**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**ON THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2015 – NO. 70.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Harvey, Chairman, Cllr. Findlay, County Cllr. Horner and three members of the public.

ABSENT: Cllr. Poole.

1. **Apologies:** No apologies were received.
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 15th January 2015:**

As the meeting was not quorate the minutes could not be approved.

**5. Sir William Lawrence Bt.**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, expressed our sorrow at the untimely death of Sir William. His support for the Parish Council over the years was appreciated.

**6. Public Participation:**

The members of the publicwere attending as observers and had no requests or comments to make.

**7. County Cllr. report for information only. (Unless known in advance items raised for a decision will appear on the next agenda.)**

County Cllr. Horner presented his report together with a District Council report. These are attached on page 6.

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

Planning Application Nos. 15/00047/FUL & 15/00048/LBC Partridge Barn, Shelfield: 2 No. new entrance canopies. Applications withdrawn.

Planning Application Nos. 15/00043/FUL & 15/00044/LBC Partridge Barn, Shelfieldd: External/internal alterations and replacement of gate/new timber pillars. Permission granted.

Planning Application No. 15/00322/FUL Shelfield House, Shelfield: Erection of outbuilding for tractor and machinery storage for equipment to maintain the garden land and surrounding land. Pending consideration.

Planning Application No. 15/00635/TREE Blacksmiths Cottage, Little Alne: T1: Conifer: fell and T2: Conifer: fell. Tree application not required.

Decisions for responses to the following applications could not be made as the meeting was not quorate. These will now have to be dealt with electronically and a further meeting called should there be a difference of opinion.

Planning Application No.15/00431/FUL Meadow Furlong, Chapel Lane: Demolition of garage – replacement with two storey side extension.

Planning Application No. 15/00352/LDE Roundhill Lodge, Little Alne: Use of land as garden in connection with dwelling known as Roundhill Lodge for a continuous period of 10 years or more.

Appeal: Planning Application No. 14/02659/COUMB Redhouse Barn, Shelfield:

Change of use of agricultural barn to form a single dwelling.

Written representations can be forwarded to the Inspector by 23rd March 2015.

The following applications were received after the agenda had been circulated:

Planning Application No. 15/00617/FUL Silesbourne Farm Salters, Lane, Wootton Wawen: Change of use of agricultural building to Class B8 storage for use by The Garden Furniture Centre Ltd. (retrospective application). Notification as a neighbouring Parish with option to comment.

Planning Application No. 15/00685/FUL Pools Barn Farm, Alcester Road, Little Alne: Extension of an existing agricultural grain store.

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

E5341: Paul Cowley, Client Services Engineer, County Highways South, advises that a road closure would be very difficult to achieve as they would no doubt have a number of objections from certain parties which would make any proposal legally impossible. Only in the direst of situations could they close the E-Road for safety reasons when it would have to be not possible to use. The problems on this green E-Road are not unusual and figure at many other locations right across the County and the Policy is to keep the E-Roads accessible for the general public to use.

WCC does not have the resources to fill in the deep ruts on the various E-Roads at this time. The same answer applies for the orange coloured water run-off from the E5341onto the Bearley Road in Aston Cantlow. The only solution would be for the E- Road surface at the Bearley Road end to be changed to a different material and there are simply not the funds to make this happen.

Property Level Flood Protection: Confirmation received this afternoon that Contractors have been appointed and a public meeting for residents involved is to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 24th March from 2.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. Letters are due to be hand delivered to residents tomorrow in view of the very short notice.

The Contractors will carry out their own surveys and hope to make a start on the 25th/26th March. They have requested permission to site a storage container in the Village Hall car park for about three weeks from the end of April. The Clerk will contact the committee to ascertain if this is possible.

At this point a member of the public offered to facilitate the container if necessary.

The Chairman felt that ending the public meeting at 7.00 p.m. would be too early for the residents who may be at work and the Clerk agreed to attempt to contact Mr. Rimen to see if this could be altered to at least 7.30 p.m.

**10. Correspondence received:**

- Communication from Sarah Brooke-Taylor, WRCC – Housing Needs Surveys

- Information received from Cllr. Gittus regarding an Environment Agency live flood warning map.

- WALC advisory: Elections Timetable 2015 and Open and Accountable Guidance, Dealing with the Media and Managing Filming in meetings.

- Electoral Review of Warwickshire: Final recommendations.

- A resident’s report of damage to the grass area by gritting lorries turning at the junction of Bearley Road and Salters Lane. This complaint was reported to the gritting supervisors.

- Aston Cantlow Village Hall – notification of arrangements for access to the key if the doors are not unlocked.

-WALC – Invitation to Alison Hodge’s retirement event on 27th March 2015.

-Notification of temporary road closure: Salters Lane on 18th March 2015 to facilitate a safety examination of the bridge structure.

-Notification advising that WCC and the National Flood Forum have organized for the Flood Recovery Trailer to visit Stratford the week commencing 9th March 2015.

-Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Site visits will be carried out by District Council Officers to provide an objective assessment of the potential for development.

- CPRE request for donations as they are rapidly running out of funds.

- SDC Election pack.

- BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme – there are over 9000 red phone boxes which can be adopted this year for £1.00.

Cllr. Findlay will pass the phone number of the box in Aston Cantlow to the Clerk to check if it is available for adoption.

**11. To consider S137 grants for the current financial year:**

Deferred to the April meeting.

**12. Parish Plan update:**

The Chairman apologised for the delay in arranging a further meeting, this being due to business commitments. She will add this to her list of priorities.

**13. Review of Asset Register:**

Deferred to the April meeting.

**14. Priorities and actions required prior to the elections in May:**

Deferred to the April meeting.

**15. Review of Clerk’s hours of work:**

Deferred to the April meeting.

**16. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Aston Cantlow Village Hall £ 9.75 (200424)

Information Commissioner 35.00 (200425)

HMRC 198.60 (200426)

Mrs. E. Butterworth (expenses Nov – March) 123.25 (200427)

**17. 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:

CPRE request for donations

Deferred agenda items 4, 11, 13, 14 & 15

**18. Date of next meeting:** 9th April 2015. Annual Parish Meeting followed by ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

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

County Council Report

* The Jay Report into the child abuse in Rotherham has reported and the Prime Minister has called for Police and Social Workers to have a legal duty to report suspicions. I disagree because unless the culture changes changing the law will have no effect and I listened to an address by the Deputy Chair of the Local Government Association and he said it imperative that the report be read by all councillors as it had major implications for councillors themselves. I was encouraged that Mr. Porter had the same view as me that, whilst there were failures by the Police and Social Worker management, it was Councillors and MPs who are responsible to ensure that public sector staff do their jobs. Rotherham, Oxford, Manchester, Reading, Coventry and the murder of a disabled girl in Warwickshire all occurred because the local councillors had turned their back on the disadvantaged. The public should have the confidence to go to the local councillor when they have been ignored by the support services and expect something to be done. Unfortunately all too often councillors think of the council as a club and have no interest in investigating issues. Although it is only a minority some councillors also seek to use their office to further their own or friend’s interests. At District Council level this tends to be manipulation of planning decisions and at County it is infrastructure, like roads, and in Parliament it is tax laws and other national policies.

I do not see this situation changing because there is increasing tribalism in politics. Over the last 30 years the number of safe seats in Parliament has increased and there are now only about 40 seats that decide who governs and only a few people in these seats are prepared to change the way they vote. Unless the electorate vote on the merits of the candidate and policies and not on the tribe they represent we cannot expect any change.

* Also this month the County has had to give an opinion about forming a Combined Authority as part of the devolution debate. A combined authority is a group of councils merging activities to reduce costs and improve investment. It probably has more chance of success than voluntarily forming a unitary authority because there is no change to the boundaries of the councils or numbers of councillors. The possible options for Coventry and Warwickshire are to link with Birmingham or with Leicester and Leicestershire. The legislation does allow for Counties to join different groups and there is an argument for South Warwickshire to join an Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire group. Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have been able to achieved merger in two years to form D2N2 and so things can happen very fast when there is a consensus.
* The County Council’s Apprenticeship Hub is using the week to launch a major campaign to encourage small businesses to take on apprentices, as well as promoting the range, breadth and success of apprenticeships locally.
* Warwickshire is expected to have over 8,000 people suffering from dementia by 2021 and is looking to increase the number of dementia aware residents.

John Horner

01926842068

**District Council Report**

Stratford on Avon Draft Core Strategy – brief report of the work to be undertaken:

·         The Council has been asked to increase the housing requirement to ensure that the projected job growth is matched by housing growth sufficient to accommodate new workers.

·         The Sustainability Appraisal is found to contain a limited number of flaws that make it necessary to revisit and/or extend its coverage to secure legal compliance.

·         There are considered to be no exceptional circumstances that would justify the release of green belt land on the edge of Stratford-upon-Avon to provide a new employment site and the Council is asked to assess other alternatives.

·         Other employment land allocations at Alcester, Stratford-upon-Avon, Winyates Triangle/Gorcott Hill (Redditch), and Gaydon (JLR and Aston Martin) are endorsed.

·         Judgement has been reserved on the strategic housing allocation at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath pending completion of the additional SA work as recommended by the Inspector.

A new process for discussing planning applications has been introduced into planning committees. It is hoped that this will lead to greater clarity as to how the committees reaches their decisions.

The Council is in the process of winding down towards the elections in May.

John Horner