

Minutes of the Meeting of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015  
at 7.30pm at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

**Present:**

Councillors: -

R Maskell (Chairman)

J Savigar

M Richards

J Hoinville

G Plowman

C Read

M Watson

P Crook

T Winterbottom

T Kirtland

Clerk: G Merry

Advising: K Gray (Aylesbury T.C.)

22 members of the public

In attendance: Cllr B Chapple (Bucks CC)

**15.045 Apologies:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Wallis (ACPC) and Paternoster (AVDC)

**15.046 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**15.047 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015.**

The **MOTION** to approve the Minutes was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Read, **SECONDED** by Cllr Crook and **AGREED**.

The **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Saturday 14th March were **PROPOSED** by Cllr Hoinville, **SECONDED** by Cllr Savigar and **AGREED**.

**15.048 Public Participation**

- i. It was asked why there had been no information regarding the forthcoming election, how the current council would be dissolved and how prospective councillors could stand. The Clerk responded that 2 information events had been held at the Parish office and there was also information on the website.
- ii. It was stated that the engineering company working on the Stablebridge Road development were pumping unacceptable levels of clay into the stream and there was a real possibility of a threat to the ecology of the area. The Clerk stated that she had reported this to the supervisor of the site and it had also been reported to the Environment Agency. She was advised to contact Defra.
- iii. It was suggested that the moving of the Public Participation section to early in the meeting was an attempt to silence the public. Mr Keith Gray responded that having this section early was in line with SLCC best practise and if it was held at the end of the meeting, any matters brought up would have to be held over to the next month's meeting. Having it early enabled councillors to consider those matters during the current meeting.
- iv. It was stated that it was not illegal to have the public session later on.
- v. It was enquired what the situation with the 'Hub' was. Cllr Savigar explained that this would be reported-on fully later in the meeting. It was suggested that the Council was trying to

hide things from the public so Cllr Savigar agreed to report on the matter at this point. (see minute 15.055 B.)

- vi. It was asked whether the previous leaseholder was taking the Council to court. The Clerk responded that to her knowledge he was not.
- vii. A member of the public held up a letter from David Lidington's office and asked if everyone had received one of these letters.

#### **15.049 Matters Arising**

Lamppost – Upper Icknield Way. It was discussed and agreed that a lamppost was needed to illuminate this hazardous junction.

**MOTION:** To agree to replace the lamppost, **PROPOSED** by Cllr Richards **SECONDED** by Cllr Kirtland and **AGREED**.

Donation to PACVE. It was discussed and agreed that PACVE are working on behalf of our village and deserved to be supported. Cllr Plowman advised that funds from the section 137 budget were available. Cllr Kirtland asked whether more than the suggested £500 could be afforded and a donation of £750 was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Read. This was then **SECONDED** by Cllrs Savigar and Richards and **AGREED**.

#### **15.050 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had attended the ARLA Liaison meeting. A revised plan was presented for the Anaerobic Digester to be built on the site. Following objections raised at a previous meeting, the developer has revised the plan, reducing the height of the main building by five metres, re-siting the storage tanks and reducing their height down by 4 metres. There will still be 60–63 lorries delivering to it each day. Cllr Plowman enquired in what capacity had the Chairman attended this meeting and he responded that he was representing the Planning Committee on behalf of the Chairman who had been in hospital.

#### **15.051 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported her current main concern is the forthcoming election and that the majority of the current council would be standing down. 2 prospective councillor events had been held which had been successful but it was not certain if all who attended would stand. She urged people to consider this and contact her if interested in standing.

The next meeting will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> when there will be 2 meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting will be a chance for local groups and businesses to showcase their activities and any interested organisations were urged to contact the Clerk. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council where the first matter will be to elect a new Chairman. This will also be the first meeting of the new council.

The Clerk then reported that tenders had gone out to organisations and individuals interested in running a business from the Pavilion. The closing date for bids was April 17<sup>th</sup> and any interested parties could contact the Clerk or download the documents from the website.

#### **15.052 Correspondence Received**

The Clerk reported 9 items of correspondence as follows: -

- A reply from AVDC Policy Planning officer regarding over-development in the village. The response had been disappointing 'diplomat-speak' and the Clerk offered Cllr Winterbottom as chair of planning, to view the correspondence first.
- From BCC advising temporary closure of the by-pass from April 13<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 19.00-0600.
- From AVDC electoral services giving the deadline for voter registration as April 20<sup>th</sup>.

- From David Lidington’s case worker regarding the rise in the Precept.
- From 4 parishioners regarding the rise in the precept.
- From David Lidington regarding the calling-in of the Brook Street planning application.

The correspondence folder was then circulated and members were urged to read the contents and pass onto the next member.

### 15.053 Finance and Staff

Cllr Plowman circulated spreadsheets with the month-end and year-end summary as well as the budgets for the forthcoming year. He was pleased to report that the end-of-year figures had reconciled with the bank statements. It was agreed that the Finance and Staff committee will present figures to the new Parish Council for approval in May and that the figures presented would be published on the website the following day. (All figures available on the website)

It had been agreed by the F&S committee that the Clerk’s salary be raised to SCP23 following her appraisal. This was **PROPOSED** By Cllr Winterbottom, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hoinville and **AGREED**.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Hoinville, to agree the budget sub-heads for the new financial year, **SECONDED** by Cllr Richards and **AGREED**.

Cllr Winterbottom enquired whether there would be money available for sport, once the new culvert was completed. Cllr Plowman said there would but this would be a matter for the new council.

The monthly payments schedule was as follows and payments were agreed:

Finances to be agreed at the April meeting of ACPC			
Date Paid	To whom	For	Amount
02 March 2015	BT	Internet services	£ 65.76
12 March 2015	Eon	Street Lighting	£ 513.64
20 March 2015	Global Enforcement	Bailiff services for The Hub - Monday 30th March 2015	£ 360.00
25 March 2015	British Gas	Electricity for car park	£ 55.51
31 March 2015	Thames Water		£ 214.00
31 March 2015	Global Enforcement	Bailiff services for The Hub - Wednesday 31st April 2015	£ 360.00
31 March 2015	HMRC	PAYE/NI	£ 392.83
31 March 2015	Gill Merry	Salary - March	£ 916.92
	Gill Merry	Course at Helton on preparing the audit	£ 26.28
	4D Property Solutions	Repair to Hub pump housing brickwork	£ 80.00
	AVDC	Dog Waste Services	£ 797.27
	Bucks CC	Legal fees - Old Rectory Farm - land exchange	£ 64.80
	British Gas	Electricity bill	£ 40.00
	Monika Havisova	Office Cleaner - March	£ 20.00
	E McGoldrick	Toilet Maintenance - March	£ 85.00
	Buckland Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance	£ 714.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 4,705.01</b>

### 15.54 Planning

Cllr Read reported that the Neighbourhood Plan is underway with the parish boundary designation submitted to AVDC which is now on their website. The NDP committee would be meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Their remit was not to stop all development in the village but to ensure sensible plans for sustainable development.

Small applications for extensions had been supported. 15/00603/APP Upper Icknield Way has now been supported after consultation with the neighbours.

00718 Old Rectory Farm had been objected to, including a consultee objection from the Parish Council, on the grounds that there is already over development in Stablebridge Road and this one dwelling would be likely to lead to several more.

00904 the variation to the plans by Arla for a bund was discussed and Cllr Maskell declared an interest in it, as he is a trustee of the Turpin Charity who part-own the land. Arla wanted to change from building a bund with planting on top, to putting in some taller mature trees. This would be

cheaper but having no bund increases the sound pollution. This would be discussed at planning meeting.

## 15.55 Facilities

### A. Grounds Maintenance:

Tendering: Cllr Savigar reported that the tendering process had been very successful with 5 bids received and the contract subsequently awarded to Buckland Landscapes. There was a budget to reinstate some of the footpaths and Buckland Landscapes will be asked to carry this out on a rolling programme. Cllr Maskell stated that BCC have cut back some overgrown footpaths and that it was their responsibility to do so. Buckland have also been asked to advise on how best to deal with erosion near the bridges. Cllr Richards enquired whether they would be removing their cuttings from the churchyard to which Cllr Savigar responded that they would not but the situation would be monitored and if necessary adjusted.

Dog Fouling: There was an escalating problem with dog fouling in the village and whilst a new waste bin had been ordered to replace a rotted one, Cllr Savigar suggested providing more. A discussion ensued as to whether more bins would make any difference. Cllr Savigar **PROPOSED** buying 3 more dog waste bins, **SECONDED** by Cllr Read but **REJECTED** by 4 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.

Eurobins: Given the cost of emptying and renting the 3 bins Cllr Savigar suggested cutting down the number of these to 2. A discussion ensued as to how much the waste may increase in the summer months, especially with the likely re-opening of the Pavilion. It was then **PROPOSED** by Cllr Savigar to cut down to 2 Eurobins, **SECONDED** By Cllr Plowman and **AGREED**.

Bin at the churchyard – Cllr Maskell reported that the church had investigated whether they could qualify to have this for free since they are a registered charity, and it was found that they could.

### B. Sports and Recreation

Allotments: Cllr Savigar thanked both Chris and Lesley Ronson for their continued work in preparing and re-working the allotments for new tenants.

Football: There would be a meeting of the football sub-committee on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss security and the recent spate of vandalism, and also to discuss commercial contracts with the teams. Cllr Maskell pointed out that the P.C. usually fertilises the pitches at this time of year and Cllr Savigar responded that she believed this to be the football team's responsibility. Buckland Landscapes had recommended doing the pitches only.

Pavilion: The Pavilion was now all but empty and Lesley Ronson and Alan Mooney were thanked for the many man-hours they have voluntarily put in to help with clearing the items. Cllr Savigar reported that the building is in a poor state of repair. S106 and New Homes Bonus funding is available and the facilities committee had voted to secure money for a feasibility study for a new community centre. There was a degree of urgency as there was a finite time for applications which would close off at the end of April. The feasibility study would be the start of planning for the new centre.

**MOTION:** To agree to undertake a feasibility study for the construction of a new community centre. **PROPOSED** by Cllr Savigar, **SECONDED** by Cllr Plowman and **AGREED** unanimously.

In the meantime, a tender is out to run a business in the Pavilion, for the community and this could be multi-occupancy if organisations could work together. Site visits for interested parties would begin after Easter with applications closing on April 17<sup>th</sup>. A facilities working group would consider the tenders and make recommendations but final decisions would be made by the new council.

**15.56 Business for the Next Meeting**

There was no business for the next meeting but Cllr Plowman enquired how the minutes of this meeting would be signed off at the next meeting as there would be a new Council and a new chairman. Mr Keith Gray responded that it would be in order for the new chairman to sign the minutes as the law states the minutes are correct as presented by the Clerk.

Cllr Bill Chapple (BCC) thanked the current council for all their work over the course of their 4 year term

**Date for the Next Meeting**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm (N.B. following the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.45pm).

There being no further business of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_