

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 12th October 2016.

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

1) **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. L. French

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

3) **MINUTES of the meeting held on 14th September 2016, were approved and signed.**

4) **MATTERS ARISING**

a) *The Chairman's report for the home page of the website is now complete and will be forwarded to the webmaster to be uploaded.*

5) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** – *The District Councillors report is attached to these minutes.*

6) **OPEN FORUM** – *Two members of the public were welcomed to the meeting, with an interest in Item 15 (see below). An additional member of the public also attended with a view to taking on the role of Parish Clerk.*

Cllr. Day showed the meeting some amended plans his property. This will be distributed for comments when formally received from SODC. Cllr. Day will declare an interest in this matter.

7) **PLANNING**

a) **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:

None – *Noted*

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

P16/S2537/FUL Demolition of two stable buildings and erection of replacement stables and office accommodation at Aston Park Stud, Aston Rowant, OX49 5SR – *Granted- Noted*

c) **Neighbourhood Plan** – *Cllr. Green reported that there had so far been 3 meetings. Aston Rowant Parish Council (as a relevant body) has submitted a proposal for a neighbourhood plan area to SODC. The proposal follows the parish boundaries of Aston Rowant and is subject to a four-week consultation period from Monday 10th October. Notices have been put up in public areas and it also on the website with a link from the Community Facebook page. Cllr. Day mentioned that the link was not working properly. The Clerk will amend this as a matter of urgency. At the end of the four-week period, the NP will be listed on SODC's website and funding will be granted. The group have been looking at the green spaces in the parish and preparing a Mission/Vision statement. Terms of reference have also been discussed.*

e) **Asset of Community Value** – *The Cherry Tree Pub – The Clerk reported that despite asking for advice, no help has yet been received from the Policy & Partnerships Manager as to whether the Parish Council can put a condition on the withdrawal of the community order (see previous minutes for more detail).*

8) **FINANCE**

a) The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):

	£	p
Clerk July Salary		
Clerk August Salary		
SODC (Dog Bin Emptying)	87.91	
Alice Surman (Litter - July)	12.66	
Alice Surman (Litter – August)	25.32	
Diane Malley MAAT (Payroll)	34.00	
George Stevens	150.00	
MK Watts	240.00	
Mh -P Internet Services	828.00	
RoSPA (Annual Playground Inspection)	113.40	
Mike Eaton (Purchase of Bulbs at Fiveways)	46.63	
BDO (External Audit)	240.00	
DJA Consultants Ltd (Traffic calming advice)	744.00	
S. Johns (Stationery – Ink Cartridges)	28.94	
S. Johns – Postage (From March 2015 to date)	54.19	
MK Watts (Not on the agenda)	240.00	
S. Johns (Not on the agenda) printing costs	21.92	

b) The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):

Clerk September Salary	
MK Watts	240.00
Complete Weed Control	240.00
Mike Eaton (Purchase of seeds at Fiveways)	31.65
Rennie Grove Hospice (In memory of Brenda Wilson)	50.00

c) Receipts as follows were noted:

SODC (Precept)	10250.00
Walks Booklets	90.00
Barclays Business Saver Account (Interest)	0.14

d) The current financial situation as at 29th September 2016:

Barclays Bank – Community Account	18015.42
Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1090.19
National Savings	11224.62
Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)
Play Area Reserve Fund	(5636)
Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)
Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(5674)

Cash 1.19

d) Budget 2016/2017 v5 - Noted

9) HIGHWAYS

a) Traffic Calming – *The Clerk reported that the Kingston Blount Street Fayre were holding £2400 from the funds raised at this year's fayre, for use as a fund towards traffic calming once a proposal is agreed. The Parish Council asked that thanks be passed on to the Fayre Committee. Cllr. Day reported that the plans are ongoing and the intention is to put everything into a package with the associated costs. Once the options are clear, a public meeting will be arranged and Keith Stenning from Highways will be invited to attend.*

10) POORS HILLOCK CHARITY – None - Noted

11) HILLWERKE TRUST

a) *Cllr. Crossley reported that a donation of £100 had been received from the Kingston Blount Street Fayre. The clerk will pass on thanks to the Fayre Committee. There will be a Christmas Fayre at Kingston Blount Village Hall on Thursday 1st December, organised by a parishioner in the village. There will be Christmas carols sung by Aston Rowant School choir and Chinnor Silver Band will also be playing. Entre is £1 and stalls are available to book.*

12) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND

a) *The Clerk reported that Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company have agree in principle to help rotovate the bark in the park as part of the Community Payback scheme. A meeting will be arranged with the Clerk to carry out a risk assessment.*

13) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL - None – Noted

14) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE – *Cllr. Hetherington has arranged for the shrubs on the Junction at the end of the Stert Road to be cleared and also reported to Cllr. Green that some loosed branches from the Cherry Trees on the Green in Aston Rowant need to be cleared.*

15) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB (ARCC) – *Questions were asked about the cricket club application. Cllr. Day reported that SODC are giving the Cricket Club the opportunity to amend their plans. In its current form, SODC are minded not to approve the application, although no formal decision has been made. Concern was also raised about the building work being carried out on the second pitch. This will be investigated once the decision has been made on the planning application.*

16) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES (FAAG) -

a) Report from Cllr. P. Hetherington:

- I. Fiveways Repair to bridge and removal of more dead trees. – *A quote is being obtained for a sleeper.*
- II. Plans for signing at Fiveways and an information board. – *A note has one into the parish Notes asking for sponsorship of a sign as well as an artist to who could sketch some historical scenes of 5-ways for this*

noticeboard. It is also hoped that a bench or two can be installed on the site and quotes have been obtained. Parishioners have been invited to sponsor or purchase a bench, possible as a memorial for a loved one.

III. Parish walk (October) and parish walk on New Year's Day around Tring Reservoirs. – Cllr Hetherington reported that the New Year walk would now be from Wendover Library Car Park starting at 10am.

- b) Donation from Kingston Blount Street Fayre towards the cost of the Moors Path – Cllr. Hetherington asked that thanks should be passed to the Kingston Blount Street Fayre Committee for their donation of £1400 towards the upgrade of the new path. £13,400 has now been raised in total and the revised spec keeps the path the same width as it is currently but with the headland on either side.*
- c) Litter Picker Vacancy – There were 3 application considered and a new litter picker was chosen, based on the application content. The Clerk will follow up the formalities and arrange for a school work permit to be obtained.*

17) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS

- a) Appointment of a new Councillor by co-option – Lawney Will was co-opted as the new Councillor at the beginning of the meeting and an Acceptance to Office form was signed by Lawney and the Clerk.*

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

- a) The Clerk thanks the councillors for the support over the last 3 ½ years. This was her last formal meeting.*

19) CORRESPONDENCE – None - Noted

20) WEBSITE

- a) Item for amendment on the website – See 'Matters Arising' – The Clerk will arrange for the changes to be made on the website.*

21) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman

22) DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 9th November 2016 at Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN

SODC A Conservative District Councillor's View
(Or What The Council Is Doing)

October 2016.

Chinnor Ward Specific.

At the first Planning Committee for September, Lynn and I were able to support Chinnor Parish Council in requesting a deferment of Planning Permission for the Taylor Wimpey application. This forced TW to come to the table and the result is that the majority of the Parish concerns were addressed. For an application for work in Sydenham we obtained a site visit and whilst the result has not been everything we had hoped for, the developer has been required to use materials in keeping with the location.

We continue to deal with residents' questions and issues around planning and have a number of on-going cases in hand. Several others have also been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

We have also been dealing with consultation at Scrutiny regarding the question of Temporary Accommodation for people made homeless. Council has a duty to provide this and there is evidence that demands on our resources will increase. A plan has been compiled and we are now reviewing this to fine tune it and make sure that it best fits our needs.

We have other on-going work, but this covers the main areas for this month.

Planning Matters.

We continue to see a very heavy load of cases coming forward with many of these coming to Planning Committee which is presently sitting twice a month.

At the beginning of September, our Planning Committee refused planning permission for about 90 houses on the outskirts of Shiplake on normal planning grounds. This was because the area fell within the area covered by the Henley and Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan, which in law now reduces the weight given because of the issue of the Five Year Land Supply. This reinforces the importance of having a made Neighbourhood Plan in place, especially as more and more appeal and Court decisions are demonstrating the importance of NDPs and as the housing figures from NDPs will be used to inform our emerging Local Plan.

Sonning Common have now completed its referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan with 94% of the votes in favour of adoption. It will be before Full Council at SODC on the 13th October where it is expected to be formally 'made'.

Growth Board meeting update

At the Growth Board meeting on Monday 26 September, five of Oxfordshire's six councils (Cherwell, City, County Council, Vale of White Horse, West Oxfordshire) agreed to the recommendations made by senior officers from all six councils on how Oxford's unmet housing need, assumed to be 15,000 homes, should be met across the county. However, South Oxfordshire District Council has not yet agreed its figure.

Cllr John Cotton said, "South Oxfordshire recognises the difficult situation the City Council is in. However, the pressure to find space for more homes is one that affects us all, and residents here rightly expect the City Council to leave no stone unturned in its efforts to meet its own need.

“It is unfortunate that the City declined our offer of a substantial number of houses in the interim period prior to their Local Plan having an opportunity to find answers to their problems. However, we will continue to work in friendly partnership with members and officers at the City and together help tackle the challenges we face in Oxfordshire.”

Scrutiny

We recently looked at the emerging Strategic Economic Plan for Oxfordshire with our colleagues from the Vale at Joint Scrutiny Committee. We share concerns over the way that the Plan as it stands is very Oxford centric and focuses on the ‘science and technology spine’ from Bicester through to Harwell. Both councils have concerns that this focus means that areas like ours, and the need for infrastructure, both physical and technological, and premises for small businesses to grow into have not been addressed. A document containing our concerns has been drawn up and we have recommended that Cabinet refer the Plan to full Council for debate.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee also looked at the first year’s performance of the contractor who runs our leisure centres. Our nearest is at Thame. There were inevitably teething problems when GLL took over but these were rapidly resolved and overall we have recommended Cabinet accept the recommendation that performance is ‘Good’ and note that GLL have plans in place which will further raise the standards.

Public consultation on changes to local health services

Public opinion and feedback on proposed changes to health care provision in the district is being requested as part of a public consultation starting in January 2017.

Earlier this year, the local NHS ran a series of county wide events seeking the public’s views on the options developed by Oxfordshire’s healthcare leaders to make care clinically and financially sustainable for the future. Health services affected include maternity and children’s services, mental health and primary care.

Proposed changes are likely to be significant and include how care is delivered as well as the number and location of sites from which it is provided.

No decisions have been made about any proposed changes and will not be taken until the public consultation has run its course so the consultation feedback will help shape the transformation of healthcare services in Oxfordshire for the future.

More information on the Oxfordshire Healthcare Transformation Programme can be found at www.oxonhealthcaretransformation.nhs.uk

Encourage residents to sign up for newsletter

We are now publishing South News as a separate newsletter which will include information of interest to residents in the district. Please can you encourage local residents to sign up for the newsletters which will be published every two months.

South News keeps residents in touch with news from the council, including the latest on planning and housing in South Oxfordshire, news on recycling collections and events at our leisure centres and Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot.

To receive South News visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/southnews

Waste Recycling

We've collected over 50 tonnes of kerbside recycling

Over a twelve month period from August 2015 to July 2016 we collected 25 tonnes of electrical items and 28 tonnes of textiles. That's enough to fill seven 26 tonne trucks!

South Oxfordshire top again

According to provisional rates published by Letsrecycle.com we look set to retain our place as the country's top recycling authority.

South is top of Let's Recycle league table, with residents recycling 66.5 per cent, with the Vale Of The White Horse second at 64.8 per cent.

Recent issues with contamination have resulted in a decrease of 0.8 per cent from last year for both districts. This is something we're actively tackling this Autumn with our ban on black sacks. However, with nine out of the top ten districts all experiencing a drop in recycling over the last year, we're certainly not the only ones having this issue.

DEFRA will announce the official result later in the year.

Changing sacks to boost recycling

Reminder: From 3 November, we'll only empty green wheelie bins if the recycling in them is loose or in clear sacks.

Despite a recent campaign to raise awareness about the problem of contamination, some people continue to contaminate recycling, particularly with food waste and dirty nappies. When this happens whole truckloads of recycling are rejected at the recycling centres.

So we're insisting on clear sacks or no sacks to help us identify contaminated bins.

Until 3 November we'll leave a bin hanger on any bins containing black or coloured sacks explaining the problem. We'll empty the bin on that occasion, but if it happens again after 3 November we won't empty the bin but will leave another note to explain why.

For more information please contact the waste team on 01235 422406.

BinFo is retiring

The waste collection application BinFo is retiring after years of great service. You can still get information about when your next collection is and which bin needs to go out by going to <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/2016/2016-10/enter-binzone> or by searching on the internet for SODC bin Zone. Rumour has it that a new app will be released and when it is I shall let you know!

Corporate plan 2016-20 has been published

The corporate plans setting out the councils' strategic objectives and priorities are now available online.

The SODC Corporate Plan can be found by copying and pasting this link:

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=60edef2eeb&e=eda6ce4f57>

Yellow letter

All homes across both districts should have received a yellow letter from us asking residents to confirm who currently lives at their address. We need this information to make sure everyone who is eligible to vote is able to do so in future elections.

As soon as people get their yellow letter they should visit

www.householdresponse.com/southandvale

to confirm their details are correct or, if not, provide the correct information. If someone doesn't have access to the internet the yellow letter contains details on the alternative ways to respond.

If there's a public noticeboard in your area please help us spread the word by displaying this poster.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pyg5dx1iueykq81/Yellow%20letter%20-%20when%20it%20arrives.pdf?dl=0>

Blanket testing events

As mentioned last month if you know someone who uses an electric blanket please encourage them to get it tested before using it this winter. To help out, we're working with the other district councils and Oxfordshire Trading Standards to put on a series of 'Blanket Check' events this October and there are still three dates left:

Monday 17 - Wantage

Wednesday 19 - Henley

Thursday 20 - Oxford

Anyone wanting to book an appointment should call 01865 815 000 (option 4) or email communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Devolution update

In a statement sent out this week, the city and district councils reiterated their position that having three unitary councils would be best for the future of Oxfordshire. They believe that this model would retain local democratic accountability while best serving the needs of all residents, businesses and solving the challenges that lie ahead.

You can read the full statement on the South devolution pages:

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=999e0d93c3&e=eda6ce4f57>

Keeping safe against cyber crime

With increasing numbers of people from any background, age or income caught out by online scams, cyber crime is a real concern for many of our residents.

If you know someone who is unsure of what they can do to stay safe online then our Community Safety team can help out.

For more information about cyber crime see TVP's cyber crime page at

<http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=d77734fe07&e=eda6ce4f57>

There is also valuable information available at Cyber Streetwise:

<https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk/>

This is just a long brief summary of the work we are doing.

Editor - Cllr Ian White (ian.r.white@btinternet.com) Twitter feed: @IanWhite_DC