**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE GUILD HALL, ASTON CANTLOW**

**ON THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2015 – NO. 72.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Harvey, Chairman, Cllr. Wallis, Cllr. Berry and two members of the public.

Part Meeting: District Cllr. Gittus.

1. **Apologies:** County Cllr. Hornerwho was attending a training seminar in Wales.

1. **Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests:**

 No requests were received.

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2015:**

These were approved by all Cllrs. and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Public Participation:**

The members of the public were attending as observers and had no request or comments to make.

**6. County and District Cllrs. reports for information only. (Unless known in advance items raised for a decision will appear on the next agenda.)**

A report provided by County Cllr. Horner is attached on page 7.

 Cllr. Gittus reported that at a full Council meeting last week

 the decision was taken not to join the West Midlands Combined Authority at this stage. It was agreed that the Leader of the Council sits as an observer on the newly formed Shadow Board of the proposed West Midlands Combined Authority as an observer and is asked to provide regular reports so that the Council can properly evaluate the issues involved. Any decision made will involve a further vote by the elected members.

 Cllr. Gittus also reported that at a full Council meeting held by Warwickshire County Council the decision was taken not to join the group of local authorities planning to form a combined authority for the West Midlands. Opportunities will be sought with Coventry, and neighbouring non-metropolitan councils such as Gloucester, Worcester, Solihull.

 At the SDC Cabinet meeting this week Cllr. Gittus asked for the Syrian Refugee Crisis to be added to the agenda as an emergency item. The Cabinet voted to help and Councillors agreed to assist with creating a collection centre and help co- ordinate others doing the same. SDC will open a bank account for financial contributions.

 Cllr. Gittus gave his personal assurance that anything given will go to the right place.

**7. Planning matters – update on current planning applications:**

*Planning Application No. 15/00617/FUL* Silesbourne Farm Salters, Lane, Wootton Wawen: Change of use of agricultural building to Class B8 storage for use by The Garden Furniture Centre Ltd. (retrospective application). Notification as a neighbouring Parish with option to comment. Permission granted.

*Planning Application Nos. 15/01898/FUL and 15/01899/LBC* Shelfield House,

Shelfield: Conversion of Cart Shed to Residential Dwelling and Renovation of Dove Cote (revisions to planning application No. 14/01107/FUL). Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 15/01972/TREE* 3 Guild Road, Aston Cantlow. Unknown species: Fell. Tree works deemed consent.

*Planning Application No. 15/01912/FUL* Lawnsbrook Farm, Shelfield: Single storey side and rear extension. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 15/00322/FUL* Shelfield House, Shelfield: Erection of outbuilding for tractor and machinery storage for equipment to maintain the garden land and surround land. Revised plans received which alter the size, design and position of the proposed outbuilding to adjoin the existing outbuilding on the application site. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 15/01207/FUL* Ardencote Farm, Shelfield: Single storey link between house and out office. First floor to out office to provide visitor accommodation. Revised plans received which amend the size and design of the link element of the proposal and remove the first floor extension to the dwelling. Calculations have also been provided which identify the volume reduction of the revised plans. Permission granted.

*Planning application No. 15/02943/TPO* Polly Jones Associates, Holyoake House, Little Alne:T1:P copper Beech: reduce to clear house by 1.5m and balance, lift crown to 2.2m over parking area, LPG tank and hedge by removing seven lower branches. T2: Beech: Remove one branch growing through crown of nearby Yew, prune branches to clear telephone lines by 0.6m. T4: Ailianthus: section fell and replace with suitable tree to be agreed with local authority. Pending consideration.

*Planning application No. 15./02778/TREE* Waxland, Church Lane, Aston Cantlow: T1: Leylandii: reduce height by 25% and reshape. Tree works deemed consent.

The deadline for responses on the following application was today and, for the purpose of ratification, Cllrs. had all agreed, after making a site visit, that the following response be made:

 It is considered that there would not be a significant increase in volume and the alterations would not be detrimental to the street scene, therefore, providing the proposals meet with the approval of the Conservation Officer, Aston Cantlow Parish Council would recommend that the application is granted.

Planning application No. 15/02898/FUL Pear Tree Cottage, Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow: Kitchen extension and construction of a two storey rear extensions, single storey rear extension and single storey side extension together with internal and external alterations.

The following applications were then considered:

Application No. 15/02572/FUL The Olde Barn, Shelfield: Conversion of store building and part of garage block to two separate holiday lets.

Application No. 15/02567/LBC The Olde Barn, Shelfield: Conversion of section of garage block to a holiday let.

Both applications were discussed at length and after due consideration Cllr. Harvey proposed that the following responses be made:

 Application No. 15/02572/FUL: In principle, and on the assumption that this building is no longer required for agricultural equipment to service the surrounding land, Aston Cantlow Parish Council has no objections to the change of use to two holiday lets providing this is acceptable to the Conservation Officer, in view of the fact that this is within the curtilage of a listed barn conversion, and the Highway Authority reasons for objection are satisfactorily addressed.

 Application No. 15/02567/LBC: In principle, Aston Cantlow Parish Council has no objections to the change of use of a section of the garage block to holiday accommodation providing this is acceptable to the Conservation Officer, in view of the fact that this is within the curtilage of a listed barn conversion, and the Highway Authority reasons for objection are satisfactorily addressed.

 Cllr. Berry seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.

**8. Progress Report for information only:**

External Audit: This has been satisfactorily completed and the Clerk will ensure that the necessary documents are posted on the website to comply with the new transparency code.

 Road sinkage adjacent Midway, Bearley Road: This item was first reported to the Highways Dept. in January and followed up by the clerk on several occasions. It transpires that the Officer dealing with the matter has been on long term sick leave and in an update received on 28th August it was confirmed that another Officer will investigate the issue and carry out any action as required.

 Water leak adjacent Teapot Hall: This was reported to Severn Trent in July and no apparent action was taken. This had been followed up twice by the Clerk and on 3rd September she was advised that the matter had been passed to the clean water team and has been raised for repairs to be carried out.

 Public footpaths: The Clerk was contacted by a rambler reporting several problems with the stiles on footpaths in the Parish. These reports have been passed to the responsible officer in the Public Rights of Way Team, WCC , who will prioritise the reports received and deal with them in a geographical sequence in order to use their reduced resources as efficiently as possible.

 Induction Day 10th October 2015 – Training for new Councillors and Clerks: the Clerk confirmed that Cllrs. Berry and Wallis have been registered for this training session.

 Warwickshire County Council Lengthsman Scheme: As requested, the Clerk had made enquiries about guidelines on salaries. There are no specific guidelines as long as at least the minimum wage is paid. The Chairman asked the Clerk to register Aston Cantlow Parish Council expressing an initial interest in the scheme.

**9. Correspondence received**

- Distance Learning Modules, a wealth of information for Councillors at all levels.

 - Warwickshire County Council Lengthsman Scheme – expressions of interest requested by the end of September 2015.

 - Combined Authorities Consultation – deadline 24th July 2015.

 - Invitation to Stratford District Council Chairman’s Civic Service 27th September 2015.

 - Independent Advisory Groups – Critical Friends of the Police

**10. Consideration of S137 grants for the current financial year:**

Some considerable discussion took place on this matter and the following was proposed by the Chairman:

 £500.00 to be granted to the Village Hall towards maintenance of the playground.

 Consideration of grants to the PCC and Tennis Club will be given at the next meeting pending receipt of further information to be requested by the Clerk.

 Cllr. Wallis seconded this proposal and it was agreed by all Cllrs.

**11. To agree Parish Council procedures for the new term:**

 Having explained our current method of file sharing to the new Cllrs., the Chairman proposed that this method should be continued. Cllrs. Wallis and Berry are both happy to follow this procedure and it was therefore agreed that going forward the PC would continue to use DROPBOX as our chosen method for sharing information/files/pictures etc.

**12. Parish Plan update:**

The Chairman reported that two meetings have taken place,

 a draft questionnaire prepared and agreed and she will be preparing the final version by the end of this month for circulation.

**13**. **Bank Mandate:**

A new Mandate was signed by all Cllrs. and the Clerk to supersede all previous Mandates. Cllrs. Berry and Wallis were advised that they will be required to produce proof of identification at any branch of HSBC

**14. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Aston Cantlow Village Hall £ 5.50 (200437)

Mrs. E. Butterworth (expenses 31/03 to 10/09) 179.87 (200438)

Aston Cantlow Village Hall (S137 grant) 500.00 (200439)

**15. Councillor’s reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Items for the next agenda:

S 137 Grants for the Tennis Club and PCC

Donations

To consider and agree activities for the current financial year.

**16. Date of next meeting:** 8th October 2015.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 p.m.

For information only.

The following payments were made between meetings:

Aston Cantlow Village Hall £ 11.00 (200434)

Mrs. G. Comfort (Internal Audit) 75.00 (200435)

Warwickshire Training Partnership 45.00 (200436)

**County Council – September 2015**

An additional council meeting was held on September 3 to respond to a consultation document issued by the seven metropolitan unitary councils that made up the old West Midlands County to form a Combined Authority. A combined authority would take over housing strategy, economic development, transport planning, coordination of mental health and public services. Warwickshire and Coventry LEP would continue into the near future.

There are proposals for a strategic investment board that would invest in a few large projects using the borrowing capacity of all the members and attracting funds from the private sector. Warwickshire has the lowest levels of debt relative to all the other possible members and would probably see its gearing increased to the same level as all the other councils.

The issue that concerned me was that Aston Cantlow Division is a net contributor to all the public bodies that support it; Westminster, Warwickshire and Stratford on Avon District. I analysed the depravation in Warwickshire from Government statistics and compared what happened to the 10% most deprived and the 20% least deprived if we joined West Midlands. Of the 33 most deprived in Warwickshire only 3 remain in the bottom 10% and the richest 20% would include 160 from Warks rather than 66 if we join. This means Aston Cantlow’s transfer payments would go into Birmingham and the north county communities would lose out in funds and more people would make greater contributions.

All councillors present voted not to enter into discussions except the Labour Group who voted in a block to join.

Public Health has reported that Warwickshire has more than 9,000 Dementia Friends and hopes are high to soon reach 10,000. Trading Standards are urging people to have their electric blankets tested and Fire and Rescue are reminding people to fit smoke alarms and have their chimneys swept.

Tourism is getting a boost with grants to the total of £150,000 for development of tourism

**John Horner**