

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
11th February 2026 at 7:30 PM in Kingston Blount Village Hall

Present:

- Cllrs: S Bain, D Chaplin, H Hopwood, R Payling and A Bernstein (in the chair).
- Two members of public were present.

Minutes:

Actions:

1	APOLOGIES: Cllr. M Day, Cllr. T Hill, Clerk (all due to illness)	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	Noted
3	MINUTES JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Approved.	<u>Clerk:</u> publish
4	MATTERS ARISING: None.	
5	<p>OPEN FORUM: Two Crowell residents attended to discuss the process for Crowell (a hamlet with c.36 properties and 130–140 residents) to join with ARPC. They have a Parish Meeting (no formal council) and feel under-represented and believe joining with ARPC would provide official representation and protection from encroaching development in Chinnor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents need to gauge community interest & liaise with their Parish Meeting Chair. • Request a Community Governance Review from SODC who will review and determine. The last advised CGR was in July 2025, and no request was made then, so may not be possible on a single-case basis, unless that process is still incomplete. • ARPC would need unanimous agreement from all seven members and a full review of the Clerk's capacity to take on more hours with an appropriate increase in remuneration. <p>It was agreed to defer formal discussion until all members are present, investigate the process with SODC, and Crowell residents to discuss the proposal with their current officers. It should be noted that several discussions have taken place in recent years which did not proceed.</p>	<p><u>Clerk:</u> 1) Liaise with Crowell Parish Meeting Chair to advise of the approach and achieve the listed action points. 2) Check SODC stance as not taken up in 2025.</p>
6	COUNCILLOR REPORTS: – District & County Councillor reports shared with Cllrs on receipt. No subsequent updates as councillors not present.	
7	PLANNING: See Planning report, attached to these minutes.	<u>Clerk:</u> to respond.
8	<p>HILLWERKE TRUST/VILLAGE HALL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cllrs Bernstein, Chaplin and the Clerk reviewed the lease agreement upon receipt – minimal/minor changes needed. It was noted that the HRT Chair has already signed for the Hillwerke Recreational Trust. ➤ Due to the Clerks absence it was resolved that the paperwork should be signed on Thursday evening and witnessed by Cllr Chaplin, who will hand-deliver to the solicitor on Friday. We can then confirm signatures to the Hillwerke Trust and advise the Play Area Committee to proceed with the Zip-Wire Installation and claim tranche 2 of the SODC grant awarded and deadline extended to 30/April. ➤ Insurance cover will then need to be checked and amended/increased if necessary. ➤ Proposal put forward by Play Area Committee for a shade sail/shelter to be added near the picnic benches. After discussion the proposal was rejected due to concerns about attracting unwanted or anti-social behaviour affecting neighbouring residents, accumulation of debris on top attracting an ongoing maintenance requirement and an informal lost & found dump requiring regular disposal – all without a formal two-weekly inspection rota having yet been established. 	<p><u>Clerk/Cllr DC:</u> sign, witness and return to Lightfoots. <u>Clerk:</u> review insurance cover. <u>Chair:</u> to advise HRT/Play Area representatives.</p>
9	<p>LITTER PICKER: Advert for new village picker agreed and it was resolved to increase the pay from £8 p/h to £15 p/h in a bid to attract reliable candidates from other demographics than school age young adults e.g. Retirees, university students on holiday, or those doing Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme volunteer work. To be published on Noticeboards, website & KBAR and in next edition of Parish Notes if still required by then. All equipment and guidance to be provided by the PC.</p>	<u>Clerk:</u> amend advert and publish as described.
10	<p>FINANCE: See finance report, attached to these minutes. PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To note: Budget 2025/2026 – v10 JAN. Not yet available due to a small discrepancy (c.£136) needing investigation and correction. ➤ To Approve: 2026 quote from Prysebros for bi-annual weed control in villages - £280 +VAT per application an increase of £15 on £265 in 2025. It was resolved that an increase of 5.66% was reasonable and to accept the quote. 	<p><u>Clerk:</u> investigate & correct ASAP. <u>Clerk:</u> confirm to Prysebros & ask for spray dates.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To receive and note: Q3 Internal control checks (no issues). ➤ Query raised on: values of Invoices from D.Cuadrado. Clerk to consult with FAAG Chair for breakdown of agreed rates and frequency of actions (in conjunction with Parish Maintenance Tasks List). 	Noted. Clerk: report back to council in March.
11	CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED See report attached to these minutes.	
12	POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR next meeting - Deadline: 4/Mar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Crowell Community Governance Review update. ➤ Traffic Advisory Committee, any update from C/Cllr Heritage. ➤ Update on C/Cllr meeting with OCC Highways on Oxford Tube footpath. ➤ New KB Noticeboard discussion as Perspex covering is broken and board is badly warped. ➤ Potential repair to footpath on AR Green, per Jan minutes. ➤ Possible maintenance to Permissive Crowell path given recent unprecedented rainfall. 	Clerk: ensure all necessary items on March agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 11th February 2026

IN KINGSTON BLOUNT VILLAGE HALL

PLANNING REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING

a) New applications as follows to be confirmed/discussed:

- P26/S0103/NM Non-material amendment to application ref P21/S1458/FUL (Demolition of existing three bedroom detached dwelling house and outbuildings; Construction of new private self-contained seven-bedroom dwelling house with landscaping) - to change the wall facing materials (specifically the bricks and render types) as set out in the information supplied to discharge Condition 3.
At: Wayside, Kingston Stert. Noted, for information only.
- P25/S1671/O Amendments 3,4 & 5 Per: Drainage & Ecology Information received 4 Feb 2026, and other points detailed via Planning Portal link. Noted, for information only.
- P25/S2653/FUL Amendment (no. 1) for proposed erection of single-story building at: Aston Rowant CofE Primary School further to information received 04 February 2026 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment). Noted, for information only.

b) Decisions of S.O.D.C. as follows to be noted:

- P25/S3778/HH Demolish existing prefabricated detached garage and side projection to main house. Construct single story rear/side extension, front porch and detached garage at 13 Icknield Close, Kingston Blount, OX39 4RS. GRANTED.
- P25/S4094/AG General purpose agricultural storage building at Town Farm Cottage, Stert Road, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SA. NO FORMAL PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED.

c) To consider any planning applications or decisions received since the agenda was issued:

- P26/S0322/AG Upgrade existing shed to grain store at Hill Farm near Aston Rowant, HP14 3YJ (top of Aston Hill and first right on Christmas Common Road).
NO OBJECTION.
- P26/S0219/HH To convert a conservatory to a garden store at The Old Vicarage, AR.
NO OBJECTION.

d) Withdrawn Applications: None.

e) Applications Referred to SODC Planning Committee: None.

f) Planning Inspectorate Appeals: None

g) Information only: Applications in Neighbouring parishes (which may affect Aston Rowant): None.

FINANCE REPORT AS AT 31/JANUARY 2026

a) <u>The following payments through bank @ 31/December</u> (Costs include VAT):	£ p
CLERK DECEMBER SALARY & HMRC/P.A.Y.E	
S SOWERBY (S.Coulon Xmas wine)	22.00
SHIELD MAINTENANCE	118.56
SLCC (Membership Renewal)	158.00
SCRIBE (monthly fee)	42.00
Equals Money Card (To top-up balance to £500.00)	330.99

b) <u>Receipts as follows to be noted:</u>	
CASH (from FAAG Chairman) - for sale of one walks booklet	3.00

c) <u>The following payments to be Approved and Paid</u>	
CLERK JANUARY SALARY & HMRC/P.A.Y.E	
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DAN CUADRADO (Invoice) 846 (FAAG)	570.00
DAN CUADRADO (Invoice) 847	228.00
SHIELD MAINTENANCE	118.56
SCRIBE (Starboard Systems)	42.00
AKC PARISH NOTES	60.00

d) **To approve:** payment of any invoices received after agenda publication: None.

e) <u>The financial situation as at 31/January:</u>	
Unity Current Account	18,665.07
Unity Instant Access Savings (G/Reserve)	£15,488.87
Unity Instant Access Savings (E-M Reserves)	£35,274.91
	69,428.85

f) <u>Reserves as at 31/January:</u>	
General Reserve	£15,488.87
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Ear-Marked Reserves:	
Int to G/Resv (after 24/5 y/e)	-137
Elections Reserve	1,100
Play Area Reserve	11,494
Parish Notes Reserve	490
Trees, Footpaths & Environment FAAG)	3613
Village Hall Reserve	2,938
Traffic Calming	-298
Neighbourhood Plan	4,217
Ex-NSI Acct Funds	11,858
Ear-Marked Reserves Total:	35,275

Replenish from VAT refund

- g) To ratify: Transfers to/from Reserves to cover invoices/interest received:**
- £60 From E-MR for Parish Notes Invoice.
 - £570 from E-MR for Dan Cuadrado Invoice (FAAG)

ARPC - CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (for February 14th 2026 Meeting)

Item	Decision Required	Action to be Taken
1. C/Cllr. Georgina Heritage – email regarding potential Traffic Advisory Committee for Chinnor and villages	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 16/Jan. February Agenda.
2. SODC Planning - Town and Parish Council Training Thursday 26 February and Tuesday 3 March 2026	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 16/Jan. 2 places available.
3. Andrew Hemming, Chilworth House School, Wheatley. D of E participants looking for gardening.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 16/Jan.
4. Councils remove themselves from “unacceptable” X social media platform over use of “Grok” AI	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 16/Jan.
5. Cold Call approach from Pyramid Planning offering PC Planning Advice service (significant fee....)	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 17/Jan. Discuss IVO lack of N/Plan?
6. SODC – invitation to “Join the Conversation on their Taxi Licensing Policy Review	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 19/Jan.
7. SODC - Fine imposed on taxi driver for working illegally at Henley Regatta.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 19/Jan.
8. SODC - From payments to emissions – “tell us what you think about proposed taxi policy updates”	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 19/Jan.
9. Email from parishioner re: potential problem with one of the Play Area installations. SB inspected 22/1	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 21/Jan. Laura to discuss w. James
10. South News – January Edition	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 23/Jan.
11. Police & Crime Commissioner - January Report	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 24/Jan.
12. SODC - Councils lead the way in disability representation.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 26/Jan.
13. Freddie van Mierlo MP - A Response to the Government's Water White Paper.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 26/Jan.
14. SODC - District Cllr. Report for January	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 27/Jan.
15. SODC – Online meeting 9/Feb @ 11am re: Local Govt. Reorganisation. Recording available afterwards	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 27/Jan.
16. Oxford Dialogue Society - Ramadan Community Iftar at Aureus School, Didcot.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 27/Jan.
17. Planning Policy S&V – new Online version if meeting advised by email on 8/Jan. 2/Feb (6.30pm – 9.30pm)	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 8/Jan and again 27/Jan.
18. Great British Spring Clean – notification of dates for 2026. Between Fri 13/March to Sunday 29th	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 28/Jan. FAAG Chair CC'd.
19. SODC - £2M boost for South leisure facilities in Thame, Didcot & Berinsfield	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 28/Jan.
20. SODC - £750,000 funding boost help South Oxfordshire's growing communities	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 2/Feb.
21. Chilterns National Landscape – January newsletter	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 2/Feb.
22. Email from regular AR resident about Dog-Fouling and litter.	NO	February Agenda item.

23.	OCC – County Councillors Report for January	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 2/Feb.
24.	SODC - New artwork creates welcoming gateway into Didcot	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 2/Feb.
25.	Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance – details of recent events and forthcoming recording of one.	YES	Forwarded to Cllrs 2/Feb. Feb agenda to discuss?
26	Oxfordshire Mind – details of Free Mental Health Training for Councillors	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 3/Feb.
27.	KB Play Park Fundraising Committee – February Update and request for PC to confirm various items.	YES	Forwarded to Cllrs 3/Feb. Feb agenda to discuss.
28.	SODC - Residents to keep using just one recycling bin. Districts won't need to change their services to meet a new national policy.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 4/Feb.
29.	SODC - Residents urged to respond to government consultation on change to local councils	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 5/Feb.
30.	SODC – Reminder Invitation - T&P councils and Local Government Reorganisation Forums Mon 9/Feb	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 5/Feb.
31.	South News – Special Edition on Local Government Reorganisation.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 5/Feb.

Received after Agenda Publication

1.	SODC - Fun, Theatre and Family Days Out This February Half-Term, from 15/Feb	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 6/Feb.
2.	SODC Media release - Draft budget sets out investment in leisure centres, flood protection, housing and communities across South Oxfordshire	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 6/Feb.
3.	SODC - Food and Warmth Grant Scheme supports people this winter.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 9/Feb.
4.	OCC - The latest news for your communities.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 10/Feb.
5.	Community First Oxfordshire – Bi-Monthly February Newsletter	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 10/Feb.
6.	OALC – January Newsletter	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 10/Feb.
7.	Not Bourne Yesterday – email re: Chalk Stream communities of the Chilterns, seeking support.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs and FAAG members 10/Feb.