

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 13th November, 2013.

Present: Cllrs.P. Gibbons (in the Chair), P. Rooksby & G.Crossley

1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. J. Knight, P. Hetherington, R. Armitage, M. Day, C/Cllr D. Wilmshurst & D/Cllr D. Brown

2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** - *None.*

3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 9th October, 2013, were approved and signed.**

4) **MATTERS ARISING**

a) Christmas float (Chinnor Village Centre) - Tuesday 10th December between 6-8pm – *Clerk to email Cllr Hetherington & Cllr. Knight to ask if they are able to help as they have expressed an interest previously.*

b) High Sheriff's Awards 2013/2014 – *Cllr. Rooksby to prepare the nomination form for the nominee (Serena Hutton). Clerk to put the forms on the Aston Rowant Parish Website & a link on the local Facebook page.*

5) **OPEN FORUM** - *None*

6) **PLANNING**

a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed: *None outstanding*

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

P13/S3120/AG Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage building at Kingston Stert Farm, Kingston Stert, OX39 4NL – **Planning permission granted - Noted**

P13/S2401/D Demolition of existing two storey building at 1-5 Bakers Piece House, Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SN – **Demolition Permission granted**

7) **FINANCE**

a) The following payments were noted:	£	p
Clerk September Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	71.40	
Mh-p Internet Ltd Updating Plan M (17/10/2013 - 16/10/2014)	828.00	
MK Watts Ground Maintenance		
Diana Malley MAAT	35.00	
Green Gardens (Playground) (Cheque cancelled and re-issued)	30.00	

b) The following payments were approved:

Clerk October Salary		
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	71.40	
Playsafety Ltd (Playground)	96.00	
S.Johns – Stationery (Ink cartridges & box file)	47.99	
Alice Surman (Litter Picker)	24.76	
MK Watts	120.00	
P Gibbons – Mileage & postage expenses	21.22	
Buryhook Countryside Management	900.00	

c) Receipts as follows were noted:

I Sale of Walks Booklets to Chinnor Village Centre	18.00	
HMRC (VAT Refund)	1484.07	
S.O.D.C. Precept – 2 nd Instalment	8750.00	
S.O.D.C. – 2nd instalment, Street Cleansing grant	211.59	

d) The current financial situation as at 30th October, 2013:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	8815.83	
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1088.50	
National Savings	10917.05	
Village Hall Sinking Fund	(1555.41)	
Play Area Sinking Fund – main.	(2855.42)	
Play Area Sinking Fund – capital	(2704.95)	
Parish Notes Sinking Fund	(1000.00)	

Trees, Footpaths & Environment Fund (1894.79)
VAS Maintenance Fund (538.00)

Cash

1.19

- a) The Chilterns Conservation Board – Request for donation – *noted but grants already agreed.*
- b) Oxfordshire Association for the blind – Request for a grant – *noted but grants already agreed.*
- c) Contribution to The British Legion for the Remembrance Wreath of £50.00 – *agreed and payment authorised*
- d) Precept 2014 / 2015 – *Minor amendments agreed. Clerk to circulate to the Councillors ready for approval in December.*

HIGHWAYS

- a) Footpath stile at 5 ways and the footstool needs attention. – *Deferred to December Agenda*
- b) Half load of chippings left at 5 ways for spreading – *Deferred to December Agenda*
- c) Grass cuttings in the ditch opposite Kingston Blount Green and alongside Jamie Clark s field – *Deferred to December Agenda*

8) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY - None

9) HILLWERKE TRUST – None

10) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL - None

11) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

- a) Sewage Pumping Station update – *Thames Water has now approved funding and we are expecting a Planning Application for a new Sewage Pumping Station for the Parish and Crowell to be in any day. It will be situated on The Stert Just before the farm on the right. A new sewer will also be installed directly into Henton sewage works from it. This will take the strain off the pumping station in Sydenham which has experienced no end of problems in the past. Work will commence in Spring 2014, finished in the Autumn.*
- b) Salt Bins – Now filled and ready for winter - *Noted*

12) CORRESPONDENCE was circulated

- a) Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2013
- b) Lions Roar magazine – RAF Benson
- c) Chalk & Trees, Chilterns Conservation Board – Winter 2013 / 2014

13) WEBSITE

- a) Analysis Report – *There has been sharp rise in the visits to the Aston Rowant Parish Website. It is believed this is partly due to the News article links from the local Facebook page, as well as visits to download information about the Discovery Trail.*
- b) Item for amendment on the website – *None this month*

14) REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a) Report from D/Cllr D. Brown below.

15) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman - *None*

16) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, 11th December, 2013, at Kingston Blount Village Hall, at 7.45pm.

CHAIRMAN

ASTON ROWANT WARD

Aston Rowant and surrounding areas
Tetsworth - Towersey - Sydenham

September 2013

The summer period has been fairly quiet but the autumn period is getting off to a brisk start.

The area of planning is required to do and to update regularly - SHLAA - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

This is of course tied into the Local Plan which was passed by the Inspectorate last year.

SHLAA – aim is to identify as many sites as possible with housing potential in and around settlements in the study area. It does not determine whether a site should be allocated for housing development. IT IS A TECHNICAL DOCUMENT which gives information to CONSIDER the possible options in relation to Housing Development.

The Government require that we carry this study out and we have to follow the guidance.

If a site is assessed as suitable in the study - THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE COUNCIL WILL ALLOCATE IT FOR DEVELOPMENT.

Only a certain number of site are necessary to meet our housing targets and all site will have to comply with the overall strategy we have set in the CORE STRATEGY.

The New Local Plan has brought up questions recently.

Infill Strategy

Infill development is defined as the filling of a small gap in an otherwise built up frontage or on other sites within settlements where the site is closely surrounded by buildings.

(I would add that each case, it will be looked at as an individual planning application) and considerations regarding conservation area etc taken into account.)

Some village which previously would not have been allowed any development now have the possibility of development on small site of 2/3 houses (Core Strategy document page 93).

The aim in relaxing the definition is to accept some development in our smaller settlements which helps communities to continue to develop and evolve.

If you have any questions please contact. Phil.moule@southandvale.gov.uk

Work is ongoing with the County regarding Broad Band and the identification of areas that need assistance, the work is with BT, at present it is not clear which areas are in need of help.

SODC has put aside a certain amount of money to help areas that do not come under the radar of BT/OCC for upgrading and it awaits further information before acting.

I am aware that a group in A/R Ward have been involved and SODC would ask if you have any information that this is passed onto the Cabinet Member dealing with this area

Cllr Anna Badcock - or myself and I will forward.

CIF Community Investment Grants

For a grant under £15,000, contact jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk

These are now under

Big Clean up is underway - moving to Nuffield and on to Wallingford

Please contact the Waste Team by email with details if there is anywhere in particular; your parish would like to be cleaned.

Waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

Fly tipping – A large number of on-going cases working closely with Thames Valley Police and the Environmental Agency and neighbouring councils for incidents across the district, there are examples that indicate clearly that prosecution is working.

At the end of August officers were involved in a joint operation with the Police targeting waste carriers throughout the district. In total 9 vehicles were stopped and questioned and officers collected vital intelligence

on waste movements. 2 individuals were given Fixed Penalty Notices of £300 for carrying waste without being a registered Waste Carrier.

Please if you see an incident try and get photographic evidence.

Food Hygiene – Important with the hot summer we have experienced.

Currently 95.2% of food premises in South Oxfordshire have a rating of 3 or above for the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. This compares with 90.7% in England and 92.3% in the South East Region.

Housing Needs - At the end of August there were a total of 19 households in Temporary Accommodation which is below the performance target of 23 households.

The effects of the bedroom tax upon SODC residents are now fully quantified.

402 households are affected in South of which 314 face a 1 bedroom cut (14% of their entitlement) and the remainder 2 beds (25%)

I would add that this does not mean that the resident has to move- but a higher rent would be charged. Please contact SOHA Housing if you have a local query or Housing Dept at SODC.

Dorothy Brown – Cllr