



# ASTON CLINTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Council Meeting

held at 6.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at the  
Parish Council Office, Aston Clinton Park, London Road HP22 5HL

**PRESENT:** Cllr C Read (Chair), Cllr M Collins, Cllr K Hickson, Cllr J Hughes, Cllr C Judge, Cllr M Mason, Cllr D McCall, Cllr L Ronson & Cllr P Wyatt

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs S Payne, Clerk/RFO; Mr H Stephens, Assistant Clerk (agenda Items 23.87 & 23.93.ii); Mr L Hickey, Aston Clinton Colts Chair (agenda Items 23.87 & 23.93.ii); Mr M Stark & Mr Akers from the Aston Hill Centenary Organising Committee (agenda item 23.87)

### 23.87 Presentation from the Aston Hill Centenary Event Organisers

Mr Stark gave a brief history of the motoring events held at Aston Hill between 1904 and 1925. Mr Akers informed Council that a Centenary event is being planned for 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the organisers would like to use the park in the morning to display classic cars and motorcycles which would later leave the park at intervals to drive an agreed route to Aston Hill where they would reassemble at Hill Farm to take part in a ticketed vintage vehicle show. Cllr Mason and Cllr Judge had attended organisers meetings and it was agreed that Cllr Mason would provide more detail on the proposed event at the next Council meeting.

**ACTION: Cllr Mason**

**23.88 To Receive Apologies for Non-Attendance.** None received.

**23.89 To Receive Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation.** None received.

### 23.90 To Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

### 23.91 Council

- i. Reports from external bodies: Nothing to report.
- ii. .Gov.uk registration: It was resolved to register astonclinton-pc.gov.uk as the Council's domain and email address. **ACTION: Clerk**
- iii. Biodiversity: Following Government guidance clarifying the responsibilities of all public authorities under the 2021 Environment Act, Council agreed to (a) conduct a biodiversity audit of all its land; (b) draft a biodiversity policy and (c) draft an action plan. **ACTION: Clerk**

### 23.92 Finance & Staffing

- i. The draft minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Finance & Staffing Committee meeting was noted:
  - a) Draft 2024/25 budget & precept: The draft budget prepared by the Finance & Staffing Committee was considered. The deficit of £15,500 would be covered by general reserves. The proposed precept request of £317,326 would represent a small decrease on the council tax charge for a Band D property. **It was resolved to approve the 2024/25 budget as presented and set a precept figure of £317,326.**
  - b) Earmarked reserves: It was resolved to approve the updated Earmarked Reserves allocation which include the movement of £10,000 to the Park Equipment EMR, £10,000 to a newly established Traffic Calming EMR and £10,000 to a newly established Beach Area Improvement EMR all from the ANPR EMR.
- ii. Rhubarb Café grant application: An application for £350 for the purchase of an under-counter fridge and removal of the existing fridge was considered. **It was resolved that a grant of £350 be provided to the Rhubarb Cafe for the purchase of an under-counter fridge and the removal of the existing. Council members would provide assistance with the removal of the old fridge in order to keep costs down.** **ACTION: Clerk**

- iii. Wendover Canal Trust grant application: An application for £15,000 towards the upgrade of the canal path between Halton and Aston Clinton was considered. It was noted that there were insufficient funds in the 2023/24 grants budget and funds would need to be allocated from the 2024/25 grants budget. **It was resolved that a grant of £15,000 be provided to Wendover Canal Trust towards the upgrade of the canal path between Halton & Aston Clinton from the 2024/2025 Grants budget.** ACTION: Clerk
- iv. Financial reports: The balance sheet and income and expenditure reports for November and December 2023 were noted.
- v. The December 2023 payments totaling £15,896.37 were ratified. The January 2024 payments totaling £7838.42 were approved.

#### Payments over £500

Date	Company	For	Amount £	Vat £	Total £
01/12/2023	Goldleaf Groundcare	Park Grounds Maintenance Dec 23	£866.67	£173.33	£1,040.00
21/11/2023	E.Sharp (Electrical) Ltd	Street light repairs	£831.09	£166.22	£997.31
27/11/2023	TWC services Ltd	RKP water chlorinate survey	£1,327.00	£265.40	£1,592.40
11/12/2023	K Workman	Park duties Nov 23	£659.99		£659.99
16/11/2023	Your Café in the Park	Red Kite Pavilion cleaning Oct 23	£620.00		£620.00
04/12/2023	Your Café in the Park	RKP cleaning Nov 23	£600.00		£600.00
12/10/2023	Buckinghamshire Council	Streetlight Elec April 2023	£2,814.97	£562.99	£3,377.96
16/11/2023	Drax	Streetlight Electricity Oct 23	£1,755.60	£351.12	£2,106.72
16/11/2023	Drax	Streetlight Electricity Nov 23	£1,698.95	£339.78	£2,038.73
15/01/2024	1st Aston Clinton Scout Group	Santa's Float 2023 donation	£559.47		£559.47
15/01/2024	Chilterns Neuro Centre	Santa's Float 2023 donation	£559.45		£559.45
15/01/2024	Rennie Grove Hospice Care	Santa's Float 2023 donation	£559.45		£559.45
15/01/2024	K Workman	Park Keeper Duties December 2023	£663.00		£663.00
03/01/2024	Your Café in the Park	RKP cleaning	£580.00		£580.00
08/01/2024	UK Debt Management Office	PWLB: Repayment notice	£1,900.54		£1,900.54

#### 23.93 Facilities & Events

- i. The draft minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Facilities Committee meeting were noted.
- ii. AC Colts Tournament 29 & 30 June 2024: Council considered the proposal for the 2024 tournament. There would be 128 teams, a smaller number than last year. The meadow pitch would be used as a car park which would alleviate parking issues and there would be dedicated parking marshals; with Park View being used as an exit only. The BBQ would be moved so it was not on the main pitch. **It was resolved to approve the request to hold the AC Colts Tournament on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.** ACTION: Clerk
- iii. RKP hall flooring remedial work: Discussions with the flooring installers regarding the responsibility for the costs of the remedial work required to the main hall had stalled, with the installers insisting that the cause of the damage was the use of the wrong cleaning solutions and so the remedial work would not be covered by the warranty. As the flooring had deteriorated further the RKP working group recommend that the repairs are carried out immediately and asked Council to agree the costs of £4,788. **It was resolved to approve the quote of £4,788 for remedial work to the RKP hall flooring.** ACTION: Clerk
- iv. Burial Ground gate & wall repairs: **It was resolved that the expenditure for the repairs to the burial ground gates and wall at an estimated cost of £4550 would be taken from the Burial Ground Earmarked Reserves.** ACTION: Clerk
- v. Events update: Cllr Mason reported that the Christmas tree lights event had been well attended.

*Santa's float*: A total of £1678.37 had been raised and would be divided equally between the 1<sup>st</sup> Aston Clinton Scouts, Rennie Grove Hospice and the Chilterns Neuro Centre.

*Family Festival*: Cllr Judge reported that all the attractions for the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Aston Clinton Family Festival had been booked.

**23.94 Highways & Streetlights**

- i. London Road streetlights: Cllr Wyatt reported that the streetlights along London Road were still not working and that Bucks Council were unable to confirm when the repair would be undertaken. These lights have been out of action on the busy stretch of road for almost three months which was unacceptable.
- ii. Highways: Cllr Hughes reported that a meeting with Bucks Highways had been arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> February when all ongoing issues within the parish would be raised.

**23.95 Planning Committee**

The draft minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 Planning Committee meeting were noted.

**23.96 It was resolved that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they include the likely disclosure of exempt information, stated to be confidential.**

**23.97 RKP Lease**

It was noted that Schedule 3 of the RKP lease required updating. An extraordinary meeting of Council would be called so that an updated schedule could be agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed.....Date .....