

## ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the above Council held on Wednesday, 18th October 2017 in Kingston Blount Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. M. Day, S Sowerby & P. Tinson (In the Chair)

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. L French, P Hetherington, T. Hill, C/Cllr Jeanette Matelot, D/Cllr Lynn Lloyd.

- 1) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – *None.*
- 2) **MINUTES** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th September 2017, were approved and signed.
- 3) **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - i. *Road repairs to Kingston Hill – the top of the hill where the road turns 90° to join the A40 is in Bucks CC so not included in the recent repairs – discussions to get this repaired also. Clerk to take forward.*
  - ii. *All 2017 grants to local organisations have now been made, and letters of thanks received from all but 2.*
  - iii. *Cyclists & resurfaced Moors footpath – discussions initiated for appropriate “use at own risk” signage.*
  - iv. *Salt bins at Pleck Lan/Brook St. OCC to investigate & repair/replace if required.*
- 4) **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS** - *The District Councillors report (Chinnor Ward) for October were circulated to all Councillors by email on 11 October & a copy is attached to these minutes. No report received from C/Cllr Jeanette Matelot.*
- 5) **OPEN FORUM** – *Several members of public were present for a presentation by Rectory Homes on a planning application for 5 homes in the paddock to the right as entering Aston Rowant, just after the equine ménage. An application has already been submitted to SODC during the week ending 13 October and has not yet been assigned a planning officer or notified to the Parish Council. Once the full details are known, these will be posted to the web-site and KBAR along with details of the questions and answers from this meeting, and how parishioners can comment. 2 members of public remained for the rest of the meeting.*
- 6) **PLANNING**
  - i. **Applications** as follows were confirmed/discussed:  
**P17-S2497-FUL** – *Revised plans for Queens Gate Bungalow, Butts Way, Aston Rowant – still being considered as at the time of meeting.*
  - ii. **Decisions** of S.O.D.C. as follows were noted: **NONE** since last meeting.
  - iii. **Update on SODC local plan.** *Cllr Day attended the meeting held on 11 October and reported that this would set the policy for housing needs for the next 10-15 years, with the primary focus being to justify the significant numbers of new homes required in certain specific places – ie: Didcot, Culham and Chalgrove airfield. The feeling is generally that the required numbers are massively over-inflated, and could be only 66% of the figures, but that the proposals would go through at the higher level and revised downwards if possible. The allocation for smaller villages is only 500 new homes, of which our 2 villages are counted as one, being in the same parish. Realistically, this could mean a 5-10% increase in current housing, probably the higher level. Housing density is also an issue with guidelines now being 30 houses/hectare - three times what current schemes propose. Thought needs to be given as to how our concerns on the appropriateness of high density housing in a rural low-density area such as Aston Rowant parish should be addressed.*
  - iv. **Publication of Wycombe District Local Plan** – *whilst we have no input as this is not in Oxfordshire, we will be significantly affected by the proposed expansion of Princes Risborough and there will be major traffic and infrastructure issues as a result. Cllr. Day is to formulate a response and, together with Cllrs. Sowerby and Tinson, to keep abreast of developments.*
- 7) **FINANCE**
  - i. *The following payments were noted (Costs include VAT):*

	£	p
Clerk August Salary		
HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk August salary		
BDO LLP Annual Audit Fee)	240.00	
Information Commissioner (Data Protection Registration)	35.00	
DM Payroll Services (6 monthly payroll admin fee)	40.50	
Playsafety Ltd (Annual Play Area Inspection)	113.40	

	Watts (Grass Cutting, July/August)	617.12
ii.	Receipts as follows to be noted:	
	SODC (Annual precept, part 2)	11250.00
	Walks Booklets	57.00
	Trust for Oxfordshire (Grant for Moors footpath)	10000.00
	Hillwerke Trust (Grass-cutting contribution)	750.00
iii.	The following payments were approved (Costs include VAT):	
	Clerk September Salary	
	HMRC/P.A.Y.E re: clerk September salary	
	T Lambourne – Mileage, stamps, expenses	82.55
	MK Watts (Grass Cutting, September)	308.56
	Robyn Leinster (Litter, September)	25.32
	Mike Eaton (reimbursement for Fiveways planting)	75.50
	SODC (Dog-bin emptying Jul-Sep)	87.91
	George Stevens (Aug/Sept)	380.00
	Complete Weed Control (Street Spraying, Sept)	240.00
	Hillwerke Trust (as agreed in point 10iv of September minutes)	127.50
iv.	The current financial situation as at 30th September 2017:	
	Barclays Bank – Community Account	44750.39
	Barclays Bank – Business Saver Account	1090.47
	National Savings	11224.62
	Village Hall Reserve fund	(690)
	Play Area Reserve Fund	(5636)
	Parish Notes Reserve Fund	(1000)
	Trees, Footpaths & Environment Reserve Fund	(24236)
v.	Extra Grass Cutting for October has been suggested by the contractor. The grass is still growing due to the warm weather so far this Autumn but as this has not been budgeted for approval was sought by email prior to this meeting so the work could be done – proposed by Cllr. Tinson and seconded by Cllr. Hetherington.	

#### 8) HIGHWAYS: -

- i. Cllr Day reported that there is nothing further to add yet regarding the proposed chicanes at either end of Kingston Blount, other than the Public Consultation is now open with every household being sent a letter, a copy of the plans and an invitation to comment via a link to the relevant OCC web-site page. Details have already been posted on the PC web-site and KBAR, but the Clerk is to post a reminder on both to comment before 3 November.
- ii. Concerns have been expressed by a number of parishioners regarding the possible effects of increased pollution from standing traffic at the proposed chicanes. Cllr Day is to respond directly. See also point 8i above re: encouraging such comments to OCC via the publicised web-link.
- iii. It is unclear whether the proposed street clean scheduled for 11/12 October took place – the Clerk to follow up with OCC.
- iv. Repairs to road surface on Kingston Hill – see point 3i.

#### 9) HILLWERKE TRUST: - No report.

#### 10) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- i. Cllr Tinson reported that he and the Mark Thackeray the NP Chairman had attended a recent meeting with Ricardo Rios, our assigned officer, who reiterated the comments published in the SODC Local Plan revision regarding numbers of new homes required. When making an assessment, development must be suitable to the locality, land must be available (ie: landowners willing to sell) & viable. It could be argued that as our parish has no amenities to speak of, shops, schools, transport links etc. any proposed development would not be sustainable, and therefore not viable however, those arguments would be unlikely to stop any proposed development.
- ii. Regarding the continued formulation of the plan, Cllr Tinson explained that due process must be followed and that if we try to speed this process up it could be seen as an attempt to avoid proposed development and the whole plan could be rejected by SODC, leaving us open to being told to develop every site identified following recent consultations within the parish. Along with those sites identified, others were marked as those which should be

protected, and some sites fall within both categories. Certain areas will be automatically excluded eg. allotments, inaccessible sites, or sites of significant historical importance. One thing we cannot do is to be seen to prefer one potential development over another because it may be more aesthetically pleasing, or perceived as less intrusive to the villages.

- iii. Following the public consultations and an appeal by the NP Chairman, several residents have come forward offering to assist with the site assessments.
  - iv. The clerk reported that we have now received the relevant paperwork to raise an invoice for SODC to pay the £5,000 grant for preparation of the plan, and hopefully can report on receipt of the funds by the November meeting.
- 11) KINGSTON BLOUNT PLAYGROUND** - Work to undertake minor repairs to various pieces of equipment will start shortly as agreed with a local contractor.
- 12) ASTON ROWANT SCHOOL** – No report received, and liaison Cllr absent from meeting.
- 13) GRASS CUTTING & GENERAL PARISH MAINTENANCE:** –
- i. See point 7v re: extra cutting required for October.
  - ii. A question was asked by a member of public regarding the continued cutting of the unofficial footpath to Crowell. As no grass cutting is undertaken during the winter months this will cease, but confirmation was sought, and given, that this will now occur regularly when cutting recommences in Spring.
- 14) ASTON ROWANT CRICKET CLUB** – No report received. Mention was made that regular reports used to be made throughout the season in the Parish Notes Magazine by the Cricket Club Chairman. Cllr. Sowerby undertook to liaise with the club and make such reports in the 2018 season.
- 15) FOOTPATHS AND AMENITIES GROUP (FAAG)** - Cllr. Hetherington had given his apologies for absence at this deferred meeting, but in his absence the Clerk reported:
- i. Public Rights of Way Records – details have been received of workshops during November to ensure any historic footpaths/rights of way or ancient lanes that are not on the County Council's Definitive Maps are not lost forever. Full discussion to take place at the FAAG meeting scheduled for Monday 23 October, and reported in the minutes of that meeting.
  - ii. An event has been arranged for Friday 3 November at 2pm by the cricket field to formally "open" the newly resurfaced Moors Footpath. Contributors towards the cost of the upgrade have been invited to attend, as are all parishioners.
  - iii. Notices for cyclists using the new path – see point 3iii
- 16) CORESPONDENCE:** -
- i. Letter received from The Ground Care Company in seeking to tender for 2018 maintenance and grass-cutting. To be deferred to Spring 2018, when these matters are generally dealt with. The Clerk to respond accordingly.
  - ii. Letters received from several local organisations to whom grants have been paid, thanking us for our contribution and continued support. Noted.
  - iii. Letter received from HMRC advising that WEF: January 2018 we can no longer pay our PAYE contributions via the Post Office. No response necessary as we already use an alternative method, but the clerk to advise new contact address as the letter was addressed to the previous Clerk, at an address for the Clerk prior to her.
- 17) OTHER MATTERS & WRITTEN REPORTS** - None
- 18) OTHER URGENT MATTERS at the discretion of the Chairman** – None.
- 19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 8th November 2017 in Kingston Blount Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**CHAIRMAN**