**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 17th MARCH 2016 – NO. 77.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

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

Part meeting: District Cllr. Gittus.

1. **Apologies:** County Cllr. Horner.
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**

Ali Mainey attended the meeting to offer her support to Aston Cantlow Parish Council as we had registered an interest in this scheme. The object of the scheme is for a locally employed person to carry out highway maintenance tasks identified by the local community as important. This can be done either as an employee or a self-employed contractor or possibly buying in to services of a participating Parish Council.

Activities may be carried out on highway land except for motorways, Trunk roads, ‘A’ and ‘B’ roads where the speed limit is 40mph or on the carriageway itself. Warwickshire County Council sets out the basis on which the Parish Council will be entitled to instruct the services of a Lengthsman. Although there is no funding available from the County Council there will be free training provided and they will provide personal protective equipment.

Where a Lengsthman is an employee Public Liability insurance up to the amount of £5,000,000 is required and the Parish Council must notify any involvement with their Insurers and seek advice. A contracted Lengsthman would also be required to have this level of insurance.

Some queries were raised by Cllrs. and Ms. Streatfield agreed to look into those and provide answers as soon as possible. One of the main concerns was regarding insurance cover and also that work is being passed to Parish Councils that it is felt is the responsibility of the County Council.

As Ms. Streatfield was leaving the Chairman thanked her for attending and offering her assistance.

Cllr. Gittus also raised concerns as above and said he is all in favour of Parish Council’s having an odd-job person to carry out minor tasks not generally carried out by either District or County Councils.

The Clerk was asked to consult with WALC for their opinion on Parish Council’s involvement in the Lengsthman Scheme.

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

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

**6. Public Participation:**

**E5341:** Three members of the public attending from Newnham were pleased that at last some action is being taken to put a closure on the road, even if it is a temporary one. An update had been received by the Parish Council from Paul Cowley stating that a request for the Closure has been sent to the County's Legal Section and the Order is progressing. Advertisements will be in the Press on 11th and 24th of March with the Closure Order being in place early April. Mr. Harris said he had not seen a notice the Stratford Herald last week. The Clerk was asked to check on this with Mr. Cowley and enquire whether this would now delay the process.

There had been one or two more incidents with off-roaders causing problems quite late at night and Cllr. Harvey reiterated that a complaint must be logged with the Police every time, even if identification could not be provided.

**Parking:** Prior to the meeting, Mr. Simmons had made his concerns known to the Parish Clerk, and also provided some photographic evidence, regarding vehicles regularly parking on the road outside Cantella Farm house and causing a dangerous traffic hazard. Two of these vehicles were displaced by two vehicles permanently parked outside Cantella Farm Cottage, both currently registered SORN, referred to in our previous meeting by Mr. Evans.

The Clerk had been in contact with the Police about both issues and was advised by PCSO Morris on the 2nd March that the owner of the SORN vehicles had been given one week to get the vehicles taxed otherwise they would be seized. PCSO Morris also agreed that there is some issue with the parking and she would be looking into it further and report back. No update has been received to date.

Concerns had also been expressed via email from Mr. & Mrs. Cureton-Taylor about the possible danger of vehicles parking adjacent to the phone box.

Mr. Simmons suggested that the Highway authority be asked to install a short-term parking restriction from Cantella Farm gated entrance along to the junction with chapel Lane for any local resident, delivery driver or passing motorist to be able to pull in safely for short stopovers. Councillors considered this suggestion and agreed to request a short term parking restriction initially for the area in front of Cantella Farm Cottage.

Cllr. Gittus recommended that we ask Cllr. Horner to approach the Highways Authority on our behalf regarding installation of a short-term parking restriction outside Cantella Farm Cottage.

Mrs. Flood asked whether any response had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the build-up of debris in the river near the footbridge at Little Alne. Cllr. Berry advised that he had reported this issue via the Environment Agency incident hotline and subsequently had a meeting with an Agency representative who agreed that this blockage is in need of attention and he would add it to the list.

Mrs. Flood also raised the question of whether the railings on the bridge in Little Alne could be painted white instead of green to make them more visible in the dark. It was also considered that permanent traffic lights would be a great advantage and the clerk was asked to enquire whether this would be a possibility. Repair work to the bridge has been carried out following the recent accident.

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

County Cllr Horner had provided a report prior to the meeting and this is attached on Page 8.

Cllr. Gittus expressed his dismay at the removal of the complete hedge along Bearley Road belonging to Meadow Furlong. He sat on the committee that made the decision on the application in March 2013. The County Cllr., Parish Council and a petition of 71 signatures objected to the application. Cllr Gittus supported the application based on a minimal area of hedge being removed, 15m was indicated and the requirement of a second hedge planting behind made the access just about acceptable.

A proposed landscaping scheme was submitted by the owner and a discharge of condition 10 approved. Condition 10 of the original application approval does not overcome the removal of this hedge in this manner. Cllr. Gittus has put forward a complaint to SDC which is ongoing.

Cllr. Gittus confirmed that SDC has taken the £5.00 increase option allowed by government relating to the Council Tax increase.

The Heart of England Forest is continuing to expand with their latest purchase of 480 acres at Kings Coughton Farm which will be planted over the next couple of years. The green burial building on Spernal Lane will be built and there is great desire to enable an educational use as well.

**8. Complaints regarding vehicles parked adjacent to the phone box in Bearley Road;**

Dealt with in agenda item 6.

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

*Planning Application No. 15/04226/FUL* Pools Barn Farm, Little Alne: Erection of agricultural grain store. Went to the West Area Planning Committee last evening – no decision available as yet.

The following applications were then considered:

*Planning Application No. 16/00654/FUL* Fairfield Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow: Proposed demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side extension.

After some discussion Cllr. Harvey proposed that the Parish Council should support this revised application. The reduction in volume is more acceptable and there would be no detrimental effect to the street scene or the environment. Seconded by Cllr. Berry and agreed by all.

*Planning Application No. 16/00649/FUL* Briar Cottage, Shelfield: Proposed first floor Extension.

Notification of this consultation was received after the agenda had been circulated due to some confusion with the address of the property.

It was considered by Cllrs. that the proposed extension is not unreasonable and would cause no impact on the street scene. Cllr. Harvey proposed that the Parish Council should support the application, seconded by Cllr. Wallis and agreed by all.

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

Sluice gates Great Alne: Further to the discussion at the last meeting, two requests had been received for sight of the final flood alleviation modelling report. The clerk managed to obtain a copy and has sent a copy of the relevant page in response to the requests.

The damaged chevron adjacent to The Green has been replaced, albeit with a much smaller one. The clerk has attempted to find out whether this is a temporary replacement until a full sized one is available but with no success so far.

Mr. Godfrey has confirmed that he is willing to continue to store a bag of sand for filling sand bags. He advised that the small amount remaining is full of weeds and debris and not fit for use. The Clerk was asked to order a new bag and this can be stored in the original position. Cllr. Wallis will prepare a plan to send to the merchants to direct them for delivery and a copy will be placed on the Parish Council website for the benefit of residents who may require sand bags in the future.

Working together to manage and respond to flooding forum:

The clerk confirmed that Cllr. Harvey is registered to attend and a price reduction of £100.00 had been obtained off the registration fee.

**11. Correspondence received:**

- WALC Financial Briefing F01E-16 update to model financial regulations.

- New Audit scale of fees.

- Stratford on Avon Core Strategy examination update – March 2016.

- Email from Ms. Edkins providing information of ownership of the sluice gates at Great Alne, a request for a copy of the Halcrow final report and a request to enquire of the Fire & Rescue authority would be able to access Aston Cantlow when the three accesses are flooded should the need arise.

- Reports received of an abandoned caravan in Ford Lane. The Clerk had reported this to both the Police and SDC.

**12. Pre-submission consultation: Wilmcote & Pathlow Neighbourhood**

**Plan:**

Councillors agreed to study this consultation and advise the Clerk of any representation they wish to make by 24th March 2016.

**13. Donation request from the Shakespeare Hospice:**

Cllr. Harvey proposed that a donation of £200.00 be provided. Seconded by Cllr. Wallis and agreed by all.

**14. Financial Regulations review:**

Deferred.

**15. Standing Orders review:**

Deferred.

**16. Aston Cantlow – Post PLP Flood Group:**

Cllr. Harvey agreed to draft a notice for the website.

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

Deferred.

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

The analysis has been completed and the final draft plan is currently being drafted and is expected to be finalised by the end of April.

**19. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Aston Cantlow Village Hall Committee £ 16.25 (200455)

Shakespeare Hospice 200.00 (200456)

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

Items for the next agenda:

Deferred items 14, 15 & 17

**18. Date of next meeting:** 14th April 2016. Annual Parish meeting followed by an ordinary Parish Council meeting.

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

# County Councillor Report - Aston Cantlow Division

The Council met on February 23 to allocate an additional one off £3 million transitional to help cushion the additional £10 million per year savings required by the Autumn settlement. A further £10 per year savings will be required in 2017/18 financial year. £540,000 was put into short term reserves, £500,000 went to adult social care, £300,000 for mental health issues of children and young people, £100,000 for road safety education, £108,000 to support libraries, £42,000 for arson reduction patrols and £300,000 for family support work allied to the County’s 0-5 strategy.

At the same meeting the Council considered an invitation from West Midlands Combined Authority to join as a Constituent member. This would give Warwickshire the same rights and responsibilities as the other founding metropolitan boroughs, such as Solihull and Coventry. If Warwickshire takes up this offer then it would also mean that Warwickshire comes under the jurisdiction of an elected Metropolitan Mayor and this subservience would extend to the activities of the Districts in Warwickshire as well as the County. The Council decided to commission a business case from officers for joining, or not, within six months at which point it would come back to Council.

WCC is recruiting school crossing patrol staff (lollipop ladies and gentlemen) but not in our area. However I have discovered that a Parish Council can pay for a crossing patrol even if the criteria does not justify a WCC funded operation.

£500,000 of the £1 million allocated by WCC for grants to small businesses has already been used up. For more information and to check the eligibility of a project please visit: [http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/businessgrants](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cDovL3d3dy53YXJ3aWNrc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL2J1c2luZXNzZ3JhbnRz&r=6036346657&d=1573453&p=1&t=h&h=e61f489e202acf5c5239a2bc306ea806) or contact Warwickshire County Council’s Economy and Skills Group on Tel: 01926 412709.

John Horner

For information only:

The following payments were made between meetings:

Government Net Communications £342.00 (200453)

Information Commissioner 35.00 (200454)