

**MINUTES OF ASTON INGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 13th JULY 2020 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE
VILLAGE HALL**

ATTENDED BY Mr J. Whatley (Chairman), Mr R. Harding, Mr N. Smith, (councillors), Mr D. Hardwick

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Chairman. Mr Smith proposed Mr Whatley, Mr Harding seconded. All in favour. Acceptance of Office form signed. It was decided to leave the appointment of a vice-chairman until the full council were present.

CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR - Mr Harding proposed Mr David Hardwick be co-opted onto Aston Ingham Parish Council, Mr Smith seconded. All in favour. Acceptance of Office form signed and other relevant forms given to Mr Hardwick.

COVID-19 RISK ASSESSMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

Mr Whatley proposed the draft Risk Assessment be adopted, Mr Smith seconded. All in favour. It was decided that the possibility of Zoom meetings would be looked into, provided that everybody would be able to access them.

APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM Mr C. Tormey and Mrs J. Askew

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS - Mr Whatley declared an interest in Ellesmere, a potential planning site which had been discussed at an NDP meeting.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS - none

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING were approved and signed.

ACTION POINTS all dealt with. Clerk to check what was on the original SID contract and our entitlement. (**Action Item 1**)

FINANCE C.A. £ 9472.41 H.F. £1073.20 P.C. £14.47

1. Appointment of Internal Auditor. Mr Harding proposed Miss Ellen Genders be appointed as Internal Auditor, Mr Whatley seconded. All in favour. Because of absence of meetings (Covid-19) letter had provisionally been sent regarding

terms of contract and fee (£50.00). Report received from Internal Auditor and letter to Chairman. Minor points had been discussed with Clerk and adjusted where appropriate.

Footnote showing that we had no Assets Register and were Custodian Trustees of Village Hall to be added to report. **(Action Item 2)**

2. Annual Governance Statement was completed and agreed. Mr Harding proposed, Mr Smith seconded. All in favour.
3. Accounting Statements were approved. Mr Harding proposed, Mr Smith seconded. All in favour. Audit documents to be completed and posted on website and noticeboard. **(Action Item 3)**
4. Exemption Certificate was agreed and signed. Clerk to send to auditors. **(Action Item 4)**
5. Clerk's salary (3 months - June payment delayed). Mr Whatley proposed this be paid, Mr Smith seconded. All in favour. Cheques written - £583.68 - clerk. £145.92 - H.M.R.C.)
6. Annual Insurance Premium. Zurich Insurance had quoted £242.94, the same as the previous year. Mr Hardwick proposed this be paid, Mr Harding seconded. All in favour.
7. Invoice for uncontested election (Herefordshire Council - £80.82). Mr Whatley proposed this be paid, Mr Harding seconded. All in favour.
8. Invoice from Eyelid Productions for £50.00 for upgrade and accessibility of website (mandatory). Mr Hardwick proposed this be paid, Mr Whatley seconded. All in favour.
9. Receipt of precept (April 2020) - £3700.00
10. Clerk and Chairman to liaise on ring fencing within budget.
11. It was agreed to pay the invoice for fingerpost maintenance (£4.95) from petty cash.

HIGHWAYS UPDATE

1. Two bridges have been damaged in the parish as a result of heavy vehicles speeding. The problem is ongoing and the Parish Council have been looking at other ways to improve the situation. Mrs Askew has been in contact with Ray Wallace, who has suggested possible measures. Mr Hardwick offered to liaise with Mrs Askew on this issue. Clerk to write to William Wilding outlining situation to see if he can help.

(Action Item 5)

2. Drainage channels between Old Rectory and Village Hall on B4222 are blocked again, also deterioration of road surface. Clerk to report **(Action Item 6)**

3. Footpath AG8 is temporarily closed because the bridge over the Ell Brook has collapsed into the stream.

4. Visibility at junction of Mill Lane and B4222. Clerk to report problem to Gloucestershire Highways **(Action Item 7)**

PLANNING

1. Woodfield House. 202125. Hedge removal notice. No objections in principle, but Parish Council would like to see the new hedge planted and established before old hedge is removed.

2. Land at Glenleith Farm. 201911. Retaining existing cabin for the purpose of holiday let use. The Parish Council wish to encourage diversity in farming and tourism in the parish, but note that it is still a new dwelling in open countryside. Comments to reflect views.

Land opposite Morgan's Farm 193091. Appeal turned away. Expect compliance by 17/10/20.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk/Council Direct

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Open Day planned for 28th March had to be postponed due to Covid-19. It was proposed that the money allocated for the Open Day be used for the consultant to work on evidence base. All agreed. Clerk to write to David Nicholson to confirm this, noting the possible effects of the revamping of the Core Strategy. (**Action Item 8**)
Next meeting - Tuesday 4th August.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Laurel plants have been deliberately poisoned by being sprayed with glyphosate on Aston Court Drive. The police have been informed and are regarding this matter seriously. Any information can be given to david.alexander@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

COUNCILLORS' SUBMISSIONS

The new evacuees' bench, complete with two plaques has now been installed, as has the well grid. Thanks were given to Mr Harding and Mr Smith for carrying out this work.

General Power of Competence to be adopted at next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday September 7th

Possible Zoom meeting before this if deemed necessary.

MEETING CLOSED AT 20.45 p.m.

The Aston Ingham Parish Council meeting is held in the committee room in the Village Hall on the first Monday of each month (excluding August, unless a special meeting needs to be called).

The meeting begins promptly at 7.30 p.m., (7.00 p.m. from October to March) and business is usually finished by 9.00 - 9.30 p.m.

Parishioners are welcome to attend the monthly meetings, and if they have any points of concern with respect to our parish to send a letter prior to the meeting to our clerk, Heather Hobbs, Brooklands Cottage, Aston Ingham, HR9 7LS, for discussion at the meeting. Alternatively, points may be raised during the allocated time for public submissions at the meeting.

Email contact : - astoninghampc@gmail.com

For an online copy of the approved minutes please refer to www.astoninghampc.org

