**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2016 – NO. 82.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

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

Part Meeting: County Cllr Horner.

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 10th August 2016.**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr. Knott raised concerns about the apparent lack of verge maintenance in Mill Lane travelling a short way along from the junction with Brook Road. Due to the undergrowth and excessive tree growth the highway is narrowing. The Clerk was asked to report these concerns to the Highways Dept. and enquire as to the identity of the riparian landowners along that stretch.

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

It is understood that Cllr. Gittus is currently on holiday and therefore no District report was available.

Cllr. Horner reported that on 22nd September the Council will receive the officers’ options for saving £72 million over the next three years. These involve a great deal of process redesign in order to avoid direct cuts to services.

Cllr Horner had attended a meeting earlier in connection with land drainage. The County pays for land drainage but unfortunately the Environment Agency no longer carries out general river maintenance.

Cllr. Harvey mentioned that the river through Little Alne is in need of attention due to a build-up of debris etc. and suggested that in view of the lack of work carried out by the E.A. perhaps the Parish Council could arrange for some clearance to be undertaken. Cllr. Horner said he will speak with the Environment Agency about getting the River Alne cleared and will also find out how the Parish Council would stand health and safety wise making their own arrangements.

Mrs. Flood said that her brother-in-law has all the equipment necessary for river clearance and she will ask him to come and assess the situation. It was agreed that the first route to take is with the riparian landowners

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

*Planning Application No. 16/02385/FUL Pools Barn Farm, Little Alne:* Conversion and change of use of agricultural barn to agricultural financial business office and Pools Barn Farm office. Pending consideration

*Planning Application No. 16/02105/FUL Reid Barn, Aston Cantlow:* Construction of an oak framed extension to rear. Application refused.

*Planning Application No. 16/02539/OUT Pinehurst, Little Alne*: Outline application for erection of local needs Bungalow with all matters reserved. Pending consideration.

*Planning Application No. 16/02659/FUL Driftway Barn Glebe Farm, Mill Lane, Aston Cantlow:* Oak framed double garage.

This application was only received earlier today and it was agreed that the Cllrs. would consider it and send their responses to the Clerk via email by 22nd September.

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

The damaged Aston Cantlow direction sign at the junction of Bearley Road and Salters Lane had not in fact been replaced/repaired. This is a back to back sign and only one side had been re-fixed. Mr. Evans reported to me that the other sign had been left on the ground so he had taken it home for safety. The Clerk has contacted the Highways Dept. accordingly.

Parish Council Accounts year ending 31st March 2016: The external audit was satisfactorily completed on 19th August 2016.

Website statistics reports are now being received on a weekly basis.

Broadband: A new BT cabinet has been located in Guild Road adjacent to the Parish Council notice board to eventually accommodate the superfast broadband cables.

**9. Correspondence received**

- Land at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath SPD - Adoption Statement.

- WCC Flood Risk Management Newsletter.

- Alcester/Bidford Community Forum - Tuesday 20th September.

- Smart Start Community Grants.

- A resident’s concerns about speeding traffic through Little Alne.

It was recommended that the residents of Little Alne attend the next Alcester/Bidford Community Forum on 13th December to speak directly to the Police about their concerns. The Clerk was asked to put forward a request for speed checks to be carried out prior to that meeting.

The Clerk also mentioned that Wilmcote Parish Council is working towards getting a group of volunteers together to be trained in the use of a speed gun, possibly joining with other Parish Councils to obtain a grant to purchase a speed gun. Cllr. Berry felt that in principle it would be a good idea to consider this when further information is available.

After the agenda had been circulated the Clerk received a phone call from Mr. Evans with a complaint that some of the grass verges have not been cut for some time. Having checked the regime with SDC the Clerk reported that the next verge cut is due on the 26th of this month.

Mr. Evans also said that the gully emptying vehicle was at the pub end of the village but didn’t go along Bearley Road emptying the gullies by his property, the end of the E5341 or the one adjacent to Homelea Farm. The other item he raised was the potholes along the edge of the highway in the region of Homelea Farm – these have been reported on several occasion of the past two or three years, the last time being in April this year. The Clerk has contacted the Highways Dept. regarding these items.

**10. Parish Plan update :**

Councillors communicated by email to the Clerk their agreement to adopt the final draft Plan.

**11. Lengthsman Scheme – progress report:**

Cllr. Berry had provided a draft notice to invite applications from suitable Contractors and requested feedback from the Cllrs. as soon as possible. One question that arose was what level of public liability insurance would be required of the Contractor and Cllr. Berry will ascertain that with Geoff Turton. Once a notice has been finalised it was agreed copies should be posted on the website, on notice boards, to the Secretary of the Social Club for inclusion in their newsletter etc. etc..

**12. Defibrillator and Parish Council Activities report:**

Cllr. Harvey reported that she has unfortunately not had time to finalise the document for proposed activities and will do so in readiness for the October meeting.

Defibrilllator: Cllr. Berry will be submitting a County Councillor Grant application in the in the next few days. Having sourced Defibrillators and secure cabinets it is estimated the cost will be in the region of £2,000.00.

Cllr. Harvey proposed that we should obtain formal agreement that the Village Hall committee will be willing to have a defibrillator sited in a conspicuous position at the Village Hall. The Clerk to contact the Chairman to this effect.

Emergency Plan: The Clerk confirmed that the next review is due in April 2017.

Asset Register: Cllr. Wallis has been checking the assets and will be updating the photographs and register where items have been replaced and adding the new bin in Little Alne.

**13. Big Lottery Fund Grant:**

There are currently no requirements for a grant.

**14. Flying a flag for Commonwealth Day:**

To our knowledge there is not a flagpole in Aston Cantlow other than a private one in a resident’s garden. Cllr. Wallis proposed that the Arden Centre flies this flag, subject to agreement of the owner. Cllr. Berry confirmed they would be quite happy to do that providing the flagpole is still in working order.

**15. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Stratford District Council (bin emptying) £ 71.39 (200470)

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

Items for the next agenda:

Parish Council Activities

Defibrillator

Clerk’s appraisal

Lengthsman Scheme

Asset Register

Parish Plan

Co-option of Councillor

**18. Date of next meeting:** 13th October 2016.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m