**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2015 – NO. 69.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Harvey, Chairman, Cllr. Findlay, Cllr. Poole and four members of the public.

PART MEETING: County Cllr. Horner.

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr. Sir William Lawrence
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 on 20th November 2014:**

The minutes were approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

1. **Public Participation:**

The first item raised was about data protection and confidentiality. Generally at a public village meeting visitors are asked to write down their names on a sheet of paper that is circulated. A member of the public, who requested not to be named, expressed concern over confidentiality with this process and it was explained that it is not compulsory for anyone to complete and is a record for the Parish Council files only. In future that will be made clear to all visitors.

Another question raised was about what methods are used to inform residents about Parish Council business, for example are minutes circulated. The Chairman advised that draft minutes are posted on the website within a week or so of a meeting, notices of all meetings are posted on the website and notice board and published in the Community Diary pages of the Village Vine.

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

County Cllr. Horner provided his report and this is attached on page 6.

Cllr. Horner reported that examination of the District Council Core Strategy by the Inspector has commenced. He attended one of the sessions last week and it appears that there are various inconsistencies.

In response to Cllr. Harvey’s question at the last meeting about the number of children in the District in foster care, Cllr. Horner had ascertained that there are in excess of 700 overall with thirty five in Stratford.

Cllr. Findlay raised her concerns that The Ridgeway is not gritted in bad weather. Whilst it is appreciated that this is not within Aston Cantlow Parish it is of great concern to all residents who use that route, particularly in view of the incident this week when a coach carrying school children skidded on ice and ended up in the hedge. Cllr. Horner suggested that it would be advisable, for all schools who have pupils transported along this road, to write to the County Council requesting that the Ridgeway is included in the gritting routes.

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

Planning application No. 14/02006/FUL Shelfield House: Erection of tractor and machinery store with associated landscaping. Permission refused.

Planning application No. 14/02659/COUMB Redhouse Barn, Shelfield: Notification of change of use of agricultural barn to form a single dwelling. Prior Approval refused.

Planning application No. 14/02907/TREE Aston Cantlow Working Mens Club, Bearley Road: T1: Unknown species: remove - T2: Mixed privet and elder hedge: remove - T3: Leylandii: remove. Tree works approved.

Planning application No. 14/03013/TREE April Rise, Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow: T1: Maple 20% crown reduction and 20% crown thinning – T2: Conifer hedge: remove. Tree works deemed consent.

Planning Application No. 14/03084/COUMB Retreat Farm, Newnham: Notification of change of use and conversion of agricultural building to residential use C3 (1 dwelling). Prior Approval refused.

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

Property Level Flood Protection: In a telephone conversation between the Clerk and Paul Rimen on 25th November 2014 Mr. Rimen confirmed that the Environment Agency have approved the funding and it was hoped to arrange a meeting with the residents concerned before Christmas.

In a further telephone update with the Clerk this morning, Michael Green confirmed that the funding is secured and it had been decided that a contractor should be appointed before any meetings are held with residents. It is now expected to be early March when a meeting takes place.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to check village hall availability and provide a choice of dates to Paul Rimen in an attempt to get the matter settled.

The Halt, Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow: Confirmation has been received from Lech Kocon, Enforcement Officer, SDC. that the development has been carried out as proposed and no breaches have been identified. The Councillors had last month expressed concerns that where planning permission is not required it is difficult to gain information about what work is being done under permitted development – this particular development being a case in point. The view was that although the development was done as proposed, the proposal may not have met Councillors approval had the PC been asked for a view. Cllr Harvey was going to explore ways of keeping on top of any permitted developments in the parish so as to potentially have the opportunity of commenting.

1. **Correspondence received:**

- CSW Broadband Update- January 2015.

- Additional CSW Broadband Coverage.

- Cllr. Horner Broadband update.

- Local Government pay consultation. Confirmation of agreement reached on 2014-2015 National Salary Awards. A revised Standing Order was signed by two Cllrs. to reflect the increase to the Clerk’s salary.

- E5341- an enquiry from Mr. Evans as to whether the Parish Council is intending to request a closure during the winter months. It was agreed that the Parish Council would put in a request to the Client Services Engineer, WCC, to review the E road to consider whether, in the interest of the Parish, a closure should be considered to prevent major damage again this winter.

The following correspondence was received after the agenda had been circulated:

-Temporary road closure 2nd – 27th March 2015 Spernal Lane for renovation scheme at Spernal Lane Bridge.

-Temporary road closure Mill Lane, Aston Cantlow 12th – 16th February 2015 for the installation of a boundary box.

-A telephone request from Mr. Evans that various previously reported unresolved highway issues be followed up:

-Pothole in Wilmcote Lane between the old grain store and The Old Green. A reminder has been sent.

-Road sinkage adjacent to Midway, Bearley Road: The clerk was advised by the Streetworks Dept. that they have issued another defect against this reinstatement with a meeting requested next week.

-B4089: water running down the hill towards the sharp bend. At the Clerk’s request Severn Trent attended the site and confirmed there are no damaged water pipes in that area but did report that the ditch was badly blocked. This information was passed to the Highways Dept. at the beginning of December. A further report has been made to include the pothole emerging in the middle of the road.

- Mill Lane: the poor condition of the road surface adjacent to Mill Bank. In view of the proposed works due to be carried out in that area in February it was agreed that we should wait until after the work is completed to follow up the complaint if it is still necessary.

Cllr. Findlay reported another pothole in Mill Lane and a very large one in Wood Lane.

**10. Precept for 2015 – 2016**

Having considered the position of the Council’s funds, Cllr. Poole 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. Findlay 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 £330.00 thus making the actual Precept submission £9,070.00.

**11. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Mrs. E. Butterworth (non-consolidated payment December) £21.60 (200423)

**12. Councillors’ reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting. Each Cllr. is requested to use this opportunity to report on minor matters for information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Cllrs. are reminded that this is not an opportunity for decision making.**

Items for the next agenda:

Consideration of requests for S137 grants

WCC Consultation on Budget Cuts to Parish and Town Councils and Third Sector

Asset Register

1. **Date of next meeting:** 12th February 2015.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

**County Councillor’s Report – January 2015**

Budget discussions are currently being held amongst the various political groups in the Council over points of detail. It is expected that the planned increase of 2% in council tax will go ahead and the programme to deliver £92 million in savings will remain on track. As the second year beckons the detailed decisions on savings are becoming increasingly hard to make.

In view of the problems with hospital admissions WCC social care staff are working closely with health colleagues to avoid delays for people leaving hospital and to ensure they receive the care they need following discharge so they can be safely supported at home and so freeing beds in hospitals.

Residents are being encouraged to recycle small Waste electrical and electronic products (WEEE) at Household Waste and Recycling Centres and, in doing so, stand the chance to win a brand new iPad courtesy of sponsors DHL Envirosolutions. The UK produces around 1 million tonnes of electrical waste and only 30% is recycled. The initiative is intended to increase this percentage.

A new Lengthsman pilot will begin operating in some Parishes within the Rugby Borough. . The Lengthsman Scheme is a local arrangement with these parishes to support them doing more in their local area.  The jobs taken over could be; grass and verge cutting, footpath clearance, hedge, fence and grass cutting management, drainage and localised flood prevention and reporting road defects.

WCC’s approach to joining up education and health services for pre-schoolers has been held up as best practice in a national report launched by the Early Intervention Foundation. It is entitled ‘Getting it right for families’.

Warwickshire’s work to help disadvantaged families turn their lives around has made the county a top-performing local authority in the region and funding is now available from Government for a second phase roll out. Approaching 700 families have been helped in the county so far.

Warwickshire’s Trading Standards Service has seized a number of fake and dangerous ‘Frozen’ dolls, before they reached the shops. Trading Standards Officers, working alongside the UK Border Force, identified the suspect Chinese imports of ‘Frozen’ dolls.

WCC Public Health says that remembering what we eat every day can be hard, and that keeping a food diary of everything we consume can help make us realise the quantities we are eating and drinking. Often when people keep a diary they naturally start to consume less.

For information only

The following payments were made between meetings:

G. J. & W. Hollands £300.00 (200419)

HMRC (January PAYE) 194.40 (200420)

Aston Cantlow Village Hall 9.76 (200421)

CPRE 36.00 (200422)