

**Minutes of the Aston Clinton Parish Council Meeting
Held on; 2nd April 2014 Wednesday at 7.30pm
At Aston Clinton Parish Council Meeting Room**

Councillors present:

Richard Maskell (Chairman)

John Watson (Vice Chairman)

Mrs T Kirtland

Dave Wallis

Martin Watson

Brian Harrison

Geoff Plowman

Tony Winterbottom

Paul Crook

Joe Hoinville

Clerk: Ms Claire Hill

Members of the Public: 15

14.049 Apologies for absence

Cllr Mrs M Richards

14.050 Declarations of interests

For Councillors to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests.

The Chairman for item "*planning*" in relation to the proposed development in Brook Street.

14.051 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th March 2014 were unanimously approved.

It was **RESOLVED** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public will be excluded from the meeting for the following items, under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Correspondence between the Parish Council and its solicitor; this was agreed unanimously.

14.052 Chairman's report for March

For some years the travellers have occasionally camped in the turning area at the end of College Road South which has prevent vehicles using the turning area and discouraged the public from walking there.

There has recently been a meeting of all interested parties to address this problem, chaired by BCC Bill Chapple.

It is proposed to close off College Road South 150 metres north of the last house in the road with a gate and create a hammer head in front of it in which vehicles can turn. The gate will come from the present inner gate at the end of the road. At the southern end of the road internationally recognised signs will be install displaying ' No entry to HGVs. Further public consultation is to take place by Bucks CC and they will also fund the changes the area.

Park & Recreation

The Park continues to be flooded with the stream overflowing its bank just before the culvert in the nearby field and ruining the Meadow pitch. The entrance to the culvert is silted up. The land is owned by Bucks County Council but part of the lease of the new tenants of Green Park. The Parish Council wrote to BCC requesting them to clear the entrance to the culvert. They replied that it was part of the river system and the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Who said that they would get round to it. We have now been told that BCC will get a contractor to clear it this week.

A letter has been sent to the Environment Agency outlining the problem and asking them how they propose to deal with the problem in the long term.

We are intending to obtain compensation from Sport England for the repair of the Meadow football pitch.

14.053 Clerks Report

The Clerk and Chairman and Vice Chairman met with the ladies who have recently set up a company who wish to make use to the park to provide activities for children of all ages. It was requested that the members be advised if in principal they would be interested in having a 2 day event at the park. As this is a commercial venture, hire of the park will need to be charged for. Further information will be provided at a later date regarding this event.

14.054 Finances for April 2014

The sum of £ 17,550.82 was approved unanimously.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Direct Debits | | |
| EON | Street Lighting | £ 567.68 |
| British Gas | Parish office electricity | £ 40.00 |
| British Gas | New Car Park Lighting | £ 43.34 |
| Total DD's | | £ 651.02 |
| All other payments | | |
| Fleet line markers | MK11 charger for line marker | £ 84.60 |
| Dyno-rod | Unblock drains at Hub | £ 156.00 |
| HMRC | PAYE for March 2014 | £ 188.62 |
| Lightfoots | Part 36 Offer | £10,000.00 |
| C Hill | March salary | £ 994.98 |
| C Watson | Empty bins and litter pick in Aston park | £ 100.00 |
| Evetts Agriculture | Park contractor | £ 202.80 |
| D Evett - 103881 | Park contractor | £ 56.00 |
| Fishlock Heating, Plumbing & Gas | Plumbing services | £ 180.00 |
| Johnstone Publishing | Advert | £ 18.00 |
| Almar (Tring) Ltd | Car park signs | £ 20.40 |
| BAS Associates | Monthly payroll | £ 54.00 |
| Bucks County Council | Legal fees | £ 1,112.40 |
| Bucks County Council | Legal fees | £ 3,888.00 |
| Total of BACS/DC/CHQ | | £17,055.80 |
| Total to Pay: | | £17,550.82 |
| Receipts | | |
| HMRC | VAT Claim Feb 2014 | £1,167.11 |
| Allotment rents 100356 | 4 Plots @ £11 each | £ 44.00 |
| Allotment rents – 100355 | 10 plots @ £11 each | £ 110.00 |
| Allotment rents – 100357 | 1 plot @ £11 each | £ 11.00 |
| Allotment rents – 100359 | 3 plots @ £11 each | £ 33.00 |
| Total | | £1,365.11 |

It was agreed that the Bank Mandate be changed from the old Clerk to the new Clerk, the current details to stay the same until confirmation has been received from the bank. This was agreed unanimously.

14.055 Allotments

Only two plots remaining and no wait list at present.

14.056 Transportation

Nothing to discuss

14.057 Environment

Pot holes to be reported to TFB again; Royal Siam roundabout and also Spring Brook. Additional potholes appearing in park entrance. Clerk to contact contractor for a quote.

14.058 Park & Recreation

Culvert update; as per Chairman's report.

Rubber matting for the playpark, Clerk to liaise with contractor to obtain quotes for both areas that currently house chip bark. Rubber matting is potentially a cheaper option in the long term.

Litter bins; WD40 or similar lubricant to be applied to rubbish bin locks.

Clerk to contact dog walking clubs and request dogs in large numbers to be kept on leads near Pebble beach and play park areas.

14.059 Football

Goal posts left out again, the grass will not be mowed if any items are left on the pitches.

14.060 Churchyard

Contractor has commenced maintenance work.

14.061 Correspondence

Email from Mr Loxley re; Precept increase.

Freedom of Information Request.

Mr Keith Loxley has asked the Parish Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to state:

Why the Parish Precept, originally set in December 2013 at 3.2% was subsequently increased by up to 21%.

Why the Parish Council has spent more than £9,000 over the last twelve months on Legal Services.

The response.

A few years ago a neighbour installed a fence down the Aston Park side of the stream that forms the boundary between the two properties. The neighbours understood that to be the position of the boundary when they purchased their property in 2005.

The Parish Council has owned Aston Park for over forty years and the Council's title deed shows the boundary to be on the neighbour's side of the stream. The stream has been enjoyed by the public for all that time. The Parish tried to negotiate with the neighbours and despite early promise of an agreement the legal lines were drawn. The neighbours instituted court proceedings. The Council was advised that the cost of a hearing could be between £25,000 and £50,000 with no certainty of success. At the time the Council's insurance did not cover the defence of this type legal action. The Council made an 'out of court offer' that was accepted. An increase in the Parish precept has been necessary to cover these costs.

Retraction - The response statement above was fully retracted and an apology made by Chairman Richard Maskell at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th May 2014.

Planning;

No comment; all plans are available to view during office hours.

14.062 Matters arising

Cllr Geoff Plowman expressed that there could be a conflict of interest with Green Park. Further to a recent visit to Green Park by members, which is now "under new management", it could be possible that the Scouts/U3A/Caravan Club and other associations in the future may use Green Park rather than Aston Park in light of the new and improved facilities at Green Park.

Cllr Plowman also requested that the current Park Contractor's annual contract be reviewed.

14.063 Public participation

For members of the public to ask questions, raise any issues on items included on the agenda. Items not included on the agenda requiring decisions will be included on the next agenda.

Please note: this section of the meeting is not required by law to be minuted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30

14.064 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th May 2014 in the Parish Meeting Room, Aston Clinton Park, London Road, Aston Clinton, at 7.30pm.

Signed by.....

Date.....