

Minutes of the Meeting of Aston Clinton Parish Council - held on 6th January
2016 at 7.30pm
at Aston Clinton Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Tubb (Chairman)

S Beaumont

M Osborn

P Wyatt

C Read

A Mooney

P Hughes

J Eggesfield

C Birch

T Comerford

L Ronson

C Paternoster (AVDC)

Clerks: G Merry (recording), E Barry (assistant)

9 Members of the public

16.001 Apologies:

There were no apologies

16.002 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest

16.003 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2015.

The minutes were PROPOSED by Cllr Tubb, SECONDED by Cllr Mooney, AGREED and SIGNED.

16.004 Public Participation

- It was reported that there is a utility pole on Green End Street, opposite Ginger's Farm with no lamp. It was requested that a lamp be fitted. The Clerk agreed to investigate.
- The council were complimented on the improvements to the Park
- It was reported that there is an abandoned car opposite the Bell. Cllr Ronson will investigate.
- It was reported that a quantity of rubbish was strewn across the Upper Icknield Way opposite the look-out. The clerk would investigate this.
- It was reported that there is an increasing risk from lorries at the new Chapel Drive development site during school-run times and that this is posing a risk to children walking to school. It was requested that the PC write formally to the site manager to request that lorries avoid school times and lower their speeds. The clerk agreed to draft a letter.
- It was requested that Taylor-Wimpey be asked to make-good the verges and pot holes at the Stablebridge Road site. The clerk agreed to make the request.
- It was once again reported that the yellow planning notice for 15/01395/AOP had disappeared and the assistant clerk reported that she had investigated this after the last report. The case officer at AVDC had promised to put it back up.
- It was reported that there was still stone-crushing work taking place in the 'Christmas Tree Field' and this along with some fires is causing significant disturbance. Cllrs Tubb and Ronson stated that they are currently investigating this matter.
- The clerk also agreed to write to TfB regarding the removal of unauthorised signs at the roadside.

- It was reported that the pavements conditions in Rosebery Road are in a very poor state of repair. The speaker was advised to take photographs and email them to TfB.

16.005 Clerk's Report

"We are pleased to report that our Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is finished, all but the markings, which will go down in the spring. There were people playing on it before the fencing even came down and it was well-used all over the Christmas holidays. Over the coming weeks, the new signage will go in at the Park entrance as will the new access pathway down to the MUGA, skatepark round towards the beach, ready for summer picnics. This will mean access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters and open up a whole new range of opportunities for all to enjoy the park with their families. Cllrs Wyatt, Beaumont and Osborn are working on extending the facilities in the play park to provide for disabled children to play alongside able-bodied and are currently in discussion with suppliers, as well as applying for funding. In the longer term, they are looking at replacing some of the older equipment and also focussing more on the pre-school age group. Our Christmas Santa float was a huge success and raised £1,156.50 for the Rennie Grove Hospice charity, the Guides and the Scouts. Many thanks to all who helped and all who donated. Plans are afoot to do 2 evenings this year. The amount of rain continues to make the Park muddier than usual and this always presents a challenge as does the increase in dog mess. The council will be looking at further measures to limit this and we would be grateful if you could complete our survey regarding the placement of new dog bins which will also be going on the website this week. In the meantime, we have had our contractors undertake some major clearance work to the wooded area off London road and to the boundary and perimeter with Green Park. We hope that the village can see the hard work that has gone into the council's programme this year and that it presents value for money. "

16.006 Finance and Staff Committee

- Month-end: The Clerk presented the month-end accounts. Receipts for December amounted to £4,862 and payments for the month stood at £11,506.63.
- Approval of Payments: The list of payments was presented as follows and AGREED.

Outstanding Invoices - End December 2015 - to be agreed - AS AT

31/12/15

<u>Date</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
30/11/2					£
015	Bucks CC	Road Salt Bags	£ 240.00		240.00
01/12/2	Buckland			£	£
015	Landscapes	Footpath Clearance (AC35 and 10)	£ 595.00	119.00	714.00
03/12/2	Buckland			£	£
015	Landscapes	Gate areas to play park	£ 140.00	28.00	168.00
03/12/2	Buckland	Footpath Clearance - Putnam's Drive (-		£	£
015	Landscapes	Quote 4335ND)	£ 390.00	78.00	468.00
04/12/2	Buckland			£	£
015	Landscapes	Nov. Site Maintenance	£ 522.50	104.50	627.00
07/12/2	E Sharp	New Rd, Bishopsfield, Green End St,		£	£
015	Electrical	Beaconsfield Rd	£ 673.39	134.68	808.07
16/12/2					£
015	Fire F.M.	New Fire Extinguisher	£ 49.80		49.80

17/12/2	The Osprey	New Park Signage			£	£
015	Company	(to be reclaimed from S106 money)	£	2,185.00	437.00	2,622.00
17/12/2	Buckland	Clearance to Rear Boundary of Park (Quote			£	£
015	Landscapes	4227ND)	£	395.00	79.00	474.00
17/12/2	Buckland	Boundary, fallen trees, copse, willow tree,			£	£
015	Landscapes	trim trail - (Quote 4217ND)	£	1,180.00	236.00	1,416.00
17/12/2	Buckland	Strimming beach area, clearing brush and			£	£
015	Landscapes	nettled - (Quote 4255ND)	£	1,040.00	208.00	1,248.00
17/12/2	Buckland	Clearance by stream, lower meadow, lower			£	£
015	Landscapes	copse (Quote 4343ND)	£	1,730.00	346.00	2,076.00
					£	
22/12/2		MUGA (less markings)			15,927.	£
015	Caloo	(to be reclaimed from S106 money)	£	79,639.00	80	95,566.80
23/12/2						£
015	BALC	Councillor Training x 3	£	95.22		95.22
23/12/2					£	£
015	Power Rod	Attend blocked drains	£	150.00	30.00	180.00
24/12/2	E Sharp				£	£
015	Electrical	Lamps Twitchell Lane	£	250.93	50.93	301.86
31/12/2	Eamonn					£
015	McGoldrick	Bins, toilet clean, pot holes in car park	£	205.00		205.00
04/01/2		Dog Bins - emptying and cleaning (Jan-Mar				£
016	AVDC	16) plus 3 x new installations	£	1,075.93		1,075.93
					<u>£</u>	
					<u>17,778.</u>	<u>£</u>
			<u>£</u>	<u>90,556.77</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>108,335.68</u>

MOTION: To agree that the Clerk pay the outstanding invoices, PROPOSED by Cllr Beaumont SECONDED by Cllr Read and AGREED.

- iii. Precept: Cllr Beaumont reported that 2015-16 had been a steep learning curve for the council who had worked diligently to ensure that taxpayer's money had been spent on tangible improvements for the village. The amount of this year's precept at £150,787 was the amount that it actually takes to run this village, park and council properly. However, this did not take into account saving for future capital projects, increased costs or further devolution of services from district to parish level. On the basis of this, the F&S committee were recommending an increase of 6-7% to £176,702 as the precept demand for 2016-17. Cllr Read expressed disagreement at the amount of the increase, as 2015 had seen a significant increase on the previous year. Cllrs Osborn, Hughes and Mooney responded: that the increase represented the amount it will take to run things properly; that this will engender pride in the village which will result in it being better looked-after; that it is too risky not to have any savings at all and that the work of the council can now be seen visibly within the village.

MOTION: To agree to a precept demand of £176,702 PROPOSED by Cllr Beaumont, SECONDED by Cllr Mooney and carried with 9 votes for the motion and 2 votes against.

16.007 Planning Committee:

- i. Cllr Read reported that 2 planning meetings had been held in the last month with following outcomes: -

15/03581/APP: Klargsters Wind Turbine: this had been objected to and has since been withdrawn by the applicant.

Brook Farm: There had been several complaints from residents due to non-compliance and a letter had been sent to AVDC

15/03627/AOP: Park Farm: There had been a second meeting to clarify the decision on this development which had resulted in 'no objection' by 3 votes to 1.

15/01395/AOP: 93 Aylesbury Road had been turned down by AVDC that day but it was stated that Rectory Homes will appeal.

- ii. Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Read reported that research is now taking place with 2 meetings with the consultants scheduled for January. This will result in a questionnaire to be distributed village-wide. Cllr Read confirmed that the method of distribution will be email, postal and door-to-door.

16.008 Facilities Committee

A. Sport and Recreation:

- i. Play Around the Parishes: It was agreed that to charge the parents would be unworkable and it was also felt that Aston Clinton has such good provision for children's play in comparison to other villages, that there was not such a great need for this type of outreach work. On this basis and given the increased costs, it was agreed to reduce the number of sessions to 2.

MOTION: To agree to hold to 2 x2-hour Play Around the Parishes sessions in the summer holidays, PROPOSED by Cllr Wyatt, SECONDED by Cllr Read and AGREED.

- ii. CCTV/Data Protection Policy: Cllr Tubb was still working on the wording for the policy and the matter would be deferred until the next meeting.
- iii. Defibrillators: The Grantscape application had been successful. Cllr Beaumont was still working on researching the best insurance package and would bring a proposal to the next meeting.
- iv. 'Astonbury' 2017: The Clerk outlined the background i.e. that a village fete had been suggested for 2016 but had not been supported by the PC who felt there was insufficient lead-in time and had instead suggested a music festival based on local groups/talent for 2017. The clerk stated that there would still be significant expenses which would need to be covered by sponsorship or food/drink concessions etc. The PC did not have the budget nor the manpower to undertake the organisation. Cllr Read expressed concern as to the cost and Cllr Comerford felt there may be a clash with the current beer festival. Cllr Mooney suggested having a discussion with the organisers of the beer festival to discuss extending it to a village festival. Cllr Hughes suggested meeting to see if the festival would be viable before dismissing completely and Cllr Tubb asked for a show of hands as to how many would support this. It was also suggested that going to a company's head office was more effective than a local branch to get sponsorship. Cllrs Mooney, Hughes, Birch, Beaumont and Tubb agreed to meet to assess the viability of the event.

B. Grounds Maintenance:

- i. Park: Cllr Mooney outlined that the approach areas to the 2 wooden bridges in the park were extremely muddy and impassable for many users. The quote received for paving these at £5,500 was higher than the funds available and also that the proposed method may in any case not allow for wheels to pass through. He suggested looking at alternatives such as the block paving option agreed for the new pathway. Cllr Comerford also suggested the community action option. After some discussion, the **MOTION** did not take place and it was decided that the clerk would look at alternative solutions.
Cllr Tubb also agreed to check the Fitness Trail when she does her inspection.

- ii. Dog Matters: Cllr Osborn reported the increasing problem of professional dog walkers bringing several dogs to the park and being unable to monitor them. He cited Wandsworth council who have introduced a by-law to restrict the number of dogs any one person can have off-lead at a time. Cllr Read also suggested night-time restrictions whereby dogs are kept on a lead at night and that a change to the by-laws would also address this problem for Wendover Woods. Cllr Tubb agreed to look into the matter of changing the by-laws.
- iii. Burial Fees: It had been brought to the council's attention on several occasions that ACPC's burial fees are significantly higher than surrounding churchyards. Cllr Tubb had held a meeting with the vicar and a subsequent one with a small working party of herself, Cllr Ronson and the clerk. She presented a paper including comparative charges (appended). These would be reduced to the following: -

Burial	£400
Monument	£200
Cremation Plot	£150
Cremation Plaque	£100

Cllr Osborn questioned the price for cost of a double plot which was not listed and it was agreed to charge half as much again for this i.e. £200.

MOTION: That the council agrees to the revised fees including the amount of £200 for a double plot, PROPOSED by Cllr Tubb, SECONDED By Cllr Osborne and AGREED.

C. Community Centre:

- i. Cafe: There was still no lease from the solicitor and Cllr Comerford would now insist on a deadline. The Cafe in the Park continues to thrive and Cllr Comerford agreed to engage with them re. audited 6-month accounts, in order to work out the turnover rent now due.
- ii. Community Centre: Cllr Comerford reported that it had been confirmed that the PC met all criteria for the NHB grant and the full £500,000 would be awarded representing approx. a quarter of the total cost and it was now necessary to look at other sources of income. 2017 was still the target completion date. Cllr Eggesfield asked how the new building would be managed and Cllr Comerford responded that the day-to-day management would be by a principle tenant with a PC-operated charitable trust overseeing the operation as a whole.

Cllr Tubb opened up the floor for any further public questions: -

- It was suggested that relying on S106 money from housing development presented a conflict of interest for the council. Cllr Tubb confirmed that the planning committee does object to most applications anyway but the PC is required to earmark the S106 money or risk losing it. The public are welcome to attend any planning meetings to see the process for themselves.
- The Horticultural Society signalled their willingness to help with the planning of the proposed Astonbury event as they hold an annual fete anyway.

16.009 Date of next Meeting

This will be held on February 3rd 2016 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed Date

APPENDIX

Aston Clinton Parish Council Burial Fees

Background

This paper has been prepared for the meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 6th January 2015. Concern has been raised about the level of fees and the complexity of them levied by the Aston Clinton Parish Council (ACPC) for burial in St Michael's churchyard. The 'open' churchyard is owned and maintained by ACPC. A working party was established consisting of Liz Tubb, Lesley Ronson and the Parish Clerk.

Current Burial Fees

The Church of England, regardless of where the churchyard is situated, charges the same rate and then increases them by a small amount on an annual basis. We did not include Tring Cemetery as it charges on a different basis to others and is not comparable. The fees charged locally are as follows:-

	C of E	Aston Clinton	Buckland D Beauchamp	Aylesbury Cemetery	Chesham
Burial	£310	£620	£310	£545	£300
Monument	£128	£310	£128	£150	£140
Cremation Plot	£148	£310	£148	£200	£75
Cremation Plaque	£67	£210	£67	£80	£75
2 nd Burial in Double Grave		£310			
Ashes into Grave Plot		£50			

Recommendation

After convening a meeting of the working party, we would like to propose that we charge the following, with immediate effect.

Burial	£400
Monument	£200
Cremation Plot	£150
Cremation Plaque	£100

No other fees would be levied. We also believe that fees should be reviewed on a 5 year basis.

Finally we also agreed to resolve the position of who owns the disused churchyard. ACPC are writing to the Diocese of Oxford to ascertain the legal position. In the interim we have agreed to do some clearance work at a cost of £425 as this area of the churchyard is basically unmaintained.

Conclusion

Once the new fees have been agreed, it is proposed that the current leaflet be rewritten and all funeral directors are contacted and the new fees explained. Reverend Elizabeth Moxley has already been contacted and invited to the meeting on 6th January.

21st December 2015

Liz Tubb

Chairman