

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2009 IN THE
MEETING ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

- 1. Members Present:** John Little (Chairman)
Bob Jones
Gill Long
John Ordish
Fanny Sedman
Jane West
Roy Williams

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu – Clerk
Charles Mathew – Oxfordshire County Councillor
4 members of the public

Bob Jones thanked the Parish Council for the gifts sent to him and his wife on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary.

- 2. Members' Apologies:** None

- 3. Minutes of previous meeting** – 5 March 2009 - previously circulated to all members were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Roy Williams, seconded by Jane West.

- 4. Parish Councillors - Disclosure of interests on agenda items**
None.

5. Open session for public debate

A resident of Ham Lane informed the Parish Council that she has reported a pothole on the High Street at its junction with Bovingtons Yard to the County Council.

Jane West commented that the road into Chimney was also in a bad condition due presumably to the construction traffic using it.

A resident from Cote spoke about their concerns about the planning application for Pond House, Cote due to be considered later in the meeting. If the barn is converted into a two storey building it will overlook into their property. If the proposed outside staircase is lit this will affect their property. There are also concerns about the potential future use of the building. John Little advised the resident that the Parish Council can only consider the planning application as it is and can't speculate about potential future use. It was agreed that the proposals could affect the setting of the neighbouring listed building.

6. OCC/WODC items

Charles Mathew informed the Parish Council that SEERA has recently issued a final draft consultation document covering the gravel extraction requirement for the South East. The quantity of gravel required to be extracted in the South East has been reduced to 1.4m tonnes (from the 7.3m tonnes in a previous draft). Permission has already been given to extract a further 2.9m tonnes at Gill Mill in Ducklington and so this should ease the pressure on future gravel extraction in this area.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) *Evening bus services*

Roy Williams agreed to raise this matter as requested by a resident in the March Parish Council meeting at the Parish Transport Representatives meeting on 15 April. Bob Jones reminded the meeting that when the Parish Appraisal was prepared in 2000 it showed that a large number of people were interested in an evening bus service. The County Council ruled the idea out at that time for financial reasons. Roy Williams stated that there has been a suggestion at the PTR meeting before that there could be a late night circular bus. John Little said that Bampton Parish Council might ask the Parish Council to support their own request for evening bus services. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be happy to support such a request.

b) *Highways Issues*

- Further letter sent requesting that the road between Cote crossroads towards Yelford is scheduled for resurfacing
- Request that white lining is refreshed on junction of Bull Street with Cote Road – will be assessed by Highways and if necessary scheduled for work over next 6 weeks
- Accompanied road survey with representative from Highways requested

c) *Speed checks*

Following the March meeting the Clerk wrote to Carterton Police requesting a speed check on both Bampton Road and Cote Road. The local PCSO rang to say that a speed check should be carried out on 24/25/26 March. No-one was aware of whether this had taken place – Clerk to follow up.

A resident from Kingsway has taken the matter up with Highways direct – they are looking into the idea of providing 20mph advisory signs on Cote Road for when the school is starting/finishing

d) *Trees in Conservation Areas*

Nick Dalby of West Oxfordshire District Council has confirmed that any work (no matter how minor) to any tree with a trunk over 3 inches in diameter in a Conservation Area has technically to be approved by the District Council before it is carried out. The District Council focus is on protecting significant trees that have a useful public amenity value. It was agreed to put this information in the next issue of Voices.

e) *Cote Chapel - grass cutting arrangements for 2009*

Historic Chapels Trust has now given permission for the Parish Council to enter into a contract for this work. Clerk to place order with Des Johnston as previously discussed.

f) *Road Names for new developments*

John Ordish advised the meeting that the History Group Committee will discuss this at their meeting on 6 April – John Ordish to report back at May Parish Council meeting.

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings (continued)

- g) *Glass House at Cote*
Ongoing action being undertaken by West Oxfordshire District Council to gain compliance with development pre-conditions
- h) *New dog bin for Cote*
Order for new bin placed with West Oxfordshire District Council at a cost of £179.
- i) *Oxfordshire Highways' proposed introduction of a 7.5 tonne environmental weight limit on the Bampton to Buckland Road*
Letter sent requesting that same weight limit be applied to B4449 between Brighthampton and Bampton. Letter acknowledged but no detailed response received. Gill Long reported that she has received a complaint from a local resident about a large vehicle regularly going through the village between 3.30am and 5.30am. She was asked to tell the resident that if they note the vehicle registration number and company name the Parish Council will follow it up.
It was noted that if the proposed vehicle weight limit is applied in Bampton and on the Buckland road then this will make it illegal for large vehicles to drive through Aston.
- j) *Anti Social Behaviour*
Nothing noted.

8. Correspondence sent

Listed in the Clerk's Briefing Notes previously circulated to all Councillors.

9. New Business

- a) *Membership of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for 2009/10*
It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, would renew this subscription at a cost of £29.00. This is, in the opinion of the Council, in the interests of the inhabitants of the Parish and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.
Proposed by Robert Jones, seconded by John Ordish.
- b) *Annual parish litter blitz*
Robert Jones agreed to get the required equipment from West Oxfordshire District Council. He will approach the people who have volunteered previously to help (those on the Parish Council agreed to help as before). In the absence of a Lengthsman it was decided to add The Square, North Street, Bampton Road and the High Street to the areas to be covered. Mr Jones agreed to find a volunteer to cover Bampton Road and North Street. Litter blitz to be carried out between 20 and 30 April.
- c) *Request from St Mary's Church, Shifford for a grant towards the cost of churchyard maintenance*
It was decided to award a grant of £100 – proposed by Fanny Sedman, seconded by Robert Jones.
- d) *Oxfordshire County Council's proposed changes to the bus shelter grants scheme*
Consultation letter received from Oxfordshire County Council. It was decided not to comment.

10. Community Trust

A copy of the Minutes from the recent meeting were put in the Folder for circulation.

John Ordish provided an update on Community Trust matters:

The WREN grant has been approved.

The quotation for the installation of the posts has been approved by the Committee. The agreed grant will be requested from the Parish Council when the work has been scheduled.

The first cut of the playing field was done on 26 March.

11. Parish Infrastructure

a) July 2007 Flood follow-up

Letter sent to Laurence King, West Oxfordshire District Council (re)requesting work on Back Lane ditches

They have plotted the location of the ditches, will now carry out land searches to identify the owners with riparian responsibilities and then contact them to specify the work required. Oxfordshire Highways has allocated £5,000 for drainage works in this area in 2009/10.

b) Great Brook

The Clerk took photographs of the fallen trees in the Great Brook on 22 March. These have been forwarded to the Environment Agency. Emails have been exchanged between the Clerk, John Little, Charles Mathew and the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council in a bid to get the problems addressed. John Little has forwarded the emails to Bampton Parish Council who will support the requested work.

12. PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATION FOLLOW-UP

09/0130 Aston Mile Farm, Aston
Erection of dwelling

One of the applicants was present at the meeting. The Environment Agency has objected to this planning application on the basis that the land near the proposed dwelling floods. The applicant had requested that the Parish Council write to support the application and to advise that the land does not, in fact, flood. The applicants are themselves sending a letter to the Environment Agency, signed by local landowners, saying that in their experience the land does not flood. The Parish Council decided that they as a body do not have sufficient knowledge of the flood history of the land to send the requested letter, however the applicants can include in their own letter the information that the Parish Council does not have any recollection of this land flooding.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS GRANTED:

09/0108 3 Vicarage Close, Aston
Erection of first floor extension over existing garage

PLANNING (continued)

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

- 09/0279 Pond House, Cote
Conversion of existing barn to provide leisure facilities, study and guest accommodation, all ancillary to main dwelling

This application had also been discussed earlier in the meeting during the public session.

Fanny Sedman advised the Parish Council that she is aware that seven local residents will be submitting their own objections to the District Council; two of them have sent copies of their letters to the Parish Council.

It was decided that the Parish Council would object to this application on the grounds that: it will detract from the setting of a listed building; the scale of the building, the proposed materials and the building's design are out of keeping for the local area. Letter also to request that if the District Council approves the application a condition be applied that its use must be ancillary to the main dwelling.

- 09/0298 The Thatched Cottage, North Street, Aston
Adaptation of partially constructed outbuilding to form annexe

It was decided that the Parish Council would object to this application on the grounds that it is not in keeping with the local area and will be over-dominant on the site and is inappropriate for a Conservation Area.

- 09/0341 51 Cote Road, Aston
Erection of single storey rear extension

No comments.

13. FINANCE

- a) Account Balances – circulated in the Clerk's Briefing Notes

Balance on Current Account at 31 March 2009	£200.04
Balance on Deposit Account at 31 March 2009	£21,295.61
Total Cash Holding at 31 March 2009	<u>£21,495.65</u>

- b) Investment with West Oxfordshire District Council

Following the decision made at the March meeting to place the Parish Council's investment money with West Oxfordshire District Council it was decided to raise a cheque for £20,900 to send to WODC.

FINANCE (continued)

c) MARCH INVOICES

Office Rent for April 2009– already paid by Direct Debit

25.00 LGA 1972, s111

PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT AT 2 APRIL 2009 MEETING

		Statute
Clerk's salary - H Sandhu	280.00	LGA 1972, s112
Expenditure from Chairman's allowance	51.43	LGA 1972 s15(5)
Lynick Gardens – War Memorial maintenance for March 2009	60.85	WMA 1923, s1
WODC – dog bin emptying for March 2009	14.39	Litter Act 1983
St Mary's, Shifford – grant for churchyard maintenance	100.00	LGA 1972, s214
CPRE – subscription for 2009/10	29.00	LGA 1972, s137
West Oxfordshire District Council – investment on temporary loan	20,900.00	n/a
Total	£21,435.67	

It was resolved to make the above payments – proposed by Robert Jones, seconded by Roy Williams.

The cheques were signed by John Little and Roy Williams.

14. Parish Councillors' reports from meetings attended since last meeting

None

15. FOLDER – Jane West

16. Date of next meetings –

THURSDAY 7 MAY 2009 – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by usual monthly Parish Council Meeting

TUESDAY 12 MAY 2009 – Annual Parish Meeting

Signeddated.....