

**MINUTES OF ASTON, COTE, SHIFFORD & CHIMNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the Village Hall, Aston, at 7.30pm**

**Members** Russell La Forte (Chair)  
**Present:** J Ordish  
B Lings

**In Attendance:** Elaine Anstee – Clerk  
Cllr Steve Cosier WODC  
2 members of the public

1. **Apologies from Members:** There were apologies from R Anstee, P Sparrowhawk and G Ball.
2. **Parish Councillors - Disclosure of interests on agenda items** – R La Forte declared a nonpecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12 as he is a trustee.
3. **Minutes of the previous meetings** of the Parish Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 were agreed and it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, that the meeting Chair signs them.
4. **Meeting Open for Public Participation – None**
5. **WODC/OCC Matters** – Report from OCC Cllr D Levy circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr S Cosier (WODC) outlined that he will be focusing on roads, CCTV in towns working with TVP and the adopting of green spaces for new developments.
6. **Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**
  - a) *Quick updates:*
    - *Electronic Speed Signs* – request for replacement of the two existing and quote for new one for Bampton Road submitted and chased with response from OCC that the tender was progressing.
    - *Cote Chapel* – The Historic Chapels Trust has reported that it was continuing its work to find a new guardian for the chapel.
    - *Gate at St James Church* – The RFO is now working on this and is awaiting a response from a supplier.
    - *Footpaths/Treescapes* – defer until September.
    - *Thames Water* – update emailed to councillors prior to the meeting. The data from the flow monitors is being reviewed and the work at St Jospeh’s has been pushed back to October at the request of the residents.

b) *Traffic calming update and other traffic issues.*

It was agreed that no final decision will be made until the electronic signs for North Street, Bampton Road by Kingsway Farm Cottages and the Village Hall have been installed and there is evidence for the effect they have had.

Based on the information from the consultation and recorded incidents the build out for North Street would be the priority but this will have to be timed to fit with the proposed new development by St James Court and redevelopment of North Farm.

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The next priority would be for a build out in the vicinity of the village hall in Aston.

c) *Neighbourhood Plan*

No update.

d) *Data Logger and Flood Grant - OCC*

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to confirm the project for the purchase of 3 ground water data loggers, using funding from OCC Flood Funding grant scheme to support this. The Parish Council will pay for one and use grant funding for two more.

It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by B Lings, that in the event of the OCC funding being confirmed but not received in time the Parish Council will purchase the 3 ground water data loggers to enable the recording of data to start as soon as possible.

e) *Councillor Co-Option*

The clerk to circulate the applications once the deadline, 1pm on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024, has passed. Then a date for interviews will be confirmed.

f) *Anti-Social Behaviour*

None reported at time of agenda.

## 7. PLANNING

### New planning applications

<b>Reference</b>	<b>24/01389/CND</b>
Alternative Reference	PP-13080880
Application Validated	Mon 20 May 2024
Address	Land Parcel to The North Of Aston North Street Aston
Proposal	Discharge of conditions 3 (schedule of materials), 7 (details of boundary treatment), 11 (details of external lighting) and 12 (details of boundary treatment) of Planning Permission 23/01820/RES
Status	Under consideration
No objection or comment.	

<b>Reference</b>	<b>24/01180/S73</b>
Alternative Reference	PP-13012502
Application Validated	Wed 22 May 2024
Address	Chimney Farm Barns Chimney Bampton OX18 2EH
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 19/03222/FUL to allow the reduction in the overall size of the building resulting in the formation of a 4 bed dwelling instead of the approved 5 bed dwelling, including changes to design, windows and doors.
Status	Under consideration
No objection or comment.	

### Update on Ongoing Planning Applications – For Information

- a) Brier Furlong – ongoing reporting of CTMP breaches and letter sent to WODC Enforcement. An officer from WODC has been in contact but no action to date.

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- b) Marsh Furlong – item 7 under Thames Water.
- c) St Joseph’s Court – item 7 under Thames Water.
- d) North Farm – latest information published in Voices and on website.
- e) Potential new development – Lone Star Land. On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 all houses in Aston received a notice of the online consultation the developer is running from 3<sup>rd</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

#### **Update on Previous Planning Applications - None**

#### **8. New Business**

- a) *Parish Council meeting 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – General Election Day.*  
The clerk has checked with the Community Trust and the Ordish Room is available as normal so the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July will be as planned.
- b) *Grounds Maintenance/Grass Cutting at the Recreation ground.*  
The contract for the grass cutting at the recreation ground is currently unfilled. The Community Trust wish the Parish Council to continue to run the contract so will need to go out to tender. Clerk to action.
- c) *Unity Trust Bank – adding of signatory and RFO for administration.*  
It was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to add the RFO, D Shenton, with administrator rights but not as a signatory, and G Ball as a signatory.
- d) *Defibrillators*
  - Brier Furlong – Living Space will fund the purchase of and installation of a defibrillator, so Parish Council needs to decide on the location. To defer to next meeting when G Ball will be in attendance to give the feedback on locations.
  - The defibrillator at the garage is nearly a decade old and the technology has improved. It has also been used on more than one occasion during that period. The clerk was actioned to find out recommended life expectancy for defibrillators to inform this discussion.
- e) *Oxfordshire CC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation*  
The consultation has been delayed so this item deferred to July meeting.

#### **9. Governance – Policies for Review**

- Website Accessibility – it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to agree the revised Website Accessibility policy.
- Privacy policy – it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to agree the revised Privacy policy.
- Website Terms of use – it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to agree the revised Website Terms of Use.
- Standing Orders – it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to agree the reviewed Standing Orders.

## 10. Community Trust

The AGM is on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm and P Sparrowhawk attending on behalf of the Parish Council.

MUGA – the planning application resubmitted to WODC planning team with 3 days to spare but the paperwork was incorrect. Therefore, the Community Trust have to start the whole process again and this will cost over £500 plus delay the project.

## 11. Parish Infrastructure

### a) Village maintenance

To identify any current maintenance work required. Budget remaining for 2024/25 is £1,500. It was reported that the gullies along North Street need clearing – clerk to contact OCC. The overhanging vegetation along North Street needs cutting back but this is the householders responsibility. Clerk to get pictures of that and the encroachment of vegetation from OCC property and report.

### b) Cote Turn – waste bin – is now installed.

### c) Bin for Chimney – it was RESOLVED as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by J Ordish, with all in agreement, to request from WODC the installation of a bin on the corner opposite the ‘Chimney’ white gate. The cost to the Parish Council being the emptying of the bin.

## 12. FINANCE

### a) Account Balances to 31 May 2024 – noted.

### b) It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments for the period June 24 as proposed by R La Forte, seconded by B Lings, with all in agreement.

	NET	VAT	Gross Amount
Clerk's expenses Microsoft May 24	54.90	10.98	65.88
Refund payment recd from E Anstee (in error)	85.00		85.00
WODC – Grass Cutting (Inv 33574113)	370.00	74.00	444.00
D Johnson – War memorial Inv May 24 (TBC)	40.00		40.00
Ben Lings – Annual Website charges Weebly	197.76		197.76
<b>Total to be decided and approved</b>	<b>£747.66</b>	<b>£84.98</b>	<b>£832.64</b>
Life Education Grant application (approved May 24)	310.00		310.00
<b>Total of already approved/paid</b>	<b>£310.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£310.00</b>
<b>Monthly Standing Orders/DDs</b>			
Clerk's Salary including WFH Allowance	210.05		210.05
RFO Salary including WFH Allowance	185.75		185.75
HMRC PAYE	89.80		89.80
<b>Total SDOs</b>	<b>£485.60</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£485.60</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,543.26</b>	<b>£84.98</b>	<b>£1,628.24</b>

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**13. Parish Councillors' and clerk's reports from meetings attended since last meeting.**

RLF – Reported that the History Group have seen the initial draft for the History boards.

There will be a grant request for £300 to cover the design work.

PS – attended the Bampton Flood group but EA and TW not present so nothing concrete out of it.

**14. Matters arising since publication of agenda/**

**Matters which Councillors may wish to raise for inclusion on next agenda.**

**(For discussion only)**

**15. Date of next meeting: revised to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30pm**

Meeting closed at 21.21pm.

Signed.....Dated.....

DRAFT

## Appendix 1

### County Councillor Report

June 2024

#### Roads and Railways.

Work continues through the drier weather to try to get as much done as possible. There is of course far too little money available to enable the County Council to fix all the potholes and resurface every road as frequently as required. As I may have mentioned before, we estimate that £45m per annum would be required to reach a “steady state” with the roads, and the government block grant is approximately £20m.

There will be a series of road closures to facilitate repairs. The road closures are usually advertised over a longer period than will usually be needed, to allow for overruns at other works. I am sorry that there will be congestion and inconvenience at times.

Discussions are ongoing with government agency Homes England about the A40. You will recall that the HIF2 scheme to link the park and ride at Eynsham to Oxford was launched by the previous administration – we are still awaiting the money to finish the job.

The County Council continues to support the restoration of a railway between Carterton, Witney, Eynsham and Oxford, and has committed to additional funding for further feasibility studies. It also supports a new station at Wantage and the reopening of the Cowley branch line, all of which are under consideration by Network Rail.

#### Water

Thames Water have launched a consultation on the massive reservoir planned between Abingdon and Wantage. New reservoir in Abingdon | Water resources | Thames Water  
The proposed facility is many times larger than Farmoor reservoir. You may be interested to know that Farmoor has been kept underfilled because TW can't often pump water in from the Thames because Thames Water have been putting sewage into the Thames upstream.

#### Performance

The annual report of the County Council for the year past will be published shortly and will demonstrate a significant improvement in service delivery, in areas such as SEND provision, as well as improved financial metrics. The administration at County Hall is determined to ensure that residents get the best services they can, within the constraints that all local authorities face.

#### And finally:

Regardless of your political persuasions, please do vote in the upcoming general election.

Electors need to be registered to vote by Tuesday, 18 June. This can be done online. Details on the WODC website.

Postal vote applications need to be submitted by 5.00pm on Wednesday, 19 June, while proxy vote applications should be submitted by 5.00pm on Wednesday, 26 June.

Photo ID is mandatory to vote at a polling station. If you do not have photo ID, you must apply for a free voter ID by 5.00pm on Wednesday, 26 June.

As always, I am pleased to hear from residents.

dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk