing being allocated to us by SODC. The Parish Council would be keen to see local residents put their names forward if they would be interested in working on a Parish Plan as it is likely that OCC would listen to the Parish views if we had a Parish plan. Cllr. Day will add a note to the Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Notes.*
 - e) Housing Assessment – *As part of the Parish Plan Cllr Day recommends that a Housing Assessment is undertaken as part of the Parish Plan to determine what, if any local housing needs there are.*
 - f) Chinnor Housing Applications - *SODC has three approved sites in Chinnor for new housing. Greenwood Avenue, the land opposite the double glazing shop and land on the right past Mill Lane School going towards Estover Way. Information on these sites is in Chinnor PC's offices.*
 - g) Speed Survey – *All three speed surveys are now complete and the results will be published at the next meeting. Cllr. Day will pull the speed survey data together as well as undertake a simple assessment of the local highways issues so a Highways Report can be published and used to persuade SODC, developers and others that money needs to be spent on traffic issues in KB and AR.*
 - h) CEMEX Appeal – *Two sites in Chinnor have now been appealed to Department of Environment by the applicants. Taylor Wimpey for approx. 90 houses in Greenwood Meadow and 120 by CEMEX on the Crowell road. These will be a test for SODC's 2012 Core Strategy. The first appeal which will be*

determined is one in Shiplake, this is due at end of March and will indicate how the appeals in Chinnor will go.

6) FINANCE

- a) The following payments were noted:
- | | £ | p |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| Clerk January Salary | | |
| Post Office Ltd (HMRC) | 69.40 | |
| Alice Surman (Litter) | 24.76 | |
| Alex Green (Already paid) | 60.00 | |
- b) The following payments were approved:
- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| Clerk February Salary | | |
| Post Office Ltd (HMRC) | 69.40 | |
| Alice Surman (Litter) | 24.76 | |
| S Johns (Postage – April 14 to February 15) | 29.17 | |
| S Johns (Mileage – April 14 to March 15) | 93.60 | |
| S Johns (Print Cartridges & Stationery) | 45.00 | |
| P Gibbons – Mileage for 2031 Local Plan Presentation | 26.00 | |
| George Stevens | 50.00 | |
| Mh-p website hosting | 72.00 | |
- c) Receipts as follows were noted:
- | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| Walk Booklets | 20.00 | |
| HMRC – VAT Refund | 1748.35 | |
- d) The current financial situation as at 27 February 2015:
- | | | |
|---|----------|------|
| Barclays Bank – Community Account | 8246.62 | |
| Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account | 1089.35 | |
| National Savings | 11141.06 | |
| Village Hall Reserve fund | (1230) | |
| Play Area Reserve Fund | (5250) | |
| Parish Notes Reserve Fund | (1000) | |
| Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund | (2105) | |
| Cash | | 1.19 |
- e) Budget 2014/2015 – v10 February 2015 – *Noted*
- f) Costs for 2015 Village Grass Cutting – *George Stevens is the new contractor for the parish Council and has already completed the grips at the bottom of Kingston Hill. This is a 6 month trial to begin with.*
- g) Parish Council Laptop – *The Clerk has been using her own laptop for the last 2 years and it was agreed to purchase a laptop for the Parish Council needs. A budget of £750 was set which will include the necessary software and Internet security. The Clerk will report at the next meeting with the actual costs.*
- h) Quote for high visibility jackets – *Cllr. Gibbons suggested purchasing 4 medium yellow vests, 10 large and 2 large polo shirts with 'Aston Rowant Parish Council' written on the back for use by all those carrying our work for or on behalf of Aston Rowant parish Council. The total cost of this is £117.04 and all agreed that this was a good idea.*

8) HIGHWAYS

- a) M40 Group – *Defferred to the April Meeting in the absence of Cllr. Rooksby.*
- b) The No 40 Bus update – *Cllr. Crossley reported that he had contacted Alan Field, the Bus Services Manager at OCC requesting an update. Unfortunately there is still no update as the plans have not yet been finalised. They are due to report to the Cabinet Member at his discussion meeting on 19th March and the results will be announced 10 days later for implementation on 1st June. This update will go into the Parish Notes (For April / May), the Parish Website and the Kingston Blount / Aston Rowant Facebook page.*

9) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY – None - *Noted*

10) HILLWERKE TRUST – None - *Noted*

11) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL

- a) Unsocial Hours Bonfires – *Following a recent issue by the school, Cllr. Gibbons will put a reminder in the Parish Notes regarding being careful and considerate when having bonfires, especially during the day.*

12) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- a) Kingston Hill Grips – *These have been completed by the new Contractor, George Stevens.*

- b) Ditch at Kingston Stert – *The ditch referred to is actually the one opposite Kingston Blount Village Green. It has been agreed that this will be dug out by Jamie Clark.*
- c) Coffin / Moors Path – *Previously, crops have been planted too close to the edge of the field so soil is washed onto the path in wet weather. Jamie Clark will ensure that crops are planted 1 metre away from the edge from now on.*

13) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Chiltern Society Magazine – Spring 2015 - *Noted*
- b) SODC Precept confirmation of £19,200 + parish Grant (if applicable) of £204 - *Noted*
- c) Altom Tree Care Letter – *Noted*
- d) The Clerk reminded everyone to return the correspondence at each meeting - *Noted*

14) WEBSITE

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

15) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) *C/Cllr Wilmshurst reported a 1.99% rise in the Council Tax and added that it is a difficult time with regards to funding from the Government. It has been decided that the role of Chief Executive will be made redundant and the Council reorganised. A meeting is to be held in the next 2 weeks. A full copy of Cllr. Wilmshurst's report is available from the Parish Clerk on request and will be posted with the minutes on the Parish website.*

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

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 8th April 2015 at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm.

CHAIRMAN

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARCH 2015

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

On the 17th February, Oxfordshire County Council met to discuss and agree its annual budget.

From 2010 to the end of 2015, the council will have achieved savings of £204 million, and savings are set to reach £292 million. The Council relies on grants from Central Government and with the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicating a further £49 billion reduction for Whitehall departments; Councillors expect a need for further savings.

With this in mind, the Authority has decided that the council tax will rise but that it will be kept low at 1.99%, equivalent to 46p a week for a Band D property. We have also begun investigating the potential for savings from a Unitary Authority and agreed to remove the position of Chief Executive as soon as this is legally possible.

The County Council has reduced the number of directors by 50% and senior management by 40% alongside an overall staff reduction of 30% but we remain committed to delivering the Living Wage for our lowest paid staff.

We are fortunate to have a real boost to the transport network and economic growth from the investment of millions of pounds in the City Deal and work with our partners at the Local Enterprise Partnership.

All Councillors have listened to comments from stakeholders and the Leader and Cabinet have been as transparent as possible with opposition leaders and taken on board comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee. Following consultation, Councillors have decided to reinstate the £70,000 required for Community Action Groups.

SERIOUS CASE REVIEW INTO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Oxfordshire County Council fully accepts the findings of the serious case review into child sexual exploitation and apologises that the child protection system failed to prevent horrific abuse of six girls.

The Independent Serious Case Review into Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire was published today (Tuesday 3 March 2015) by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. The serious case review followed a trial in 2013 in which seven men were imprisoned for a total of 95 years for their crimes which took place from 2005-2011.

The conclusions of the report follow on from an inspection by children's services inspectorate Ofsted in 2014, which rated Oxfordshire's child protection system as 'good' and described its approach to tackling child sexual exploitation as 'high quality'.

Jim Leivers, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Children, Education and Families, said:

"If we knew then what we know now about the grooming process, this would have been stopped much sooner. Before Operation Bullfinch people didn't believe something this horrible could happen. We are under no illusions about child sexual exploitation now.

"This was organised crime on a massive scale that we had not seen before. Girls were systematically groomed to think their abusers were their boyfriends. Social workers tried to protect individuals, as the Serious Case Review acknowledges.

"However, in some cases children were treated as wayward teenagers consenting to sex. That was wholly wrong. Our whole approach has now changed – children are believed, we can spot the signs of grooming and sexual exploitation and the Kingfisher team embodies that huge change.

In addition to setting up Kingfisher, other action taken to tackle child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire includes:

- 7500 staff now trained to spot warning signs of CSE and take action – including police, teachers, care workers
- Around 18,000 school children seen drama about child sexual exploitation and discussed the risks of grooming in class
- School nurses in every secondary school with role in identifying children at risk
- Building four new children’s homes to keep most vulnerable children in Oxfordshire

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT PRAISES OXFORDSHIRE SCHOOL NURSE PROGRAMME

A joint report by Public Health England and the Local Government Association has outlined the achievements of councils since responsibility for public health returned to local authorities.

The report, ‘Local leadership, new approaches: how new ways of working are helping to improve the health of local communities’ uses Oxfordshire County Council as its key example for promoting public health in schools and now other local authorities are taking note of our innovative approach.

When the County Council took over responsibility for commissioning the school nursing service from the NHS, the Cabinet decided it wanted something altogether more ambitious: a dramatic ramping up of the service to promote public health in a way that hadn’t been tried before, throughout all of Oxfordshire’s secondary schools. The vision was not only to expand the service but to ensure nurses were really part of the fabric of the schools.

“We thought the school nurses should be part of head-teachers’ teams, and that they should develop plans that responded to the specific needs of each school,” explains Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles, the County Council’s Cabinet Member for Public Health. “We went round to meet all the head teachers to describe the service, and every one of them was overjoyed.”

The report can be viewed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407060/2014712_Local_leadershi_p.pdf

CONSULTATION ON CONNECTING OXFORDSHIRE OPENS

Oxfordshire County Council is inviting the public, businesses and stakeholders to contribute to the final consultation for Connecting Oxfordshire.

Connecting Oxfordshire sets out the council’s ambitions for transport improvements across the county to 2031, over which time up to 100,000 new homes and 85,000 new jobs are likely to be created.

The plan features a range of short, medium and long term solutions for road, rail, bus, cycle and foot, which have been shaped by discussions over the last year. This includes the Oxford Transport Strategy, which sets out ambitious plans for transport in and around Oxford city, including looking at mass transit solutions like rapid bus services along strategic routes, integrating transport modes by transforming the park and ride network and making it easier to cycle by introducing cycle super routes across the city.

There are also strategies aimed at all the main conurbations across the county including Witney, Bicester and Banbury as well as plans for the Science Vale and key strategic routes like the A40 and A420.

The consultation closes on 2nd April.

To read and respond to the consultation please look at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/connecting-oxfordshire>

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

At its meeting on 17th February, the Council agreed to make the post of Chief Executive redundant. There have, however, been questions regarding the process from Councillors. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, still believes the Council can operate effectively without a Chief Executive but is to review the process before action is taken.

The Leader has provided a statement which can be viewed at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/feb/statement-chief-executive-position-council-leader>

OXFORDSHIRE CHOSEN FOR NEW FOSTER CARE SUPPORT SCHEME

Oxfordshire County Council is one of just eight authorities to benefit from a £1.6m Government grant to develop support 'hubs' for foster families, with dedicated workers offering respite care, peer support and social activities.

The innovative 'Mockingbird Family Model' was first developed in the United States where it was shown to be successful in improving outcomes for looked-after-children. The scheme is now being piloted in the UK, and will be delivered by leading fostering charity Fostering Network.

The council's Cabinet Member for Children Education and Families Melinda Tilley said: "This is great news for our foster carers and looked-after children in Oxfordshire. Foster carers who look after teenagers often need extra help, and while we already have a range of support services available to them, the opportunity to recruit specialist staff and strengthen the support network for these families is hugely welcome."

More information at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/feb/oxfordshire-chosen-new-foster-care-support-scheme>

NEW £5.1 MILLION DEAL WILL DELIVER HIGH-SPEED FIBRE BROADBAND TO THOUSANDS MORE HOMES AND BUSINESSES ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

Around 6,500 additional homes and businesses across Oxfordshire will be able to receive high-speed fibre broadband following additional £5.1 million funding announced today.

The project will extend the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire partnership roll-out which began connecting the first homes and businesses to faster fibre broadband just over a year ago. Since then it has enabled more than 30,000 premises to have access to high-speed fibre broadband.

The partnership is part of the Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) programme, which today announced two million homes and businesses around the country are now able to connect to superfast broadband as a result of BDUK.

More information at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/feb/new-%C2%A351-million-deal-will-deliver-high-speed-fibre-broadband-thousands-more-homes-and>

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH LONDON WELSH RUGBY CLUB TO HELP CHILDRENS' HEALTH

Schoolchildren across Oxfordshire have the chance to work with the county's Aviva Premiership Rugby Club London Welsh, thanks to a new partnership with Oxfordshire County Council. The children will learn about the importance of healthy lifestyles through an exciting new public health initiative.

The 'Live Smart Tackle Heart' programme is a school-based intervention, delivered by the London Welsh Community team. It aims to encourage children toward a healthier lifestyle by building their knowledge of nutrition, exercise and hygiene, and engaging them in physical activity sessions.

More information at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/feb/kids-get-premier-tips-healthy-lifestyle-london-welsh-rugby-club>

FREE POETRY WORKSHOP AT OXFORD'S CENTRAL LIBRARY

Oxford Central Library will be hosting a special event on Saturday March 28 from 2pm until 4pm - with leading poet and performance artist Chris Tutton.

Chris, a winner of the Sunday Times Interaction Community Theatre Award, will first perform his own poetry with then follow with an interactive workshop on developing your own voice and how to perform confidently to an audience.

With funding from the Arts Council, the workshop and performance are an entirely **free (but must be booked)**, a not to be missed opportunity to learn from an artist who has performed on television and radio, at major literary festivals and venues including the Edinburgh Book Festival and the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

More information at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/feb/calling-all-poets-and-potential-poets>