**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2015 – NO. 73.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

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

Part Meeting: County Cllr. Horner.

1. **Apologies:** District Cllr. Gittus who was attending a West Area Planning Committee meeting.

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 September 2015:**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr. Flood expressed concern about the poor state of the river due to the build up of silt and rubbish collecting at the back of the Church in Aston Cantlow and around Little Alne bridge in particular, as shown in some photographs he had taken. Cllr. Harvey explained that responsibility for rivers lies with the Environment Agency and agreed that we would write to the Agency accordingly. Mr. Flood was asked if he could provide some photographs for inclusion.

 The other item Mr. Flood raised was the condition of public footpaths AL98a and 93. At this time of year they are almost impassable due to lack of maintenance by the Landowner. Again, this will be reported to the Rights of Way Officer.

 The other two members of the public were attending as observers.

**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 6.

 Cllr. Horner added that the District Council has declined the invitation to become a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority and will pursue alternative options. The council, which currently shares services with Cherwell, South Northants, South Staffordshire and Wychavon councils respectively, as well as Warwickshire County Council, will now l look at linking up with other authorities locally.

**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. Pending decision.

*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. Permission granted.

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 Application withdrawn.

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

The following applications were then considered:

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

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

 Aston Cantlow Parish Council objects due to insufficient information and guidance being available at this time from the Conservation Officer and other interested parties.

In addition, we feel that the construction materials are not in line with those one might expect a Summerhouse to be made of and therefore question their appropriateness in light of the building status and guidance from the Conservation Officer is required for a formative assessment to be made.

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

 Road sinkage adjacent Midway, Bearley Road: As no action appeared to have been taken the Clerk had asked Cllr. Horner to follow this up with the Stratford West Network Coordinator once again.

 Water leak adjacent Teapot Hall: The Clerk had recently followed this up with Severn Trent and is awaiting a response.

 Induction Day 10th October 2015 – Training for new Councillors Cllrs. Wallis and Berry attending this session and Cllr. Wallis reported as follows:

 The aim of the training was to help new councillors and clerks make an effective contribution to the councils they have just joined. There were approximately 30-40 people at this training event, with the majority fairly new to their roles.

 More specifically, the training covered the roles and responsibilities, the duties we must follow, how the meetings should take place, and its role within the community.

 Some of the items covered were common sense, or areas that we have already been involved with since we both joined a few months ago. However, there were other ‘best practices’ that could be picked up from other councils within Warwickshire, with some of this information is now being looked at in more detail to see if it is relevant to Aston Cantlow.

 Overall, it was a great introduction for both of us.

**9. Correspondence received**

- Temporary closure of C39 Burford Lane, Shelfield

 - Invitation to WALC A.G.M. 4th November 2015.

 - Request from resident to report blocked drains on the B4089, Little Alne.

 - Complaint regarding the condition of public footpaths and stiles in the Parish.

 A further complaint has been received regarding the poor condition of the public footpaths and stiles from a group of walkers following directions from a leaflet produced by the Parish Council in 1996. They discovered overgrown paths, unsafe stiles and missing way-markers. The complaint has been forwarded to the Rights of Way Team, WCC.

 Complaint received by Mr. Evans that the various items he had previously reported have not been dealt with, plus a request that the Parish Council asks the Highways Dept. to check that the depth marker on the bridge in Salters Lane had been replaced satisfactorily by Network Rail after their maintenance works were completed.

 Two of the items are as above in agenda item 8, road sinkage and water leak.

 Aston Cantlow Road sign. A replacement was originally requested in December 2013. It transpired that it had not been ordered until September this year. Production and fitting can take up to sixteen weeks.

 Loose and missing setts adjacent to the Kings Head. The Highways Officer confirmed that he will arrange for repairs to be carried out.

 Mr. Evans is disappointed that the Parish Council had not continued to pursue a flood alleviation scheme for Aston Cantlow and that the only benefit had been to some residents through the Property Level Protection Scheme rather than all residents. He had recently seen reported that Snitterfield had been awarded 2.2 million for flood alleviation and Cllr. Harvey responded that a much higher number of properties actually suffer from flooding in Snitterfield than in Aston Cantlow.

**10. Consideration of S137 grants to Tennis Club and PCC, plus consideration of donations:**

The information requested from the PCC and Tennis Club had been received and Cllr. Harvey made the following proposal:

 A grant of £300.00 to the PCC towards maintenance of the Churchyard.

 A grant of £200.00 to the Tennis Club.

 Seconded by Cllr. Berry and all in agreement.

 Cllr. Harvey made a further proposal that a £100.00 be donated to Henley Community First Responders

 Seconded by Cllr. Wallis and all in agreement.

**11. To agree Parish Council activities for the current financial year:**

Deferred.

**12. Parish Council Representative for Village Hall:**

The Cllrs. are not in a position to be able to take on any additional commitments at this time.

 **13**. **Consultation: Implementation Options consultation. Stratford-on- Avon District Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan:**

Cllrs. felt that as Aston Cantlow is not directly affected by the current proposals in the consultation it would not be necessary to send a representation.

**14. Parish Plan update:**

Cllr. Harvey reported that the questionnaire is with the printers and it is proposed that they will be delivered within the next two weeks.

 The clerk was asked to arrange for a copy of the questionnaire to be placed on the website for residents to download if they require further copies.

**15. Bank Mandate:**

Due to provision of the incorrect mandate by HSBC in the first instance a new form had been obtained. This was completed by all Cllrs. and the Clerk.

**16. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Aston Cantlow Village Hall £ 13.75 (200441)

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

Items for the next agenda:

Draft Precept

Social Media

Parish Council Activities

**16. Date of next meeting:** 12th November 2015.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

**County Report**

Warwickshire's offer to Coventry to form a Combined Authority has been deferred for the time being by Coventry.  In the meantime Warwickshire has fleshed out its ideas and is proposing an alternative approach to a Combined Authority that it feels is more in keeping with its position at the centre of the United Kingdom's transport infrastructure and its need to work with all surrounding areas.

To achieve this Warwickshire is committed to working with all service partners, such as the Police, and the Hospitals, as well as neighbouring local authorities, including Coventry City on the scoping of a Devolution Model. Potential areas for inclusion in a deal with Government, are: Single face to the public, economic growth and prioritisation of investments and infrastructure including transport, integration between national benefits agencies e.g, DWP and the function of councils in delivering on the Government’s welfare agenda, health and social care integration, integration of the national skills programmes with local delivery vehicles aligning the skills agenda to our economic growth priorities, reshaping the schools commissioning function and applying a market management model, adopting multiple geographic solutions for working with other neighbouring areas where it makes sense to do so, such as strategic transport issues, and finally business rate retention.

Other business at the Council has continued and some highlights are:

* WCC has launched a Premier Supplier Service (PSS) to key suppliers today. This is to help supplier cash flow as suppliers who sign up to the service will benefit from early payment of their invoices in exchange for a small percentage rebate on each invoice.
* A Rugby car dealer was successfully prosecuted after a vehicle was found to be un-roadworthy and dangerous to drive by WCC Trading Standards.
* Public Health have launched “Friend or End – what kind of friend are you?” campaign aimed at 17-25 year olds as more than 2,000 17-25 year olds have been killed or injured on Warwickshire’s roads in the last three years and the campaign is calling on friends to take action in making sure everyone gets home safely from a night out.
* Warwickshire County Council are one of six authorities who have been awarded a share of half a million pounds by Defra for the ‘Small Schemes Pathfinder’ projects. The Flood Risk Management team successfully bid for the £83k grant to develop innovative ways to apply for funding for flood alleviation schemes, combining smaller projects into larger and more effective flood risk management packages for each area, reducing red tape and appraisal costs. The Warwickshire project will develop and assess a package of flood risk management measures for groups of properties in small communities across the county.

JOHN HORNER

For information only.

The following payment was made between meetings:

HMRC (PAYE) £ 198.60 (200440)