

**MINUTES OF ASTON INGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. BY
'ZOOM'**

ATTENDED BY Mr J. Whatley (Chairman), Mrs J. Askew, Mr R. Harding, Mr N. Smith, Mr C. Tormey (councillors)
Mrs M. Pettit, Mrs M. Howey, Mr T. Scharf, Mr C. Hobbs, Mr D. Pettit, Mr R. Kimp (parishioners)

APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM Mr D. Hardwick

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS - Mr Harding had submitted a dispensation, but as planning application 203802 was not on the agenda it was not relevant.
The chairman confirmed that this matter would not be discussed at the meeting.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Mr Pettit said that he had not received a response to his query about which agenda items he would be allowed to speak on. Mr Whatley had sent reply at 10.37 that morning and had copied in the clerk and parish council email address, but re read the email. Mr Pettit queried why the planning application would not be discussed and Mr Whatley explained that the matter had been dealt with at the planning meeting on the 10th December, and although new information had come to light (flooding & HBO submission) it was inappropriate for the parish council to reassess its response, in line with standing orders.

Clerk to write to Mrs Pettit to acknowledge her submissions, which she stressed were on behalf of a number of other residents. Mr Whatley confirmed that the submissions would not be discussed as at they had been referred to H.A.L.C. (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils) (**Action Item 1**). The Chairman, Vice-Chair and clerk had been advised of the outcome. Lynda Wilcox should be contacting Mrs Pettit regarding this. Mrs Pettit also pointed out that she and Mr Pettit did not always hold the same view.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING were approved - to be signed later.
DRAFT MINUTES OF PLANNING MEETING 203802 have been approved by H.A.L.C. in a form appropriate for the meeting and circumstances. If there were any objections, the clerk could be notified, but the wording would not be changed.
Mrs Askew to sign as a true record.

ACTION POINTS addressed

HIGHWAYS UPDATE & FLOODING ISSUES

No extra highway problems at present - bridge at Barrel Lane junction has still not been repaired.

Problems at Warren Lane had been highlighted. Clerk to contact Kevin Williams (Locality Steward). (**Action Item 2**)

FLOODING

50.6 mm. of rain had fallen on 23rd December, causing catastrophic flooding in the village, and in particular at Aston Court and by the village hall. Five homes were affected and gardens spoiled and cars stranded. Mr Pettit felt it was vital that we have support from Herefordshire Council for this problem, which was worse than in 2007. He recommended that the sequential test be applied in the assessment of potential development sites which have a risk of flooding. A broad perspective was necessary of where building should or should not take place, and assessment by an independent body was necessary. Mr Whatley said that any site put forward for planning would automatically be subject to the relevant requirements in the NPPF in this regard, and that the NDP was probably the right vehicle to progress this.

Mr Weller had sent photographs of the blockage in the ditch by The Orles, which was considerable, but it was felt that given the conditions, it would have overflowed anyway. Clerk to respond. (**Action Item 3**)

Mr Roberts had sent photographs of how the run-off from Mr Stallard's fields had affected his property. A ditch had been dug to alleviate this problem, but the gradient was not correct and Mr Stallard has refused to do any more work on this. The run-off from his fields and the removal of drainage ditches over the years have caused problems in other areas of the village. Clerk to contact Herefordshire Council to make Mr Stallard aware of his responsibilities in this area. (**Action Item 4**). Mr Pettit suggested that the senior Drainage Engineer from Herefordshire Council should be asked to attend a council meeting and inspect the area.

PLANNING

Land at South Lea, Aston Crews.204485. Variation of conditions 1, 2 and 3. These changes were felt to be very minor and the Parish Council had no objections.

CORRESPONDENCE

Notification of complaints about Parish Council.

Mr Whatley notified the parish council that he had been advised that a complaint would be made to the Monitoring Officer concerning his decision not to chair the Special Planning Meeting on the 10th December, on the grounds that this had had a detrimental effect on the outcome. Any correspondence received from the

Monitoring Officer to be forwarded to HALC.

The Chairman had received a formal complaint concerning Councillor Harding involving a potential breach of the Code of Conduct, and this had been referred to the Monitoring Officer, in accordance with standard procedure.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Questionnaires were in the process of being delivered, but it may now be necessary to complete the delivery without engaging with the parishioners, as England was about to be placed in lockdown again. Mrs Askew would publish a reminder in The Chimes and hopefully we would be able to stay within the timescale. Given the extenuating circumstances she would contact Groundworks to see if they would extend the use of the grant beyond the agreed date. It may be necessary to ask David Nicholson to invoice us for his consultancy fee before he has actually completed the work. Once questionnaires are returned the committee will begin working on data entry and then policies.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The activities of two men who appeared to be taking a close interest in properties at Aston Crews were noted, and CCTV evidence retained in case this was required.

FINANCE C.A. £12442.94 H.F. £627.20 P.C. £16.92

- a) Precept. After some discussion Mr Smith proposed we set the precept at £8300. Mrs Askew seconded. All in favour. Clerk to submit (**Action Item 5**)
- b) Reimburse Mrs Askew for 3 invoices already paid for NDP printing, lanyards and envelopes - total £412.09. Mr Whatley proposed this be paid, Mr Harding seconded. All in favour. Mr Whatley expressed concern that Mrs Askew should be paying for goods and services initially, and requested that the clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, should ensure that all local authority regulations and best practice guidelines were being adhered to in this regard.

COUNCILLORS' SUBMISSIONS

Mrs Askew to look into online banking arrangements

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 1st February

MEETING CLOSED AT 20.25

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 7.00 p.m. and business is usually finished by 9.00 - 9.15 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