

## Aston Clinton Parish Council

01296 631269 [parishcouncil@astonclinton.org](mailto:parishcouncil@astonclinton.org)

Minutes of the Parish Council on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm  
at the Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room, London Road, Aston Clinton,  
HP22 5HL

### MINUTES

#### Present:

M Watson (Chairman)

J Savigar

J Hoinville

M Richards

D Wallis

G Plowman

P Crook

T Kirtland

C Paternoster (AVDC)

B Chapple (BCC)

Clerk: G Merry

20 members of the public

#### ***Cllr Watson stated as follows: -***

- *That the meeting was likely to be recorded and asked for anyone recording to declare this.*
- *That the matter of A.L.F. at Green Park (15:036 ii) needed to be placed at the end of the facilities section of the agenda as prior discussions were likely to affect the outcome of this.*

#### **15.032 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Maskell, Read and Winterbottom

#### **15.033 For Councillors to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in items on the Agenda**

There were no personal or prejudicial interests.

#### **15.034 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Richards SECONDED by Cllr Wallis and AGREED.

#### **15.035 Public Participation**

- i. It was asked why the public participation section had been moved to the start of the meeting. The Clerk responded that this was to move closer to SLCC best practise, who advise that this session should actually take place before the meeting begins.
- ii. It was reported that there is increasing traffic congestion on Twitchell Lane, from the junction with the main road and all the way down to Green End Street/New Road. The P.C. was asked to request double yellow lines.
- iii. It was reported that a traffic survey had that day been carried out at Brook Street/College Road South. Cllr Chapple responded that unfortunately traffic surveys are always done to the benefit of the developer e.g. during school holidays, and they are entitled to do this.
- iv. It was reported that the preliminary survey report into the proposed Chapel Drive development of 95 houses, contains lies. Cllr Chapple responded that both he and Cllr Paternoster had objected and had given accurate statistics.

### 15.036 Matters Arising

- i. Lamppost – Upper Icknield Way: the clerk reported that progress was held up by lack of police incident number but she was in touch with the local officers. Cllr Richards agreed to try to find out an accurate date of the incident.
- ii. Brook Street/College Road: PACVE reported that this application had been ‘called in’ and therefore no further progress can be made until the Secretary of State makes a decision.
- iii. Donation to PACVE - Council was asked to consider a donation to PACVE. It was stated that we had contributed to the Hampden Fields pressure groups and that had not even been in our village, so there was a definite case for supporting PACVE.  
Motion: That Council agrees a donation to the Preserve Aston Clinton Village Environment Fund. This was PROPOSED by Cllr Savigar, SECONDED by Cllr Crook and AGREED.

### 15.037 The Chairman to provide a monthly report

There was no report due to the Chairman’s absence

### 15.038 The Clerk to provide a monthly report

The Clerk reported on several campaigns being implemented for the betterment of the village:

Dog Fouling: As a response to increasing complaints, links have been made to the village school and with local people to implement a poster campaign in the village. Posters designed by the children have gone up in the village and there is also an item on the website. There is now a need for video/photographic evidence where possible because the fine can be substantial.

Elections: P.C. elections take place on May 7<sup>th</sup> along with the general election and local people should consider standing as Parish Councillors. 12 or more people need to stand or there will not be an election and those standing automatically become councillors. Nomination papers are due to be delivered around 16<sup>th</sup> March and need to be submitted by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone wishing to be considered can start emailing the clerk from now to register their interest.

Pavilion: There have been several expressions of interest from people wishing to do something with the Pavilion and these have been put on file. However, a public survey has taken place in the village which had concluded that day. The clerk thanked all who responded and presented the initial findings. (Please see website for results).

### 15.039 Correspondence Received:

The Clerk itemised 3 pieces of correspondence for councillors consideration: -

- Ifty Ali, AVDC Monitoring Officer re. 2 complaints. 23/2/15
- John Disbrey re. housing developments in the village, 2/2/15
- Jon Brothers, re. voluntary litter pick for the village, 22/2/15

The correspondence folder was circulated to members and asked that they read and pass on.

### 15.040 Finance and Staff

- i. Financial situation report: Cllr Plowman reported £24,000 in the account which he stated was better than expected and drew council’s attention to the 4 spreadsheets summarising the finances. See Annexe.
- ii. Approval of payments – for the Council to approve the list of payments:

MOTION: To approve the list of payments (below). PROPOSED by Cllr Hoinville, SECONDED by Cllr Wallis and AGREED.

<b>Finances to be agreed at the March meeting of ACPC</b>			
<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>To whom</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount</b>
05 February 2015	PWLB	Mortgage repayment	£ 1,990.54
06 February 2015	British Telecom	Telephone bill	£ 94.62
10 February 2015	E Sharp Electrical	Parish Council offices - lighting failure	£ 47.94
17 February 2015	Lon	Street Lighting	£ 568.68
17 February 2015	Withdrawal for petty cash		£ 200.00
18 February 2015	AVDC	Eurobins	£ 844.67
10 February 2015	Scouts	Share from Christmas float collection	£ 294.16
11 February 2015	Guides	Share from Christmas float collection	£ 294.16
27 February 2015	HMRC	PAYE/NI	£ 126.40
27 February 2015	HMRC	PAYE/NI	£ 212.84
27 February 2015	HMRC	PAYE/NI	£ 272.92
27 February 2015	HMRC	PAYE/NI	£ 326.70
27 February 2015	Gil Merry	Salary - February	£ 817.45
	Inside Out Property Maintenance	Leak in Youth Club	£ 65.00
	Honwood & James	The Hub recovery	£ 900.00
	Johnston Publishing	Advert for Grounds Maintenance Contract	£ 182.88
	Combined Playground Services Ltd.	Annual Inspection of play area	£ 360.00
	E Sharp Electrical	Putnams Drive	£ 118.92
	E Sharp Electrical	Footpath Green End Street/Overstrand	£ 115.25
	E Sharp Electrical	57 York Close	£ 294.45
	Staples	Stationery	£ 46.32
	British Gas	Electricity for Parish Office	£ 40.00
	SLCC	Books/manuals	£ 119.50
	Global Enforcement	Replacing locks etc.	£ 939.67
	E McGoldrick	Toilet Maintenance - February	£ 85.00
	Monika Hlavasova	Office cleaner	£ 20.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 9,377.95</b>

Cllr Plowman reported that the Clerk had applied for a reduction in Thames Water bill caused by a leak and was optimistic about receiving this. The paperwork re. VAT double payment had been sent through again to HMRC who had not received the original documents. AVDC had advised that it would be necessary to publicise on the website why there had been a significant increase in the precept. The bank mandate change was still held up due to the local business manager failing to get in touch with us. Cllr Plowman then talked through the following list of motions and it was decided to vote on all 5 together. Motions:

- To agree to contracting IAC to undertake this years' internal audit
- To agree to using the services of a monthly cleaner @ £20/clean
- To agree to bringing forward the Clerk's appraisal from May 10<sup>th</sup> to end March, due to timing of the election
- To agree to amending the Clerk's contract to increase her hours to 25 per week
- To agree to the appointment of temporary/part-time assistant Clerk Sarah Mitchell for 4 hours per week for 3 months.

All were PROPOSED by Cllr Plowman, SECONDED by Cllr Wallis and AGREED.

#### 15.041 Planning

i. Report and Recommendations from the Planning Committee: -  
Cllr Hoinville passed around the spreadsheet of recent planning applications and discussed which ones had been objected to i.e.Chapel Drive (95 dwellings) and Arla Anaerobic Digestion plant.

- ii. To consider and approve wording of letters to AVDC by Cllr Winterbottom, Chair of Planning Cttee. Cllr Winterbottom had drafted a letter to Susan Kitchen, Head of Planning and Development at AVDC to ascertain how AVDC is decision-making with regard to the spate of

recent developments. It was decided no motion was needed but that members would give the Clerk their views by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March ready for her to send the letter later that day.

#### **15.042 Facilities**

i. Report and Recommendations from the Facilities Committee: -

Footpaths: Cllr Wallis stated the need for a meeting on this.

Culvert: Following the meeting with BCC's Flood Management Officer, the issues with this appeared to be resolved, subject to confirmation in writing.

Litter: Cllr Hoinville reported that the Explorers had agreed to undertake the litter-picking and he had emailed the agreement to them that day.

ii. Update on Grounds Maintenance and the Tender Process:

Cllr Savigar reported that 5 tenders had been received for the grounds maintenance contract. These would be opened and considered by 2 councillors on 7/3/15 with a decision being put to the Facilities Committee on 11/3/15. A request for an E.M. had gone to the Chairman so that full council could agree this decision and resultant expenditure.

iii. Update on Sport and Recreation:

Playground: The Clerk had circulated a roster for weekly playground inspections to all councillors although responses had been patchy. It was agreed to use councillors only for this and not volunteers. Cllr Savigar had put down bark chippings at the entrances to the playground which had become particularly waterlogged.

Catering: It was agreed that the temporary coffee/snack van in the Park had been a success and would be retained for the time being.

Youth Club: 3 water leaks had been fixed in the Youth Club.

Football: there had been several incidents of vandalism to the dug-outs and chairs and it was agreed that the dug-outs do need to be removed and stored at the end of every weekend. A meeting would be scheduled with the football sub-committee and football clubs in the near future.

iv. Update on the Pavilion survey:

Cllr Savigar stated that the majority of responders to the survey had wanted the Pavilion to return to meeting the needs of the community and local groups such as sports clubs, young people and park users. The hybrid model had been the favoured management model, whereby the Pavilion is managed jointly between the P.C. and 3<sup>rd</sup> party(s). Cllr Savigar stated that the condition of inside the pavilion was of a tired, out-of-date building that needs significant repair work and was no longer fit for purpose. She urged councillors to 'think big' as initial enquiries suggested funding would be easier to obtain for new projects than for renovating old ones. The Clerk cautioned that the legal process is still mired in difficulty and may take some time yet to reach a conclusion.

v. A.L.F. at Green Park:

Following A.L.F.s presentation to the P.C. at the last meeting it was necessary to respond to their request for support for S106 funding. Cllr Crook felt that A.L.F's plans had not made the case for sufficient access for local people and he PROPOSED a MOTION **not** to support A.L.F.s request, SECONDED by Cllr Plowman and AGREED unanimously.

#### **15.043 Business for next Meeting**

No items were requested.

It was requested that the Clerk contact the developer at the Stablebridge Road site and ask that they organise their access better as there had been obstructions, mounting of footpaths by trucks and mud spread over the road.

**15.044 Date for next Meeting**

This will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be the final meeting of the current council.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed..... Chairman

Date: .....