

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST 2009 IN THE
MEETING ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, ASTON AT 7.30 PM**

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

In Attendance: Helen Sandhu - Clerk
Charles Mathew – Oxfordshire County Councillor
1 member of the public

- 2. Members' Apologies:** Fanny Sedman

- 3. Minutes of previous meeting** – 2 July 2009 - previously circulated to all members were agreed as a correct record, subject to the replacement of the word “reviewed” for “renewed” in the third line, last paragraph on page 810, and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Jane West, seconded by Roy Williams.

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

5. Open session for public debate

Bob Jones asked whether anyone had any further information about the dead hedges near the Jubilee bench. Jane West replied that she had been in contact with Neil Shellard of West Oxfordshire District Council and he has agreed to come and look at them. Brenda Smith has also spoken to him on the Parish Council's behalf.

Bob Jones reported that the centre line road markings on the Cote Road junction with Bull Street had still not been renewed. The Clerk said that she could follow this up.

Jane West informed the Parish Council that representatives from the Environment Agency had visited Chimney to look at the building up of ground levels which has been done round Chimney Farm barns. They had previously visited on site six months earlier but had taken no action. Now the Environment Agency reports that as six months have elapsed since their earlier inspection they cannot pursue the matter further. They also informed residents that as Chimney is in a low flooding risk area no action would probably have been taken anyway. Charles Mathew suggested that Mrs West complain to the manager in charge of the Environment Agency's Wallingford office. Mrs West said that she would do this.

6. OCC/WODC items

The West Oxfordshire District Councillors were not in attendance.

Charles Smith informed the Parish Council that Oxfordshire County Council has stated that it will save £90 million over the next 5 years, with 500 job losses/reductions planned.

7. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

a) *Speed checks*

John Little provided a verbal report on his attendance at a visit from the local police speed check team on 7 July. Two PCSOs attended and used the speed detection laser gun on two sites in Aston. On Cote Road outside the village hall 30 vehicles passed during the time, with 3 exceeding the speed limit, driving around 34/35 mph. On North Street 60 vehicles passed, with 2/3 speeding, one at 46mph.

b) *Evening bus services*

Charles Mathew reported that he had contacted West Oxfordshire District Council about the potential provision of an evening bus service following the completion of Marriotts Close. He did not find out any information to indicate that this is being planned.

Roy Williams said that he would ask whether there is any more information about this at the next PTR meeting on 19 August. If not, the Parish Council will need to decide whether to take any further action itself to take this issue forward.

c) *Cote Chapel*

John Little to ring Alan Beith to ask him to come and meet the Parish Council to take this matter forward.

d) *Lorry traffic through Aston*

Fanny Sedman's husband had no success trying to get RAF Brize Norton to speak to him but is still trying to pursue this. MJ Church (the main contractor for the Brize Norton works) lorries have been seen in the area, although not actually in Aston.

Charles Mathew reported that the previously proposed environmental weight limit for Bampton and the Bampton/Buckland road has been held up by objections from Bampton Parish Council. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she has spoken to Tony Currell of Oxfordshire Highways about the Parish Council's request for an environmental weight limit on the B4449 from the A415. He said that the head of the relevant team at Highways (believed to be Peter Ronald) has a policy of not putting environmental weight limits in place unless there has been a history of accidents.

e) *Request for new road signage into Chimney*

The Clerk reported that she has again spoken to the Highways officer responsible for this. He has not yet been to visit the location, but plans to do so.

f) *Grass cutting – Saxel Close, between number 1 and Highways verge*

The quotation received from Lynick Gardens (to cut now, leaving cut grass lying: £60; to rake up and remove cut grass to edge of recreation ground: £40; to include area in normal village grass cutting: £15) was discussed. It was decided not to pursue this. The Clerk was asked to request a quotation for an alternative of cutting a metre wide strip round the road side of this area both now, and on every future grass cut. Any expenditure would need to be paid from the limited s137 budget.

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings (continued)

g) Anti Social Behaviour

John Ordish reported that four of the wooden posts around the front car park at the Village Hall had been broken, possibly by accident. They will be repaired and the Community Trust will look at the cost of alternatives (boulders, for example)

8. Correspondence sent

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

9. New Business

a) Subscription to NALC publication Local Council Review

It was decided to renew the Parish Council's subscription to this magazine at a cost of £13.50 for one year. Proposed by John Ordish, seconded by Jane West.

b) Overgrown hedges

A local resident has expressed their concern about the hedge at Thistle Cottage, Ham Lane which is overgrowing the Highway.

It was decided that the Clerk would write to the landowner, David Morgan informing him that the hedge is becoming a hazard and needs to be cut.

The tree near the Cote Road VAS is obstructing the sign. It was decided that the Clerk would ask David Botcherby to cut the relevant branches back.

c) Bus stop signs for Oxford

Bob Jones reported that the bus stop sign in Aston advising people where to wait for the bus to Oxford is still inaccurate. Roy Williams told Mr Jones that every time he goes to a PTR meeting he repeats the Parish Council's request to relocate this sign, but this has still not been done. He will make the request again at the PTR meeting on 19 August. John Ordish and Roy Williams agreed to design and print a laminated sign which could be put on the bus stop to make it clear to people where they should wait for the bus to Oxford.

d) Oxfordshire Highways review of speed limits on "A" and "B" class roads in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Highways is not recommending changes for any of the roads in the parish. Charles Mathew informed the Parish Council that he has responded to this consultation suggesting that the speed limit on the B4449 from Standlake should be reduced to 50mph in line with many local roads.

The Parish Council decided that it would not respond to the consultation.

e) North Street VAS hedge

Reported in the Agenda as requiring cutting – now done by David Botcherby.

10. Community Trust

John Ordish provided an update on matters relating to the Community Trust. A copy of the recent minutes was placed in the folder. Mr Ordish reported that the refurbishment of the kitchen was finished and that the rest of the work was underway and should be finished by the target date of the end of August.

11. Parish Infrastructure

- a) *July 2007 Flood follow-up/Great Brook*
The next Flood Prevention Working Group meeting is on 28 August at 4.00pm in Bampton Town Hall – John Little and John Ordish plan to attend.
The end of Bull Street is still slow to drain of rain water following heavy rain. Jenny Elliott who had worked at Thames Water and been very helpful with helping to ensure that action was taken to improve drainage in Bull Street no longer works for them. Charles Mathew asked whether John Little had heard anything further from Gordon Hunt of Oxfordshire County Council as he had promised that more work would be done in Bull Street in June/July 2009. John Little replied that no further work has been done and that he will chase Gordon Hunt up, copying the email to Charles Mathew.
- b) *Footpath adoption – Saxel Close to Bull Street*
Following a request from the Clerk, Oxfordshire Highways has now adopted this footpath and will assume its maintenance responsibility - the footpath edges have already been strimmed as requested by the Clerk.
- c) *Footpath between Aston and Cote*
The Clerk has contacted Oxfordshire Highways to request the hedge/verge plants overgrowing the path be cut back

12. PLANNING

PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN:

- 09/0663/P/FP Unit 3, Chimney Farm, Chimney
Conversion of outbuildings to additional accommodation and studio/workshop
WODC confirm that this work is deemed permitted development and does not therefore require planning approval
They have agreed to raise the Parish Council's concerns with WODC Environmental Health. A separate letter has been sent to Planning Enforcement regarding the level of activity at the location

13. FINANCE

- a) Account Balances – circulated in the Clerk's Briefing Notes
- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| Balance on Current Account at 31 July 2009 | £4,250.70 |
| Balance on Investment with WODC at 31 July 2009 | £15,400.00 |
| Total Cash Holding at 31 July 2009 | <u>£19,650.70</u> |
- b) Bank reconciliation to 30 June 2009
Copy circulated in Clerk's Briefing Notes – contents noted.

FINANCE (continued)

c) JULY INVOICES

Office Rent for August 2009– already paid by Direct Debit

25.00 LGA 1972, s111

PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT AT 6 AUGUST 2009 MEETING

		Statute
Clerk's salary - H Sandhu	294.00	LGA 1972, s112
Clerk's expenses – mobile phone call April to July 2009	1.14	LGA 1972, s111
Lynick Gardens – village grass cutting (2 cuts – 8 to date)	809.04	HA 1980, s116 & WMA 1923, s1
Des Johnston – 4 cuts of grass at Cote Chapel	124.00	LGA 1972, s214
WODC – dog bin emptying for July 2009	15.82	Litter Act 1983
WODC – 2 playing field grass cuts (6 to date)	111.55	LG(MP)A 1976, s19
A Mitchell – bus shelter clean 1 July	30.00	LG(MP)A 1953, s4
Margaret Johnson Ltd - stationery	4.07	LGA 1972, s111
NALC – subscription to LCR magazine	13.50	LGA 1972, s111
Total	£1,403.12	

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

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 meeting:

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2009 – Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Signeddated.....