

**MINUTES OF ASTON INGHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE
VILLAGE HALL**

ATTENDED BY Mr J. Whatley (Chairman), Mrs J. Askew, Mr D. Hardwick, Mr C. Tormey (councillors), Mr P. Hibbs, Mrs M. Pettit, Mr N. Roberts, Mr C. Stacey, Mr K. Stephens (parishioners)

APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM Mr J. Harding and Mr N. Smith

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR
DISPENSATIONS - none

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The issue of speeding was raised yet again. Mrs Askew explained the enhancements which had been made to the road signs and markings. It was pointed out that the Parish Council had borne the cost of this, and not Herefordshire Council. There were mixed feelings as to whether the changes had been effective. The Speed Indicator Device is presently at the church end of the village. The Parish Council will be looking into purchasing their own SID. Mrs Askew is having more discussions with Ian Connolly (Safer Roads Network), and looking for more support from him.

Mrs Askew also intends to write an article for The Chimes regarding the speeding traffic, and will encourage parishioners to be involved in a group to tackle this ongoing problem.

Simon Hall, (Ross-on-Wye police) will be meeting with the Parish Council to look for ways to improve the situation, and will try to give some police presence in the village

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING were approved and signed with one amendment. It was agreed that there was no necessity to put another plaque on the Evacuees' Bench.

ACTION POINTS addressed.

Mr Whatley had been in touch with Balfour Beatty regarding footpath AG8. Photographs of the collapsed bridge had been supplied. Balfour Beatty is intending to put the job out to private tender, and Mr Whatley is pessimistic about the prospect of the bridge being replaced before the winter, but hopes that the old bridge and the collapsed bank reinforcements will be removed, as they are making the flooding problems worse.

HIGHWAYS UPDATE

1. Mr Whatley offered to cut the hedge by the churchyard, as it was still causing a problem and the autumn cut had not yet taken place. Mr Hardwick asked if the Parish Council could employ a contractor to do jobs like this and Mr Whatley explained that work on the 'B' road can only be carried out by contractors approved by Herefordshire Council, and most projects have to be surveyed, specified and 'signed off' by Balfour Beatty at the Parish Council's expense. The situation, however, should improve once the Parish Council joins the Lengthsman Scheme next year. Clerk to contact the Locality Steward to request that the 'ratholes' be jetted and to see if there is any possibility of the weeds being cleared. **(Action Item 1)**
2. The proposed visit from Richard Perkins from Balfour Beatty to discuss flooding problems was confirmed for Monday 25th October at 12.00. Clerk to invite William Wilding (District Councillor) **(Action Item 2)**
3. The Parish Council had received an email from Balfour Beatty stating their intention of no longer filling the grit bins, but delivering a bag of grit/salt to a designated place in the parish for the Parish Council to distribute. This raised legal and logistical issues which Mr Whatley intended to raise at the forthcoming District Councillor's forum. **(Action Item 3)**
4. Mr Whatley wished to withdraw from discussions regarding the Traffic Regulation Orders as certain parishioners had implied that he was serving his own interests, which was not the case. Mr Whatley emphasised that the conclusions that had been reached related solely to the topography and condition of the C1281 and the B4222, and the junction of the B4222 with the A40 at Lea. Mr Hardwick agreed to take over his role.

FLOODING

1. The contractor working for Mr Stallard who dug the ditch in the field next to Aston Bank had done an excellent job. Clerk to write to Mr Stallard to thank him, and to remind him of the other two outstanding issues - flooding down the School House drive and the entrance to the field next to the Aston Court drive. **(Action Item 4)**.
2. Severn Trent now need to sort the levels and complete their promised tasks. Clerk to write and remind. **(Action Item 5)**.
3. It is hoped that the meeting with Richard Perkins of Balfour Beatty will give some options for improvement of the flooding issues at the western end of the village, which we can pursue.
4. Mrs Pettit had researched information on the Internal Drainage Boards and contact had been made, although it is possible that our area is not covered.
5. On the inside back page of the publication 'Herefordshire Now' there was some useful information related to flooding issues.

PLANNING

a) Land adjacent High Bank, Lea. 213354. Retrospective application for erection of stables, menage and the change of use from agricultural to equestrian.

b) High Bank, Lea. 213329. Retention of conservatory.

These applications are in the adjacent parish and considered to have no implications for Aston Ingham. The Parish Council therefore decided not to offer any comment.

c) Proposed Public Path Diversion Order. Footpath AG15. The Parish Council supported this change.

CORRESPONDENCE

Village Hall Hire Agreement. Clerk to complete and return (**Action Item 6**)

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

There was a good response to the consultation event for the Settlement Boundary, with a lot of dialogue and feedback. The consultant, David Nicholson, has the data and has produced recommendations in his report, which will be discussed at the next NDP meeting, after which it will be published.

LGA CODE OF CONDUCT - deferred to next meeting

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Mr Tormey has joined an online group which gives regular updates which can be circulated. The 'Neighbourhood Matters' group recommended by CSO Simon Hall also gives alerts, and details will be published when the Parish Council have met with him to discuss this.

FINANCE C.A. £16422.29 H.F. £582.20 P.C. £17.12

1. Receipt of Precept. £4150.00

2. Precept form for 2021/2022

3. SID cheque not received. It was agreed that clerk should cancel this cheque. A replacement was written. (£276.00)

4. Mr Whatley to check proposed clerk's salary increments.

5. Data Protection Direct Debit had been taken - £35.00

6. Invoice from David Nicholson. £918.90. Mr Tormey proposed this be paid, Mrs Askew seconded. All in favour.

7. Norton Security invoices for 2020 - 2022. Total £129.98. Mr Hardwick proposed that Mr Whatley be reimbursed, Mr Tormey seconded. All eligible councillors voted in favour.

COUNCILLORS' SUBMISSIONS

Mr Whatley asked for approval to purchase service kit for defibrillator. This was agreed. It was felt that it would be useful to circulate information regarding procedure for use of the defibrillator.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 1st November

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.00 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 7.00 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

