**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 14th JANUARY 2016 – NO. 75.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

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

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. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2015:**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr. Evans reported that the E5341 is in an appalling state due to the four by four’s being driven over it whilst the ground is so wet. He asked if the Parish council could arrange for a temporary closure until the weather improves and the ground dries out. This E road is used by ramblers, dog walkers, horses and currently is very hazardous. The Clerk advised that, having spoken with Mr. Evans about this yesterday, she had contacted Paul Cowley at WCC with such a request. Mr. Cowley was of the opinion that this would not be possible as the four x fours are legally allowed to use the E5341. The Clerk pointed out to him that it had been temporarily closed in 2007 to prevent further surface damage from vehicles and provided him with a copy of an email from Annmarie Grace, Access Projects Officer, to that effect. Mr. Cowley will make enquiries. Mr. Evans requested that the Chairman asks County Cllr. Horner to follow this up.

The other item Mr. Evans raised was that he hoped the Parish Council would be making a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau this year as he was aware that no donations had been made to them for some years now. It could not be confirmed when the last donation was made and the Clerk agreed to investigate. Mr. Evans asked that copy of the minutes detailing the last donation to the Bureau be forwarded to him together with a copy of the response from WCC to the request for the closure of the E5341.

Mr. Evans also asked where the community computer is as a suitable place was not available for it to be housed for the use of the community. It was confirmed that it is at the Clerk’s address. The rules of the Lottery Funding did not allow for it to be sold or given away but it could be used by the Clerk for the benefit of the community and this was sanctioned by the Parish Council. Once items such as this are four years old they have no value and are in any case written off.

Mrs. Flood had no questions to ask 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.)**

Cllr. Gittus reported that the SDC budget will be difficult for the next few years as the Government grant could go from 2.2million to zero between 2018 and 2020. Savings of £250,000 will have to be ongoing. The District council has been very prudent and current reserves equate to the legal requirement.

Regarding Council Tax, the choice is to raise this by 2% or £5.00. The Council intends to go with £5.00 to give breathing space and may be able to make it 2% in the future. Cllr. Wallis asked how much the £5.00 would help towards the budget and Cllr. Gittus roughly calculated it at £39,000.00.

It is possible that there will be the loss of one senior position within the District Council for the purpose of making quite significant financial savings.

Cllr. Gittus provided the Chairman with information from WRCC about housing needs surveys as he understands the Parish Plan Group has not yet pursued this.

A January report provided by County Cllr. Horner is attached on page 6.

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

*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. Part approved.

*Planning Application Nos 15/03501/LBC and 15/03500/FUL* Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Aston Cantlow: Erection of summerhouse (retrospective).

15/03501/LBC : Listed building consent not required.

15/03500/FUL: Permission refused

*Planning Application No. 15/03683/FUL* Fairfield, Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow: Demolition of existing garage and erection of proposed two storey side extension. Application withdrawn.

*Planning Application No. 14/03486/FUL* Roundhill Lodge, Little Alne: Proposed two storey side and rear elevations and single storey side/rear elevation, detached garage/store. Application withdrawn.

*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. Cllr. Harvey proposed this application be granted, seconded by Cllr. Berry and all in agreement.

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

Road sinkage adjacent Midway, Bearley Road: The required work has now been satisfactorily carried out.

Water leak adjacent Teapot Hall: Severn Trent have attended to this leak.

Warwickshire County Council - Lengthsman Scheme

A summary of the survey findings for January to June 2015 has

been received and we have been advised that Ali Mainey will be working with Aston Cantlow in the development of projects as soon as she has received confirmation of the next steps.

Sand Bags: Cllr. Berry collected the supply of sand bags from Warwickshire County Council and Mr. Godfrey confirmed to the Clerk that he is happy for sand and bags to continue to be stored on his premises.

Warwickshire Minerals Plan (2017-2031) Consultation. Having considered this consultation Cllr. Harvey felt it was not necessary for a response to be made.

Standing water on footpath outside the Arden Centre: As far as we are aware not action has yet been taken.

Damaged Chevrons in Wilmcote Lane and further report received of one damaged in Little Alne: These were reported to the Highways Dept. but have not yet been repaired/replaced.

Dog bin in Millennium Way: A report had been received by the Clerk that this was on the ground and having passed the report to SDC we are advised that it will be replaced shortly.

Audit of non-listed properties of historic interest: The Clerk has been unsuccessful in her attempts to ascertain whether it is still possible to upload photographs onto the Historic Environment Records. It may be that the Interactive Community Rights usage map has superseded the previous scheme.

**9. Correspondence received:**

- CSW Broadband Update – December 2015

- Citizens Advice Bureau – donation request.

- Keep Britain Tidy event - Clean for the Queen 4th - 6th March 2016.

- Interactive Community Rights usage map.

- Temporary Road Closure - A3400 Stratford Road & A4189.

- Revised Model Financial Regulations 21.11.2015.

- M. & D. Hodgson request for a Parish Plan questionnaire. A copy was sent, completed by Mr. & Mrs. Hodgson and returned to the Parish Plan Group.

- Notification under general permitted development. Intention to install 1 x DSLAM equipment cabinet.

Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr. Harvey proposed that a donation of £100.00 be made. Cllr. Wallis seconded this proposal and all were in agreement.

**10. Draft Precept 2016/17:**

Having considered the position of the Council’s funds, Cllr. Harvey proposed that our Precept request for 2015/16 should remain as per the current year at £9.400.00. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Wallis and all were in full agreement.

Confirmation had been received from SDC that a Council Tax Reduction Grant will be paid to Town and Parish Councils along with the Precept payment. The grant figure for Aston Cantlow Parish Council is £250.00 thus making the actual Precept request £9,150.00.

**11. Consultation - Police Precept:**

Cllr. Harvey had examined the consultation information on behalf of the Council prior to the meeting and considered a representation was not necessary.

**12. Invitation for Aston Cantlow Parish Council | Working together to manage and respond to flooding.**

Deferred.

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

Deferred.

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

Deferred.

**15. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

C.P.R.E. £ 36.00 (200448)

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

Items for the next agenda:

Deferred agenda items 12, 13, 14.

**17. Date of next meeting:** 11th February 2016.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

**County Councillor Report - January**

The Government’s **financial settlement** for next year contained two surprises. Firstly it was on time and secondly it was not the “give away budget” trumpeted in the press. The Government assumes that over the next four years WCC will raise council tax each year by 4%, and will receive an additional £10 million from the Better Care Fund in 2019/20. The grant from Government will reduce from £56 million this year to £37 million next year with further reductions in later years. With additional duties that have been imposed on counties this amounts to a cut of 39% in the year.

London and the metropolitan boroughs like Birmingham and Wolverhampton have done much better with reductions of only 20%. District Councils are facing an average of 37% reduction and so the two tier councils, almost entirely Conservative controlled, have suffered most. Much has been said about councils retaining business rates but it is now understood that this will be top sliced to help the disadvantaged metropolitan areas. In other words central Government will still control the destination of business rate monies. The new homes bonus has been made less generous and is still in the gift of the District Councils. It is hoped that grants for specific tasks will be made available in the future by the Government.

**Electric vehicle grants for Rural SME are available** and sixteen rural businesses in Warwickshire have received grants for leasing electric vehicles. The Rural Growth Network is among five pilot projects across England and has been created to support small firms in rural areas as part of a major initiative to boost the rural economy. For more information about the Warwickshire rural electric vehicle project (WREV) [http://bit.ly/1N4m0Uj](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS8xTjRtMFVq&r=5555970071&d=1413505&p=1&t=h&h=74aacd6a71946789dcb67cf0dd8cc273)

**Remember sale goods are also fully covered by consumer rights.** The new Consumer Rights Act has strengthened and extended a consumer's shopping rights. Consumers can obtain more help and advice from Trading Standards via their consumer advisors at the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

**A car dealer pleaded guilty to fraud** after an investigation and prosecution by Warwickshire County Trading Standards. Complaints from buyers led Warwickshire Trading Standards to look in to Connan Harvey’s second hand Audi business. Trading Standards Officers received numerous complaints concerning Harvey’s business practices between November 2012 and February 2014. The three year investigation shows how long it takes to bring criminals to justice.

**JOHN HORNER**

For information only.

The following payment was made between meetings:

HMRC (PAYE) £ 198.60 (200447)