



ASTON CLINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting

held at 6.30pm on **21st February 2024** at the
Parish Council Office, Aston Clinton Park, London Road HP22 5HL

PRESENT: Cllr C Read (Chair), 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; 3 members of the Aston Clinton Society and 1 member of the public.

23.103 Public Participation. A member of the Aston Clinton Society provided Council with a quote they had obtained for the clearing of the London Road footway and curbs between Mela and the Shell garage. Cllr Read reported that the Facilities Committee had agreed at their 14th February meeting to establish a 5-year plan for the siding out of all village footways and provision had been made within the 2024/25 budget for this activity.

Copies of a survey of Weston Road residents regarding highways issues carried out by the Aston Clinton Society were circulated to Council for their information.

23.104 To Receive Apologies for Non-Attendance. Received from Cllr Birchley & Cllr Collins.

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

23.106 To Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on 17th January & Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 23rd January 2024

The minutes of the meetings held on 17th & 23rd January 2024 were approved as true and accurate records and were signed by the Chair.

23.107 Council

- i. 2024 Meeting dates: The meeting dates for 2024 were approved. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held in the RKP during the week commencing 20th May 2024. **ACTION: Clerk**
- ii. Reports from external bodies: Cllr McCall reported that he and Cllr Mason had attended the SPD Halton consultation event which had been very informative. The development of the airfield would be dealt with as part of the Bucks Local Plan.
Cllr Ronson reported that she had attended the recent Bucks Council Parish Liaison meeting.
- iii. Biodiversity Policy & Action Plan: Council considered the draft Biodiversity Policy and draft Action Plan. It was noted that a biodiversity audit was being carried out. **It was resolved to adopt the Biodiversity Policy and Action Plan.** **ACTION: Clerk**
- iv. Standing Orders review: Council reviewed the Standing Orders. **It was resolved to amend sections 18f & 18g of the Standing Orders to reflect the updated public contracts thresholds.** **ACTION: Clerk**
- v. Wendover Canal Trust's proposals for the Halton and Buckland Wharf bridges: Council had been circulated a copy of the letter Halton Parish Council had written to the Wendover Canal Trust outlining their objections to the proposed plans to replace bridges in Halton Village and on London Road, Aston Clinton in order to allow narrowboats to reach the end of the Wendover arm of the canal. Council agreed that these proposals would be expensive and disruptive. **It was resolved to write to the Wendover Canal Trust supporting the objections raised in the letter from Halton Parish Council.** **ACTION: Clerk**

23.108 Finance & Staffing

- i. Committee membership: It was noted that Cllr Wyatt had resigned as a member of the Finance & Staffing committee. As there was not another member of Council able to join

the committee **It was resolved that the minimum membership of the Finance & Staffing Committee be changed from 5 councillors to 4 councillors.** ACTION: Clerk

- ii. Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club grant application: An application for £1799 for the purchase of a lawn tractor to cut the perimeter of the cricket ground was considered. **It was resolved that a grant of £1799 be provided to the Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club for the purchase of a lawn tractor to cut the perimeter of the cricket ground. £1213 would be allocated from the 2023/24 grants budget and the remaining £586 from the 2024/25 grants budget.** ACTION: Clerk
- iii. Financial reports: The balance sheet and income and expenditure reports for January 2024 were noted. Income was £361,209 and expenditure £215,122. The earmarked reserves totally £216,000 were noted.
- iv. The February 2024 payments totaling £14,822.48 were approved and income of £5,861.06 noted.

Payments over £500

Date	Company	For	Amount £	Vat £	Total £
29/11/2023	Arrow Security Shutters	RKP downstairs fire shutter repair: parts	£819.67	£163.93	£983.60
14/02/2024	AC Pre-School	Part payment of Outdoor Equipment Grant	£1,404.00	£0.00	£1,404.00
19/01/2024	Goldleaf Groundcare	Final payment park grounds maintenance	£2,600.00	£520.00	£3,120.00
12/02/2024	Kenneth Workman	Park Keeper duties	£755.00	£0.00	£755.00
01/02/2024	Your Café in the Park	RKP Cleaning Jan 24	£600.00	£0.00	£600.00
16/01/2024	Drax	SL electricity Dec 23	£1,755.60	£351.12	£2,106.72
15/02/2024	Drax	SL electricity Jan 24	£1,755.60	£351.12	£2,106.72

23.109 Facilities & Events

- i. The draft minutes of the 14th February 2024 Facilities Committee were not available. They would be considered at the March Council meeting.
- ii. Aston Hill Centenary Event 17 May 2025: Council considered a request from the Aston Hill Centenary Event committee to use the park's car park on the morning of Saturday 17th May 2025 for the exhibition of approx. 60 vintage cars and 30 vintage motorcycles prior to departing for a rally up to Aston Hill. It was noted that Cllr Mason and Cllr Judge represented the Council on the Aston Hill Centenary Event Committee. **It was resolved to approve the request from the Aston Hill Centenary Event Committee to use the park car park for their event on Saturday 17th May 2025.** ACTION: Clerk
- iii. Family Festival stalls: Cllr Judge informed Council that stall pitches would be made available in the area between the playpark and the tennis courts. It was proposed that a charge be made for stalls run by local businesses and all income be donated to the Festival's nominated charity. **It was resolved that stalls run by not-for-profit organisations and community groups would be free of charge and those run by local businesses would be charged £20 with all proceeds being donated to the Festival's nominated charity.** ACTION: Events WG/Clerk
- iv. Lady Louisa de Rothschild Fountain info board: Cllr Mason and Cllr Judge informed Council that the installation of an information board at the fountain would complete the restoration of the site. It was noted that the restoration costs would be covered by S106 monies from 16/01774/AOP (land off Chapel Drive). Council considered the quotes for the board. **It was resolved that quote 1 from Fitzpatric Woolmer, for £1690 for an A1 interpretation panel be accepted.** ACTION: Clerk

The artwork and design of the panel would be considered by Council when available.

ACTION: Events WG

23.110 Highways & Streetlights

- i. London Road streetlights repairs: Cllr Hughes reported that he had received confirmation that the parts needed for the repair were on order and the repairs should be completed by mid-March.
- ii. Bucks Highways & LAT meetings: Cllr Hughes reported that over the past month he had attended meetings with Bucks Highways and the Local Area Technician. Cllr Hughes had expressed the Council's frustrations with the lack of highways work within the village and the need for greater communication with the Parish Council and residents.

The London Road, Church Lane and Twitchell Lane waiting restrictions work would be carried out at the same time as the traffic calming work

It was agreed that the Parish Council would take a pro-active approach when Bucks Council review their 5-year highways works plans and would ensure that the Bucks Councilors representing Aston Clinton were made aware of the Parish Council's views. It was noted that the roads included in the current 5-year plan were Green End Street, Brook Street and the junction of Stablebridge Road and Upper Icknield Way.

- iii. Aston Clinton Society meeting: Cllr Hughes reported that he had met with representatives of Aston Clinton Society to discuss their concerns regarding the condition of the roads and footpaths within the village. A report on the state of the roads and footpaths had been produced by the Society and had been circulated to both the Parish Council and Bucks Council for comment. It was agreed that moving forward the Parish Council would spear head communications with Bucks Council regarding highways issues to avoid duplication of effort and the overwhelming of resources. If after a period of 6 months this approach did not provide results the option of additional lobbying by the Society would be reinstated.
- iv. Contribution of funds to the Traffic Calming project: Cllr Hughes reported that a request for a contribution of £95,000 towards the traffic calming project had been requested by Bucks Council. The project was anticipated to cost £852,000; £413,000 would be provided from S106 funds and £344,000 from Bucks Council leaving a shortfall of £95,000. Cllr Hughes reported that Bucks Council stated that the shortfall was due to inflation, overspend by the design teams and a change in contractor last year.

Council acknowledged that the scheme represented a watered-down version of the original scheme but would still bring benefits to the village. If the additional funding was agreed then Bucks Council would be able to arrange for the installation to commence at the beginning of April 2024. It was noted that if the additional funding was not received then a new design would need to be developed and tendered.

It was resolved to contribute £95,000 from General Reserves to the Traffic Calming project on condition that any underspend would be returned to the Parish Council.

ACTION: Cllr Hughes/Clerk

- v. Litter bin outside Aston Clinton School: Council considered a request from the Aston Clinton Society to install a post mounted litter bin outside Aston Clinton School. **It was resolved to purchase the 50L post mounted green litter bin from Glasdon at a cost of £346, to be sited, if possible, on the existing footpath post to the right of the Council's noticeboard once the location had been approved by Bucks Council.** **ACTION: Clerk**

23.111 Planning Committee

The minutes of the 14th December 2023 and draft minutes of the 1st February 2024 Planning Committee meetings were noted.

23.112 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.

23.113 RKP Lease

The base rent and turnover rents had been agreed. The updated Schedule 3 had been provided to the tenant, but a response had not been received as yet.

Council considered the issues raised by the consultant, following his discussion with the Tenant regarding the security of tenure and length of lease. **It was resolved that the lease be a 5-year lease with the option of first refusal.** **ACTION: Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed.....Date