

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH  
COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

**12/627 Apologies for absence.** None

**12/628 Present**

Jane Imbush (JI) - Chair, Simon Young (SY), Joanna Hart (JH), Nicole West (NW), Jane Knight (JBK), Peter Butcher (PB), Henry Weeks (HW), Neil Carter (NC), Nigel Hawkey (NH)  
Anne-Marie Simpson (SODC)  
Denes Marffy (DM) Clerk  
Public: 10 Members

**12/629 One minutes silence as a mark of respect for the Duke of Edinburgh who died on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

**12/630 Declaration of any relevant interests.** None

**12/631 Welcome for David Johnston MP.** See appendix for questions asked and answers given.

**12/632 Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Minutes of the previous meetings were agreed by all and signed off by the Chair (JI).

**12/633 Public Questions, Comments.** None

**12/634 SODC and OCC Reports to Parish Council.** Anne-Marie Simpson (SODC) said that things have been quiet over the Easter period and there was nothing to report in addition to what was sent out in the recent Town and Parish Council update

- i. Update from SODC on the Local Plan  
SODC has received notification that there will be a court hearing on 29 April 2021 to hear the application by Bioabundance CIC which seeks to overturn the judge's decision to refuse permission to proceed with an application for judicial review against the council's decision to adopt the Local Plan 2035. SODC await the outcome of the hearing.

**12/635 Planning**

To decide on the following planning applications:

**P21/S1004/LB** (Listed Building Consent) Removal of chimney breast at ground floor level Croft House Fullers Road Aston Tirrold OX11 9EN. The PC **SUPPORT** this application.

**P21/S1033/HH** An outbuilding to be used as an artist studio, to replace an existing shed. 10 Spring Lane Aston Uphorpe OX11 9EH. The PC **SUPPORT** this application

**12/636 ARC.**

- i. To approve April ARC Minutes. **Approved**
- ii. Recreation Ground Signage. The PC approved ARC's proposed signage for the Recreation Ground
- iii. ARC are considering a number of fundraising projects.

**12/637 Finance**

- i. Approve payments below. **Approved**

ii. Approve March Financial Statement – **Approved**

Clerk fees (£51.40 to HMRC)	£218.60
Simplicity Payroll Services (Payroll)	£24.00
Simplicity Payroll Services (end of year work)	£48.00
ARC (VAT reclaim)	£3688.61
ARC (Health and Safety claim)	£1425.85
Zurich (Insurance renewal premium)	£1,601.05
Grant Astons Web Team	£1680.00
Grant Village Hall Post Office	£500.00
Grant Village Hall	£5000.00
Grant PCC	£2420.00

**12/638 Footpath between Silverburn and Lindens.** The PC have reported to the police the attempted clearing of vegetation on the footpath and are seeking formal advice.

**12/639 To accept feedback and discuss matters arising from CLP Groups:**

**Roads and Traffic.**

- a. Discuss vehicular damage to verges and banks. The PC would like to remind residents to take care not to park on the verges.
- b. Oversize lorries travelling through the village. The PC would like to remind villagers that they can report these directly if they feel that the lorries are not on legitimate business in the village. It does not have to be done by a Parish Councillor.
- c. The new traffic calming gates are scheduled to be installed on the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**Housing & Development.** Nothing to report

**Environment Group.**

- a. Tree planting. Sites have been decided for the imminent arrival of the saplings.

**12/640 Discuss Virtual Meetings.** The PC agreed to continue with virtual meetings until everyone has had their second vaccination, after which a risk assessment will be undertaken prior to face to face meetings recommencing.

**12/641 Fibre Broadband.** NC reported that there have been delays and we appear to be in a holding pattern. Open Reach have not been forthcoming on when the next steps will be taken.

**12/642 Discuss Community response to Coronavirus (Corvid 19).** JI reported that there have been no new requests since November last year. There had been over 500 requests for help from 23<sup>rd</sup> March to November last year. It was provisionally decided to close the scheme at end of June. The PC will continue to fund the Covid phone at £10/month until then. To be discussed at the June PC meeting.

**12/643 Discuss Sid Marlow bequest of £10000.00.** Various ideas were put forward including a community orchard, maintenance of the church bells, footpaths, Astons online and the Village News. To be discussed further at the next meeting

**12/644 Review monthly tasks calendar.**

**12/645 Items for the Next Agenda**

AGM,  
Review Emergency plan

Confirm defibrillator checks.

Meeting closed at 8.18 pm.

The next meeting and AGM will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May and will be held virtually unless otherwise stated at 7.00pm.

SIGNED FOR ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

NAME..... DATE.....

Month	Health & Safety	Process	Social
January		Send Precept application	
February	Defibrillator check		
March		Ensure payments up to date Final VAT return before mid-March	Spring Work Day
April		Prepare FY accounts	
May	Defibrillator check	Internal Audit	
June		AGM Review Emergency Plan	Astonbury
July			
August	Defibrillator check		
September		Prepare budget for next year	Autumn Work Day
October		Present budget to PC	Safari Supper
November	Defibrillator check	Review Risk register	Bonfire Night
December			

### Questions for David Johnston MP

1. How do you see the balance between protecting historic rural villages like the Astons with the need to provide more affordable housing across the UK? Clearly with the rapid expansion of Didcot and the SODC local plan there is increased pressure on housing in the area, do you think rural villages can be protected? Would you consider supporting a green belt related to Didcot?. **He recognised that many houses have been built in the area without the accompanying infrastructure. He felt that rural villages would be protected but was not sure that a case could be made for a green belt around Didcot. Agreed that more needs to be done about lorries going through rural villages.**
2. How do you think we can collectively ensure that young people are a central part of the Government's recovery plans? Young people have faced significant restrictions over the last 12 months yet were at little risk themselves. Secondary school pupils currently have to test themselves twice a week and wear masks all the time at school to protect older people in the community. With cases falling, should their freedom be a priority? **He would rather not have masks in schools but it was needed to boost confidence. He suspected that it would be sometime before we would be mask free. Most concerned about children's education and the priority should be to lessen the impact of the pandemic on their employment prospects.**
3. The highways infrastructure in Oxfordshire is very poorly maintained (eg. broken / bent signs, potholes, litter). What are you doing to ensure the County Council's maintenance budget is increased to an acceptable level? **SODC apparently filled more potholes than any other**

**county. Oxfordshire tends to get a decent slice of available funding compared to other counties.**

4. Despite being a gateway to both Harwell Campus and Oxford, the A34 is a notorious litter hotspot, and there appears to be little effective co-ordination between Highways England and the relevant local authorities to clean it. What are you doing to ensure that Highways England (rather than under-resourced local authorities) becomes responsible for litter collection on its network? **Has been actively trying to get Highways England to take responsibility for litter. Urgent need to educate and change behaviour and make it socially unacceptable to discard litter.**
5. The post Covid investment and economic recovery plan is a great opportunity to 'build back better' with projects that can showcase the UK as a world leader in sustainability. Can you elaborate on how Conservative investment plans in the region will support job creation and help deliver the UK green transition regarding both climate and nature more broadly? **Job creation is being closely linked to the green transition. Agricultural policy will be designed to ensure that by 2028, farmers in England can sustainably produce healthy food profitably without subsidy, whilst taking steps to improve the environment, improve animal health and welfare and reduce carbon emissions.**
6. This Parish Council has successfully run its meeting remotely over the last 13 months. It seems iniquitous to us to be told to resume face to face meetings when online sessions have worked so well. Could you please lobby on our behalf to allow decisions that affect people locally, be made locally and not mandating centrally to change something that is tested and proven to work. This PC fully appreciates that some meetings where contentious or major issues are to be discussed that directly impact residents would be best served with a public presence and that can and would be accommodated. **Most of government would like it to continue, but in order to extend it, it would need primary legislation which would take up too much parliamentary time at the moment.**
7. How can we seek Government action to continue and improve incentives to decarbonise heating? One approach for rural dwellings is the fitting of heat pumps; a ground heat pump plus modification of central heating costs about £30K per dwelling. Could the Government legislate for carbon free heating in new builds and continue/increase grants for retrofitting existing properties Can the listed buildings guidance to planning authorities be amended to allow the fitting of solar panels to the roofs of listed buildings? **Government Green Homes grant scheme was abandoned because of a disappointing lack of take up. Not all homes suitable for solar panels.**

JI thanked DJ for attending the meeting and giving up his time so freely. It was also agreed that having received a late question from a villager that this could be submitted to him for his consideration and response