

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 14th March 2018 in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllrs. T. Hill, P. Hetherington, S. Sowerby, P. Tinson (Chair).

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. M. Day, L. French and M. Wodzynski.

- 1) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None.*
- 2) **MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th February 2018, were approved and signed.**
- 3) **MATTERS ARISING.** *A question was raised from the floor as to why the January minutes were not on our web-site. An over-sight which was corrected on Thursday 15/March.*
- 4) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** – *None received at the time of the meeting.*
- 5) **OPEN FORUM** – *14 members of the public attended with continued interest in planning application P18/S0001/FUL. A document detailing how the Council reaches a decision was passed round and will go on our web-site in due course. A point of order was raised regarding reference to SODC plan 2033, which is still in consultation. The 2011 plan should be the current document to refer to & the Chairman will check this before final distribution. The Chairman noted that finding the correct policies to reference on the SODC website was difficult at best and the number of available documents was likely to lead to confusion.*
It was explained that after taking all consultations, public meetings, comments and views into consideration, each councillor then reaches their own decision, individually, which is not necessarily purely the views of residents. A case in point was the recent Cherry Tree Pub application (P17/S4443/FUL) where a balance had to be struck between areas where planning policy was breached and weighed up against possible benefits. It was decided on that occasion the benefits out-weighed the disadvantages, resulting in the “Should Be Approved” recommendation. If a decision is to recommend refusal, we must be able to put a case to the SODC Planning Committee to back this up. If 4 or more councillors all reach the same decision, that is our recommendation and if there are still areas of concern or conditions we feel should be applied, then those points will be made also. Where sites are close geographically, or even adjacent, any differences between them may be sufficient to give a differing response. The easy option for the St John Homes site would have been to copy the response for the Rectory Homes site but each application was assessed on its own merit, which resulted in the differing responses. One or more councillor will always try and visit those most affected by any planning application but there had already been two public meetings and the recent resignation of our Planning Chairman (with the position being temporarily covered by the Chairman) may have given a perceived lack of engagement on this occasion. Councillors are aware of all local concerns, and the decision was made in good faith. A Parishioner read out comments regarding the ongoing emotional upset over this application and how it has fractured the harmony within the parish & polarised opinions between the two villages. Similarities were highlighted between this application and the recent Rectory Homes one (P17/S3661/FUL) and the shock felt at the completely different responses by councillors. There is much anger in Aston Rowant that “none of the councillors who actually reside in AR village had taken the trouble to personally ascertain the views of their constituents which is rumbling on and may prove impossible to silence”. While recognising that the emerging Neighbourhood Plan is incomplete, “demonstration of sincere and material progress can be taken into account by SODC” and we should have used this in interaction with them. It was also mentioned that the offer of traffic calming should have been ignored and formed no part of the decision process. A specific comment was made regarding Cllr. Hills views in an apparent undeclared conflict of interest. Whilst comments were made in support of the application in discussions between councillors, it was erroneously stated at Februarys meeting that the decision had been unanimous, giving rise to this impression of conflict. As Cllr. Hill was absent from the meeting where the actual vote was taken, and took no part in that vote, the Chairman confirmed he was happy there was no improper conduct.
A request was made for the council to review our decision – the Chairman will be taking advice on this matter.

A question came from the floor surrounding attendance records of all councillors in the last 12m, plus details of any Code of Conduct/Standing Orders. These are all a matter of public record, and the Clerk will compile a précis & respond.

6) PLANNING

- i. **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
P18/S0477/LDP – Notification of: Certificate of Lawful Development for construction of proposed outbuilding ancillary to existing property accessed via existing entrance to provide garage, workshop/garden store, indoor pool/gym and changing and plant rooms at Queens Gate Bungalow, Butts Way, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SZ. For information only. **NOTED.**
P18/S0616/PDO – Notification of: Proposed Change of Use from light industrial to residential (5 flats) at Pinnacle Tooling, Aston Hill, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SG. The number of potential flats has been reduced to 5, from 8 on previous notification. For information only (to be held in case inspection required by neighbouring properties) **NOTED.**
- ii. **Decisions** of S.O.D.C. as follows were noted:
NOT ON AGENDA. P16/S0894/FUL (Aston Rowant Cricket Club) – **GRANTED.**
NOT ON AGENDA. P17/S2719/O - Land at Paddock House, Church Lane, Aston Rowant. Amended plans for entrance to proposed new property showing improved vision-splay onto Church Lane – **REFUSED.**
NOT ON AGENDA. P18/S0150/HH - New first floor side extension at 2 The Rise Kingston Blount – **GRANTED.**
- iii. Rectory Homes application (P17/S3661/FUL) will be discussed at SODC Planning Committee on Tuesday 20 March. Cllrs. Tinson and Sowerby will represent the PC, and one member of the public to represent residents. The case will focus on areas where our “Should be Refused” decision is supported, specifically by the OCC Highways Officer.

7) FINANCE

- i. The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):

	£	p
Clerk January Salary		
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk January salary		
Aston Rowant Church (Donation, teas 3/11/17)	50.00	
SLCC Enterprises (Local Council Admin Book)	78.40	
Local Council PAS (GPDR Pack - 1)	30.00	
SODC (Dog-Bins Oct, Nov, Dec) Reimburse clerk for payment on card	87.91	
Robyn Leinster (Litter January)	25.32	
Mh-p Internet (PC Hosting, Annual Invoice)	108.00	
- ii. Receipts as follows to be noted:

None
- iii. The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):

Clerk February Salary		
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk February salary		
T.Lambourne (Amazon – printer inks x 4)	56.34	
Robyn Leinster (Litter February)	25.32	
OALC (2018/9 Subscription)	150.90	
OPFA (2018/9 Subscription)	42.00	
Aon UK Ltd (See 18x)	56.00	
Community First Oxfordshire (2018/9 Subscription)	NOT ON AGENDA	55.00
Local Council PAS (GPDR Pack - 2)	NOT ON AGENDA	30.00
Mark Jones (NP Printing)	NOT ON AGENDA	32.50
- iv. The current financial situation as at 28th February 2018:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	27373.58	
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1090.66	
National Savings	11224.62	
Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)	
Play Area Reserve Fund	(56)	

Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)
Neighbourhood Plan Reserve	(4617)
Traffic Calming	(1840)
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(2140)

- v. Budget 2017/8 v11. Noted. A question was raised from the floor regarding the “revised forecast” as receipts greatly exceeded the forecast. It was explained that this was mainly due to grants & donations for resurfacing the Moors Footpath not actually part of the main budget. The figures will be stripped out of the end of year accounts and recorded separately to give a more accurate picture.

9) HIGHWAYS: -

- i. Cllr. Day reported via email that there was no further update on the two double chicanes.
- ii. Further to Minute 9ii in February - the VAS at the eastern approach to Aston Rowant is still not working. In view of the extra planning workload, this has not yet been tackled, the Chairman will take forward and report next month.
- iii. Consultation on proposed 30mph speed limit amendments on B4009 at Crowell Road, Chinnor. This extends the current 30mph limit on exiting Chinnor (towards Crowell on the B4009) by a matter of mere metres, to accommodate the extra traffic surrounding the Bellway Homes development site. Noted, no actions.
- iv. CPRE call for a Public Inquiry into proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway & Growth Corridor. Noted, will not affect this parish as much as others which are nearer to the proposal.

10) HILLWERKE TRUST – Cllr. Sowerby reported that following a notice in the latest edition of Parish Notes, no volunteers had yet come forward to fill the various vacancies which will take effect from 1 May. The Chairman will arrange for something suitable for posting on KBAR Facebook page in the hope of a more positive response.

11) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – Cllr Sowerby reported:

- i. A draft Consultation Statement was passed round which shows what has been done so far to consult with the community, and that due process has been followed. Points detailed in RED show what still needs to be done and will be updated as and when completed.
- ii. A Neighbourhood Plan Project Planner was also available as an accompanying document confirming stages completed so far and proposed dates for further action. The Referendum is scheduled for November 2018 and SODC have to respond to that within 6 weeks, with final sign-off anticipated in early 2019.
- iii. In the light of recent comments it was requested that it should be recorded in these minutes that the Aston Rowant Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been one of the quicker ones to be completed, considerably quicker than average, and that all back-dated minutes etc. will be posted onto the relevant section of our web-site in the near future to ensure there is no reason for the final plan to be rejected on the grounds of insufficient activity or consultation.
- iv. Whilst green “protected” sites have already been made available for public information, the red sites highlighted for possible future development cannot be released until AECOM have completed their assessment.

12) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND – No report.

13) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL – No report.

14) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE: – Quote received from MK Watts Grounds Care (grass cutting) for 2018-19 @ £130 + VAT per cut (every two weeks) compared to £128.57 + VAT in 2017 – a 1.12% increase. Proposed by Cllr. Sowerby, seconded by Cllr. Hetherington & approved unanimously, clerk to respond and accept.

15) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB – See Planning, item 6ii.

16) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP (FAAG) - Cllr. Hetherington reported:

- i. Re: the potential permissive footpath to Crowell, a meeting still needs to be arranged with the land-owners to finalise the lease – proposed 10y lease @ a nominal sum of £1.00 pa. The path will be 5 feet wide, running from Kingston Blount to Crowell and inside the field hedge with a “horse-proof” surface (still to be agreed upon).
- ii. The Great Spring Litter Pick was postponed from Saturday 3rd March in view of the snow and was rearranged for the coming Saturday, 17th March. Details the same, and reminders to be placed on the web-site and KBAR.
- iii. Cllr. Sowerby mentioned that details of the Parish Walks booklets (availability & where to obtain) should be on our website. The Clerk undertook to investigate where & how this could be posted.

- 17) **CORRESPONDENCE:** - *Email received from Dr Rob Bellamy of the University of Oxford regarding a workshop on tackling Global Environmental Challenges in late March – Noted.*
- 18) **OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS:** – *None.*
- 19) **OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman** – *None.*
- 20) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – **Wednesday 11th April 2018 in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.00pm, followed at 8:00 by the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting.**

CHAIRMAN