

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 12th March 2014.

Present: Cllrs.P. Gibbons (in the Chair), P. Hetherington, G. Crossley, J Knight, D/Cllr. D. Brown.

- 1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. M. Day, P. Rooksby, R. Armitage & C/Cllr D. Wilmshurst.
- 2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None.*
- 3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 12th February 2014, were approved and signed.**
- 4) **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) Oxfordshire Age UK – Community Information Network Partnership Meeting – *Clerk to email the meeting dates to Joan Deval of the Ministry Team*
 - b) Succession to Aston Rowant Parish Council – *Discussion took place about the fact that some Councillors may consider stepping down from their role next year. The process of replacement should ideally be staggered so that any incoming Councillor can gain from the knowledge of those that have been in the role for some time. To be further discussed at the April meeting.*
- 5) **OPEN FORUM** – *Joanna Whitfield & Jo & Adrian Noble attended the meeting from the public, with an interest in Item 8a (Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount).*
- 6) **PLANNING**
 - a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
P14/S0308/FUL Use of land for the provision of GRP kiosk to protect electrical pump control equipment; standby generator enclosure, upgrade to existing access and internal access with turning area; associated works including vent pipe, protective bollard and hard-standing, as part of pumping station scheme to alleviate flooding of local village properties at Land North East of Stert Road and South East of Kingston Stert Farm, Kingston Stert. Should be approved - *Noted*
 - b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:
None - Noted

7) FINANCE

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a) The following payments were noted:		
Clerk January Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	75.60	
Alice Surman (litter Picker)	24.76	
SODC (Dog Bin Emptying)	175.81	
B.G. Hutton	85.00	
Blanchfords	4.60	
Stephanie Johns (Stationery)	34.99	
Brisco Signs & Graphics	600.00	
b) The following payments were approved:		
Clerk February Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	67.20	
Parish Online Subscription (Mar 14 – Mar 15)	33.60	
Diane Malley MAAT (Payroll)	12.30	
OALC Annual Subscription (2014/2015)	145.88	
Peter Hetherington	14.87	
Mh-p (Web hosting)	72.00	
Alice Surman (Litter Picker)	24.76	
Stephanie Johns (Mileage Jul 13 – Mar 14)	80.93	
Stephanie Johns (Postage May 13 – Mar 14)	20.07	
Flowers for the funeral of David Beechey	67.99	
MM Denham Construction	} Received after the agenda – agreed by Cllr.Hetherington, seconded by Cllr. Gibbons & J.Knight.	96.00
Parchment (Oxford) Ltd		179.39
c) Receipts as follows were noted:		
TOE – Aston Rowant Discovery Trail Grant		2500.00
d) The current financial situation as at 27 th February 2014:		
Barclays Bank – Community Account		7136.70

Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account		1088.64
National Savings		11058.12
Village Hall Sinking Fund	(1555)	
Play Area Sinking Fund	(5435)	
Parish Notes Sinking Fund	(1000)	
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Fund	(3858)	
VAS Maintenance Fund	(538)	
Cash		1.19

8) HIGHWAYS

- a) **Town Farm Trees in Kingston Blount** – *A site meeting has been held to see how the appearance of the verge outside Town Farm can be improved. Cllr. P.Hetherington is to ask Jamie Clark to scrape the mud away from the road. The Parish Council will fund the planting of grass seeds along the boundary of the yard and it was discussed that the Parish Council will consider putting a large natural stone (giving consideration that the farmer needs to be able to fully open the gate), where cars are currently parking in order to detract them. Also being considered, in order to protect the verge further down the road, is to place 4-5 sleepers on the verge and then backfilling in order to raise the verge and stop mud sliding back onto the road. OCC will need to be consulted in this matter. It was noted that the verge and the 1st half of the road is owned by Mrs A. Murray and managed by Jamie Clark.*

9) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY

- a) Appointment Letter – *The Clerk is to write a letter from the Parish Council for Ray Hipkin to present to the Charities Commission if requested, confirming the appointments of trustees to the Poors Hillock Charity in July 2013.*

10) HILLWERKE TRUST

- a) The cost of the Playing field treatment is £850. Cllr. G. Crossley to discuss splitting these costs at the next Hillwerke Trust meeting. Subject to their agreement, this will be arranged by Cllr. P. Gibbons.
- b) Joanna Gent has resigned as Chairman of the Playground Committee – *Clerk to arrange a handover back to the Parish Council as there is nobody to take on the task.*

11) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL - None

12) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- a) Quote from Complete Weed Control – *The Clerk is to arrange for a treatment early May. The date for the later treatment will be decided later in the year.*
- b) Community Right to Bid – Assets of Community Value – *Deferred to April*
- c) The Discovery Trail – Report from Cllr. Hetherington – *This is now in its final stages and Cllr. Hetherington will give a report at the Annual Assembly in April.*

13) CORRESPONDENCE - None

14) WEBSITE

- a) Item for amendment on the website – *Cllr. P.Hetherington will email a digital version of the leaflet to the Clerk for inclusion on the website.*

15) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) - *See attached report from D/Cllr. D.Brown*

16) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman –

- a) There has been some fly-tipping at the end of Pleck Lane on the Junction of the B4009. The Clerk is to call Biffa and report this, as well as requesting a mechanised Road sweeper for both villages along the B4009 as well as request a litter pick from the B4009 up Kingston Hill and the A40 lay-by at the top of the A40. Cllr. P. Gibbons will ask Barry Hutton to paint the gates in Aston Rowant.

17) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 9th April 2014, at Kingston Blount Village Hall, at 6.30pm. The Annual Assembly will follow at 8.00 pm

CHAIRMAN

Aston Rowant Ward – Aston Rowant/Kingston Blount Sydenham Tetsworth
Towersey

March 2014

Further to the flooding which has taken first priority to help residents, SODC is asking for a list of properties that have been flooded so that they can contact the people involved to offer help and assist in a way that can help in the future. Contact John.Backley@southandvale.gov.uk

I have worked with Parish/ County Councils to try and sort problems that have occurred on roads, some have caused major disruption. B4009 is one that caused much distress to the public.

Many of the problems are not helped by the RLO (riparian land owner) not clearing ditches, this is not always the case but the exceptional wet weather brought this matter to the fore.

Please contact Suzanne Malcolm or John Backley at southandvale.gov.uk for details of government schemes to assist Flood Victims.

Repair and Renewal Grant that helps to pay for work that improves a property's ability to withstand flooding.

A Council tax rebate.

This can also help business.

Neighbourhood Planning Camps

A company called Locality is offering a FREE planning camp to help communities prepare their neighbourhood plans. The camps are networking and training events for community members currently preparing or thinking about a neighbourhood plan and who lack professional planning experience.

The camps are funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government. The event taking place in Oxford from 3 – 5th April.

Places are limited to two per neighbourhood group.

To sign up for a free place visit the Eden Project's website or if you require further help Hannah Beck – Senior Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood)

hannah.beck@southandvale.gov.uk 01491 823730

Young Achievers Award I presented 21 young people between the ages of 11 and 18 a cheque for £250.00 to mark their accomplishments in art sport and citizenship, we were very lucky to present two young cricketers with an award, so there is hope for England yet, one of them played for the Aston Rowant Club, another young person for dressage who came from my own village of Towersey, they all were exceptional. Especially the young man who gained a Citizens Award for his work in running a youth club.

Helen Harvey Economic Development Officer Helen.harvey@southandvale.gov.uk is promoting Midsomer Murders in South Oxfordshire.

This is big business with people staying overnight and higher spending visitor profiles are attracted, this spend boosts business across a wide sector of the economy, including retail, dining etc.

One pub in Warborough is getting 4-6 Coaches per week during the summer.

Wallingford, Thame and Dorchester also benefit – Tour companies reported a 17% rise in Midsomer tours last year.

Please contact Helen Harvey if you have an attraction that might benefit.

Planning – Local Plans for Vale of White Horse - consultation period closes on 4th April also the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan for Oxford City closes on 28th March.

Wycombe District Local Plan options consultation this includes the expansion of Princes Risborough - consultation runs until 4th April – [Wycombe local plan website](#). If you require further information please contact Planning Policy Team. –

Permitted Development Rights, I have had one or two cases of this type of planning causing problems, I recommend that people using this method of adding to the property check with SODC planning first.

Good News Council tax is one again reduced by 2.5%

We have made efficiency savings by using shared working with the Vale of the White Horse District Council. This is the third consecutive year means a total reduction of 7.5% which is very positive.

If you have any quires on any subject please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dorothy.brown@southandvale.gov.uk