**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2016 – NO. 76.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Harvey, Chairman, Cllr. Wallis, Cllr. Berry 19 members of the public and Sargeant Robert Shaw, Warwickshire Police.

Part meeting: District Cllr. Gittus and County Cllr. Horner.

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.
2. **Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests:**

 No requests were received.

1. **Ali Mainey, Community Development Worker, WCC**

Unfortunately Ali Mainey was unable to attend at short notice as she had to take her daughter to Warwick Hospital.

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2016**

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

**6. Public Participation:**

 **E5341:** Mr. Evans asked for an update in response to his complaint at the last meeting about the appalling condition of the E5341. The Clerk advised that she hadn’t yet received a response from Mr. Cowley and upon checking earlier this week discovered he is currently on leave.

 The majority of the members of the public were from Newnham attending to reiterate concerns expressed to the Council via emails and letters, not only about the condition of the E road, but also the unacceptable attitude and behaviour of the users of the 4 x 4 off road vehicles. Late night/early morning visits sounding horns and using flashing beacons, damage to crops in the adjacent fields and damage to The Green to mention but a few issues. Some of the vehicle registration plates are illegible and some don’t have a registration plate at all.

 Having been made aware of the issues, County Cllr. Horner had been in touch with the Legal Department at WCC to request a temporary road closure be issued. Unfortunately this is something that cannot instantly be carried out but is being processed. It is a legal procedure, has to go out to consultation and diversion notices to other routes have to be prepared.

 Cllr. Horner confirmed that a notice produced on this occasion would be for this year only, not a permanent notice.

 Sargeant Shaw was also provided with some photographs and details of the some of the concerns of residents at the beginning of the meeting. He had checked police records for Aston Cantlow and found no reports from the past twelve months but admitted that he hadn’t looked into the system for reports from Newnham, at short notice not realising Newnham was part of Aston Cantlow Parish, and would do so on his return to the station. He confirmed that 4 x 4 vehicles have a legal right to use the E road and can legally travel at 60mph along it. Regarding concerns of anti-social behaviour he advised residents to telephone 101, the non- emergency police number, and make reports no matter what time of day or night as public concerns will always be addressed. It is important to provide vehicle registration numbers wherever possible or some method of identification to enable the police to take any necessary action.

 Sargeant Shaw was asked if cameras can be used to record the behaviour of the 4 x 4 users. He said they can be providing the strict guidelines for use of outdoor cameras are complied with.

Cllr. Harvey thanked Sargeant Shaw and Cllr. Horner for their assistance with the issues raised about the E road**.**

  **Parking:** Mr. Evans also expressed concerns about the two cars that have been parked outside Cantella Farm for the past two years, one on the road and the other half on the road and part way on the footpath. Cllr. Harvey stated that our understanding is that providing a vehicle is taxed and insured and not causing an obstruction there is no law against this. Mr. Evans stated that he is of the opinion that neither car is taxed. He suggested that bollards should be put in place to prevent vehicles being parked there at all. Cllr Harvey explained to Mr. Evans that this matter had previously been brought to the attention of the Council and a full investigation had been carried out as to ownership of the area (s) on which the cars were parked and any obstruction that was being caused, all of which was fully documented and published in the minutes of subsequent council meetings. The outcome of those investigations were that there was no reason that the cars could not be parked there providing they met all legislative requirements. Furthermore, the council’s recommendation at that time was that if it was felt by the highways that this parking should or could be prevented then the council would look favourably on methods of doing that including the use of hard standing or bollards or grass. Cllr Harvey also stated that the council did not believe anything had changed in the interim – however if Mr. Evans believed the cars were not taxed or insured and were parked on a public highway then this should be reported.

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

Cllr. Gittus reported that Stratford District Council has reversed the decision not to join the West Midlands Combined Authority which he felt was an unsatisfactory democratic procedure.

 Regarding flooding, Cllr. Gittus mentioned the webcams within the area and the advantage of being able to closely monitor the river levels.

Mr. Robert Mason asked if there is any provision to assist with flood defence, in particular relating to a property at the far end of Chapel Lane. Cllr. Harvey responded that all owners of properties that either flood or are at risk of flooding were invited to register for Property Level Protection funding followed by a meeting in the village hall for residents to look at samples of the equipment available under the scheme. Each property was visited and individual needs addressed, work carried out accordingly and the scheme completed last year.

 Mr. Evans raised the fact that the mechanisms for opening the sluice gates at Great Alne have not been replaced and how dangerous it is for the resident from Aston Cantlow who does open them when the river level is rising. Cllr. Harvey advised that the modelling work which was undertaken shows that neither of the sets of gates at Great Alne and Meadow Island have a significant impact on the water levels at Aston Cantlow.

 Cllr. Gittus said the new library at Globe House is now open and is proving to be a great success.

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 In addition to Cllr. Horner’s February report, which is attached on page 8, he said that the budget report for the next financial year is tough and that Warwickshire County Council still wants to stay out of the West Midland Combined Authority.

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

*Planning Application No. 15/04233/VARY* Badbury Hill Barn, Shelfield:

Variation of condition 2 (temporary permission) of planning permission 12/02427/FUL (Change of use of buildings and land from agriculture to equestrian use (stable and riding arena), demolition of barn, construction of horse exercise track and variation of planning condition 2 of planning approval 05/03308/FUL to allow occupancy of building by an equestrian worker) to allow for the permanent occupation of the building by an equestrian worker. Permission granted.

The following application was considered:

Cllr. Wallis declared a non-pecuniary interest in this application.

Planning Application No. 15/04226/FUL Pools Barn Farm, Little Alne: Erection of agricultural grain store.

 After some discussion Cllr. Harvey proposed the following response: Aston Cantlow Parish Council has no objection to the actual grain store, subject to Highway approval, but he Councillors and some residents are worried that this will incur additional traffic, in particular an increase in HGV’s, through the village and, in turn, affecting speed and causing damage to the highway itself.

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

 A new dog bin has been installed in Millenium Way.

 Arden Craft Centre standing water: Currently no improvement to the situation. The Clerk agreed to follow up her earlier report.

 Footpath from the Churchyard to the bridge: The Clerk had reported the condition of this footpath to the Public Rights of Way Officer who advised that they prioritise the reports they receive and deal with them in a geographical sequence.

 The damaged chevrons reported by the Clerk last November have not yet been replaced. The Clerk had attempted to gain an update prior to the meeting but no response had been received.

**10. Correspondence received:**

- Open Evening & Reception at Shire Hall, Warwick 27th February 2016

 - Lengthsman Scheme guidance pack.

 - CSW Broadband Update -January 2016

 - Report received about the surface of the footpath from the churchyard to the bridge.

 - WALC Legal Topic notes 87 and L05.

 - WALC Information on audit regulations.

 - Free Home Composting workshops in Warwickshire.

 The following were received after the agenda was circulated:

 - Aston Cantlow - Post PLP Flood Group.

 - Shakespeare Hospice – Charitable allocations.

 - HSBC Studley Branch closing 15th April 2016.

 - Draft proposal from Mr. & Mrs. Flood to gain the feelings of the Parish Council in advance of submitting a planning application.

 WALC Information on audit regulations: Cllr. Berry proposed that Aston Cantlow Parish Council continue with the external audit arrangements that Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd. is putting in place. Seconded by Cllr. Harvey and agreed by all.

 The draft proposal from Mr. & Mrs Flood to apply for outline planning permission for a small ‘local needs’ bungalow on land at Pinehurst, Little Alne was supported by all Cllrs..

**11. Consultation: New Settlement Proposal at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath:**

Councillors agreed to study this consultation online and advise the Clerk of any representation they wish to make by 20th February 2016.

**12. Invitation: Working together to manage and respond to flooding:**

An invitation was received from Inside Government who will be hosting an interactive strategy forum in London on 27th April 2016. The event will bring together senior policy executives representing the Environment Agency, fire services and the best performing local authorities across the country, you will have the perfect opportunity to hear how to best gain access to available funding, as well as explore best practice on how to better prepare for the effects of extreme weather conditions Cllr. Harvey felt that it would be advantageous for Aston Cantlow Parish Council to be represented and indicated that she would be willing to attend unless anyone else preferred to.

 Cllrs. Berry & Wallis were in favour of the proposal and thanked the Chairman for offering to attend.

 The cost for attending the event is £385.00 and Cllr. Berry offered to contact the organisers with a view to negotiating a reduction. He will advise accordingly prior to the Clerk completing registration.

**13. Village Hall Committee and the Playground:**

Mr. Gloster had contacted the Chairman explaining that the annual cost of maintaining the playground is becoming more of a problem and asking whether it would be possible for more funds to be provided through the PC towards these costs.

 Cllr. Harvey proposed that this request should be considered in the next financial year. All agreed to the proposal and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Gloster accordingly.

 **14**. **To agree Parish Council activities going forward:**

Deferred

**15. Parish Plan Update – Analysis of Parish Plan questionnaire:**

Deferred to after the next Parish Plan Group meeting

**16. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Citizens Advice Bureau £ 100.00 (200449)

Mrs. L. Harvey (P.Plan questionnaires) 64.00 (200450)

Mrs. E. Butterworth (expenses Sept 15 – Feb 16) 218.51 (200451)

Aston Cantlow Village Hall Committee 6.50 (200452)

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

Items for the next agenda:

Deferred items 14 & 15

Shakespeare Hospice donation

Financial Regulations review

Stand Orders review

Aston Cantlow - Post PLP Flood Group.

**18. Date of next meeting:** 17th March 2016.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

**County Councillor Report - January**

In my January report I told you the Government had applied a 39% cut to the County Council’s **financial settlement** grant for next year. We received a final settlement on February 9 which reduced the savings required next year and the year after by £3 million. The revision was attributed to around 30 Conservative MP voicing their concerns. Savings the Council must apply to its base budget of £380 million are £14 million, £31 million, £23 million and £21 million yearly to 2019/20. The lumpiness in the numbers is due to the final two years being indicative and subject to change. The Council approved a budget on February 4 without the additional £6 million and another debate will be held to approve a budget with the revised numbers on February 23. Each political group will be trying to spend the money that benefits their interests the most and the final outcome will depend of which two groups achieve a compromise.

**Fire and Rescue** has been transferred to the Home Office from Department of Communities and Local Government and the Government confirmed that it will pass legislation that will require Fire and Police collaboration and give the Police and Crime Commissioner the right to take over the Fire Service is a business case, considered suitable by the Home Secretary, is made. This circumstance **means that the forthcoming** PCC elections will have an added dimension.

A new seven year **contract for roads maintenance** has been signed with Balfour Beatty, our current supplier. The last contract was signed five years ago during the recession and prices this time are 20% higher due to the high demand for construction assets across the country.

**Shared Lives Warwickshire** was launched this month. Shared Lives is an exciting pilot scheme that will see Warwickshire County Council work in partnership with Coventry City Council to offer adults with additional needs a flexible form of supported living. Shared Lives centres on carers sharing their home, family and community life with adults that need extra support, it not only gives people entering into a Shared Lives arrangement the chance to be part of a family, but also to be part of the wider community. The scheme is already helping thousands of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and older people to live more fulfilling and independent lives across the country.

**JOHN HORNER**