ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 14th October 2015.

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

1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. P. Hetherington & C/Cllr. D. Wilmshurst
2) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None*
3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 9th September 2015, were approved and signed.**
4) **MATTERS ARISING**
   None
5) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS –** *The Report from the District Councillors accompanies these minutes. There was no report from the County Councillor.*
6) **OPEN FORUM – None** *(No public were present). The Chairman read out a letter from a Parishioner who asked who owns the road leading down to the B4009 from the site of the old Shoulder of Mutton. The Parish Clerk will investigate ownership and the Chairman will respond to the parishioner.*
7) **PLANNING**
   a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:
      P15/S3037/HH New first floor doors and balconies at The Marlins Aston Rowant Road Aston Rowant OX49 5SN – Should be approved - *Noted*
   b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C.** as follows were noted:
      None - *Noted*
   c) Neighbourhood Plan – *At the meeting with John Howell MP on 21st September 2015, a Neighbourhood Plan was very much encouraged for the Parish. In order to gain a better understanding of the benefits of the plan, the Chairman proposed a presentation evening with OALC / SODC / OCC explaining the process, possibly to be held at the January or February 2016 Parish Meeting. Everyone agreed to this and the Chairman will also discuss it with Sydenham Parish Council. The Public will be made aware and all are welcome to attend. The Chairman and D/Cllr L. Lloyd will work together to organise the presentation.*
   d) Open Space Audit Consultation – *This was deferred to the November Meeting*
   e) CIL – Further Consultation - *Noted*
8) **FINANCE**
   a) The following payments were noted:

	£ p
Clerk July Salary	
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	23.80
Alice Surman (Litter)	25.32
Diane Malley	29.00
MK Watts	240.00
MK Watts	120.00
George Stevens	150.00
Clerk August Salary	
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	24.00
S Johns (Stationery)	4.50
S Johns (Playground maintenance equipment)	8.00
George Stevens	150.00
Data Protection Registration	35.00
Playsafety Limited	96.00
Chilterns Conservation Board	12.00
Parchments of Oxford (Walks Booklets x 500)	706.63
George Stevens (Not on the agenda)	150.00

   b) The following payments were approved:

Clerk September Salary	
Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	28.40
Alice Surman (Litter)	25.32

	Mh-p Internet Ltd		828.00
	BDO		120.00
	Conference for Ridgeway tourism businesses		10.00
	MK Watts		240.00
	Complete Weed Control		240.00
c)	Receipts as follows were noted:		
	Interest (Saver Account)	0.14	
	SODC (Precept)	9600.00	
	Walks Booklets (Not on the agenda)	90.00	
d)	The current financial situation as at 29th September 2015:		
	Barclays Bank – Community Account	15663.60	
	Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1089.77	
	National Savings	11141.06	
	Village Hall Reserve fund (1230)		
	Play Area Reserve Fund (5714)		
	Parish Notes Reserve Fund (1000)		
	Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund (2674)		
	Cash	1.19	

e) Budget 2015/2016 – v5 September 2015 – *Noted. The 2016/2017 budget will be discussed at the next meeting.*

f) Emergency Planning fund application (Cllr. P. Tinson) – *Cllr. P. Tinson requested a grant of £650 towards the cost of a defibrillator for Aston Rowant as part of the emergency plan as it would be life-saving equipment in the event of road blocks, power outages etc. The decision should be made at the end of this month.*

9) HIGHWAYS

a) Traffic Calming – *Cllr. M. Day reported that the next step is to find an expert to advise what kind of traffic calming would be the best for the village. He will get 3 quotes for suggested design solutions. Cllr. P. Gibbons will speak to Keith Stenning at OCC for advice on how to go about getting help.*

10) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY – None – *Noted*

11) HILLWERKE TRUST – *Cllr. G. Crossley reported the Trust were unable to contribute to the cost of a new defibrillator in Aston Rowant. Cllr. M. Day asked Cllr. G. Crossley to suggest the idea of having Wifi in the Village Hall. Cllr. G. Crossley agreed to add it to their next agenda.*

12) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND

a) The Parish Clerk is to complete a satisfaction report on the new equipment once the post-installation inspection has been completed on 17th October.

13) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL

a) Report from Cllr. Lynn French – *Noted & attached to these minutes.*

14) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE

a) A parishioner has asked about an area of grass by the barns in Kingston Blount. The Chairman's opinion is that it is not the responsibility of Parish Council to cut it and this was agreed. The Chairman will respond to the parishioner.

15) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB (ARCC)

a) Report from Cllr. A. Green – *The Chairman reported that Astonbury is planned again for next year. More details to follow in due course.*

16) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES

a) Moors/Coffin path Stert to the School, top half cricket club end resurfacing – *The plan is to install coxwell from the Stert Road to the cricket club and from the cricket club to the school. The funding application is in process. In the meantime, a patch will be made to make the path good for the winter. The Chairman is to contact the contractor to arrange leaf blowing of the path during the half term holiday week (26th – 30th October).*

b) Conference for Ridgeway tourism businesses - *Cllr. P. Hetherington to attend*

17) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS

a) Defibrillator for Aston Rowant (Funding vote) – *At the last meeting, the Chairman proposed a contribution of £750 from this year's budget. This will be the maximum amount as it I hoped that some contribution will come from item 8f. This decision was agreed by all.*

b) SOHA at Bakers Piece, Kingston Blount – *The Councillors expressed some concerns of which D/Cllr. L. Lloyd clarified. The Councillors thanks her for providing the information.*

c) Meeting with John Howell MP – *Cllrs. P. Tinson, A. Green & G. Crossley & D/Cllr. L. Lloyd met with John Howell MP on Monday 21st September & discussed items covered in this agenda.*

d) Dog Fouling – *This continues to be a problem. The Chairman will be encouraging dog owners not to let dogs off of their lead until they are past the playing fields and into the woods.*

e) KBAR Facebook site – *The Clerk is to write to one of the moderators of the KBAR Facebook page requesting that if incriminating evidence is placed on the page that has to be removed, a note should be made that it has been removed and why. It should be encouraged for any crimes to be reported to the Police using the 101 service.*

f) School Transport bus costs – *Cllr. M. Day reported that via a consultation process, the Parish was omitted from receiving funding for the school bus to Lord Williams School and there will no longer be any 6th form passes to anyone. A funded bus is only available to Icknield Community College as this is slightly closer in distance and this was considered to be a cost cutting exercise. Being that Aston Rowant School is a feeder to Lord Williams, it is believed by all the Councillors to be an unfair system. Cllr. G. Crossley will write a letter, questioning this policy, Cllr. Day will speak to Mr Leach of OCC and write to C/Cllr. D. Wilmshurst and Cllr. L. French will raise it with the school.*

g) OCC "Oxfordshire Together" – *The Chairman attended this meeting. The main message he came away with was that the role of the County Council is changing and the subject most affecting the Parish Council would be the grass cutting budget. The proposal is that an amount of money would be paid to the Parish Council for them to provide the service currently provided by the County Council but this amount would reduce over a 3 year period and then stop. The additional money would then need to be collected in the precept to cover the costs. This will be discussed at future meetings, including a suggestion that the Parish Council join up with a neighbouring Parish to cut costs.*

18) CLERK's REPORT – ITEMS NOT NEEDING NOTICE OF DECISIONS

None - *Noted*

19) CORRESPONDENCE

a) Letter from Oxbel requesting a donation of £50

20) WEBSITE

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

21) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman

Cllr. G. Crossley will be laying a wreath at the Aston Rowant War Memorial on behalf of the Parish on Remembrance Sunday. - *Noted*

22) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 11th November 2015 at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Aston Rowant C of E Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. Judith Lawson

Monday 12th October

Last term ended on a real high with yet another appearance in the Thame Gazette. This time it was all about our wonderful Sports day which was held on Friday 10th July. Fortunately the sun shone all day and lots of families joined us on the school field to spectate and support. The children were in mixed age teams and worked their way around a carousel of challenges. Each challenge lasted 4 minutes and the teams gained points on each challenge. When the challenges were completed the children then took part in sprint races and a mini marathon. For the first time we had a draw between the Aston All Stars and the Sports Stars. The events concluded with a Mums race, a Dads race and a toddlers race. Throughout the afternoon the PTA ran a BBQ and there were ice pops for the exhausted athletes to enjoy.

At the beginning of the term we welcomed “Sports for Schools” to Aston Rowant. The children were sponsored to take part in a fitness circuit led by Alistair Patrick Heselton. Alistair is a Paralympic footballer. At the end of the day he told the children the story of how he fought his way back to fitness following a terrible car accident. It was very inspirational and the children were visibly moved by his story.

There were lots of trips last term. Hedgehog class visited Tiggiwinkles, Squirrel class visited the Roald Dahl Museum and Owl class visited their pen pals from Kenmont school in London. Mrs Fresa also took her dance club to Lord Williams’s school to take part in the Thame Partnership Dance Festival. Then towards the end of term Mrs Turton took a team to Mill Lane to take part in the Thame Partnership Sports.

We are very proud that four girls from Owl class made it to the final of the Oxfordshire Schools’ Big Science Event. They carried out a very detailed investigation on teeth and had to present their work to a panel. Unfortunately they didn’t win, however the girls are to be commended for reaching the final and they enjoyed their day out at the science museum.

This school year has been busy as all the children settle back into the routine and new pupils get used to life at Aston Rowant school. We started the term by celebrating the Queen becoming the longest serving monarch at a special ceremony in St Andrew’s. Then we enjoyed a whole school trip to Thame show. Some of the older children joined the Partnership choir and performed to a large audience. A few weeks ago Owl class went on a village walk and discovered many interesting historical facts about our village. One boy was thrilled to find a fossil in the stream. One of the highlights of the term has been field week where all the lessons take place outside in our fabulous grounds. By the end of the week the children have learnt to identify plants, build dens, find mini beasts and much more.

Aston Rowant school continues to be a happy thriving school. I would like to take this opportunity to invite members of the Parish Council to visit us. You are assured a warm welcome.

Yours sincerely

Judith Lawson

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Lynn Lloyd and Ian White

30th September 2015

District Council Activities

Autumn is here and Lynn has been busy continuing her work with Taylor Wimpey and the Parish Council regarding Old Kiln Lakes with a little help from Ian. Whilst this has been a long project, the end is now in sight.

Ian started the month attending a workshop on IT provision within the Council, and the impact of the Data Protection and Freedom Of Information Acts on the way that the Council works, and after that, more training! Later on in the month, both Ian and Lynn attended a workshop on the infrastructure requirements within the County specifically and contrasting them with those of the Country. The shortfall in funding available to just maintain what we have is alarming, especially when contrasted with the future projections!

We both joined the celebration in St Andrew's Church to mark the Queen's remarkable record becoming the longest serving Monarch. I am sure this will be reported elsewhere, but it just confirmed for me that our Community spirit is as alive and well as it was in 1977 for the Silver Jubilee!

Ian had two committee meetings this month; Planning and Scrutiny. One thing he has learned is that, no matter where you go in the District, no-one wants new homes built, but paradoxically do want affordable housing for their children, preferably close enough for them to visit! Therein lies the conundrum. Matters before Scrutiny were all relating to budget and funding and how this is being managed.

Ian has continued with the work with our Police and Crime Commissioner, Anthony Stansfeld, who has moved the Thames Valley Force from bottom of the table to the top of best performing forces. Ian has also started work on the review of the District Council's Constitution this Autumn; the objective of this piece of work is to ensure that not only is the Constitution up to date, but also to make it simpler and easier to understand.

We have both attended Parish Council meetings in our Ward to provided as much support as we can, and like the Parish Councils this month, we have met with our MP, John Howell, for exchanges on our views of our Communities. We also continue to work with the Parishes on their various intentions regarding Neighbourhood Planning.

There is much more in the detail of what we are doing but in the interests of brevity, that's it for September.