

**MINUTES OF ASTON INGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 1st MARCH 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. BY ZOOM**

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

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR
DISPENSATIONS**

Mr Harding declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 1 of correspondence and Item 2 of Finance

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS - none

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MEETING were approved - to be signed later

ACTION POINTS - addressed. Lengthsman project to be considered at a later date as cut-off date had gone.

HIGHWAYS UPDATE

1. Potholes on D-Loop (UC70220) to be reported, also pothole by Broadfields and blocked drain at Warren Lane. (**Action Item 1**)
2. Clerk had reported pothole by Cowley Lane to new (acting) Locality Steward, Natalie Jay, and it was dealt with promptly.
3. Clerk to check what work has been done on road from Aston Crews to Lea Line before reporting blocked drains (email from Mrs Tree). (**Action Item 2**)
4. As the A40 has been closed at Lea, there have been several incidents involving larger lorries which have had difficulty negotiating tight turns.
5. Mr Whatley had been in contact with Balfour Beatty regarding the footbridge over the Ell Brook on AG8. They are still planning to replace the bridge where it and the concrete sandbags have fallen into the brook, but the path remains closed from Mill Lane to the exit by Lanx Cottage.
6. Letter read from Joel Hockenhull (Senior Drainage Officer) in reply to Parish Council letter about flooding was read and it was agreed that this was not a satisfactory response. Clerk to send reply. (**Action Item 3**). It could be several years before the Section 19 Flood Investigation Report is considered. Mrs Pettit, who had also written to Joel Hockenhull, but had not received a reply, re-iterated that we should keep writing to the relevant bodies and pursue any other avenues that might achieve results. Mr Whatley felt that the cost for a flood risk assessment for the whole village would be beyond Parish Council finances, but we should continue to push for some action. Mr Whatley

will contact William Wilding (District Councillor) to see if he can offer any support. (**Action Item 4**). Clerk to check whether we can approach the Environment Agency). (**Action Item 5**)

7. It was suggested that a Community Action Group for dealing with flooding issues could be set up.
8. The culvert opposite the entrance to Aston Court had been damaged, and stone had fallen into the brook. Contractors have been working here, but it is not clear who inspected it or authorised work.

PLANNING

1. 9 Aston Bank. Home notification - prior approval. P210317/PA1. Extension to rear elevation. No observations required.
2. Babylons, Gypsies Lane. P174780/PA4 - councillors to view now the application is on the website to see if a separate meeting will be needed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

David Nicholson is two-thirds of the way through reviewing the data from the questionnaires. The committee now need to 1) Start drafting the skeleton of the plan, to include policies. 2) Instigate a call for sites.

The Parish Council were happy for the committee to go ahead with this. Mr Whatley was advised not to be involved with future NDP actions because it may compromise his proposals for the Ellesmere site.

The committee are still keen to welcome new members to help with the development of the policies.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Mr Jones regarding flood defences in the Aston Court area. Mr Whatley felt that this was a private issue between the property owners and the authorities, and not a Parish Council matter as the council does not have the expertise to consider this, but the situation would be monitored. This was agreed by the council. Clerk to respond to Mr Jones. (**Action Item 6**)

HEREFORDSHIRE GREEN NETWORK

Mrs Askew had been receiving emails from this organisation for a while, and felt that membership could be advantageous as they dealt with a lot of environmental issues which could help with the NDP. It was agreed that website details would be circulated to the councillors and decision would be taken at the next meeting. (**Action Item 7**)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - nothing to report

FINANCE C.A. £12080.85 H.F. £627.20 P.C. £14.82

1. Clerk's salary - 3 months. Mr Smith proposed this be paid, Mrs Askew seconded. All in favour. Cheques to be written and signed. (Clerk - £583.68. H.M.R.C. - £145.92)
2. H.A.L.C. -Affiliation fee and subscriptions. £433.20. Mr Whatley proposed this be paid, Mr Smith seconded. Agreed. (Mr Harding abstained)

COUNCILLORS' SUBMISSIONS

1. Mrs Askew asked if she could contact Ray Wallace (Traffic Calming) for proper costings for the extra traffic calming measures he had suggested, as money had been allocated in the budget. This was agreed. Mrs Askew to contact Nigel Warwick (Linton Parish Council) regarding liaison and to discuss other possible actions with David Hardwick. (**Action Item 8**)
2. Mr Whatley suggested that 'Flooding' should be a separate agenda item - clerk to adjust for April agenda. (**Action Item 9**)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 6th April

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15 p.m.

The Aston Ingham Parish Council meeting is held in the committee room in the Village Hall (by Zoom at present) 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 8.30 - 9.00 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

