

ASTON ROWANT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
8th April 2026 at 7:30 PM in Aston Rowant Church

Present:

- Cllrs: S Bain, M.Day, R Payling and A Bernstein (in the chair).
- Four members of public were present (inc. D/Cllr Sadler).

Minutes:

Actions:

1	APOLOGIES: Cllrs. D Chaplin and H Hopwood. Absent. Cllr Hill	Noted.
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	Noted
3	MINUTES MARCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Approved.	<u>Clerk:</u> publish
4	MATTERS ARISING: Correction to February minutes (Finance) - no £570.00 transfer made from E-M Resv to cover D.Cuadrado Invoice 846, work was for PC General Maintenance, not FAAG.	Noted.
5	<p>OPEN FORUM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Email from neighbour concerned about planning application P26/S0846/HH (received after agenda published) see Planning Report at end of these minutes. ➤ An Aston Rowant resident wished to clarify non-support for further speed reduction on B4009 in Aston Rowant. All houses there well back from road with good vision splays. It was noted that a recent appeal for Community Speedwatch volunteers elicited precisely zero response and that when 20mph rollout was first discussed county-wide OCC were unlikely to approve here. The real issue is the narrow pavement along that stretch which is inadequate and thus dangerous to use. ➤ A request that the bluebells along the Coffin Path be allowed to finish flowering this year before being strimmed down "in their prime". 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. <u>Cllr Day</u> to liaise with C/Cllr Heritage and potential Traffic Advisory Team.</p> <p><u>Clerk:</u> liaise with contractor.</p>
6	<p>COUNCILLOR REPORTS: – District & County Councillor reports shared with Cllrs on receipt. D/Cllr Sadler expanded upon the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reminder of the online Town & Parish forum on 21/Apr re: changes to SODC Portal. ➤ Advised that application for 160 houses in Chalgrove was refused by SODC, but has been passed on appeal, despite valid concerns on infrastructure and sewage capacity. ➤ Local Plan 2041 - back course now co-operation with Oxford City issue has been Dismissed. Currently being re-examined and awaiting approval which will protect smaller villages from speculative development. 	<p><u>Clerk & Chair</u> to attend.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
7	PLANNING: See Planning report attached to these minutes. 2 notifications after agenda issued	
8	<p>2025/6 AUDIT PREPARATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 policy revisions as detailed on agenda – all updated (where appropriate) agreed. ➤ New Councillor Expenses Policy agreed on addition of clause 4.6 as agreed in March. 	<u>Clerk/Chair:</u> publish all to website.
9	HILLWERKE TRUST/VILLAGE HALL: No further update since paperwork returned to Lightfoots	Noted.
10	PLAY AREA: Zip Wire installation confirmed for w/c 13/Apr.	Noted
11	<p>LITTER PICKER: Four applications received so far, but as Parish Notes only distributed in the last week it was resolved to defer a decision until the May meeting.</p> <p>A brief discussion was also held about the possibility of other small jobs in the Parish eg. weeding the Play Area, helping at Fiveways etc.</p>	<p><u>Clerk:</u> May Agenda to decide.</p> <p><u>Clerk:</u> diary for a future meeting</p>
12	NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT CHERRY TREE: £800 SODC Councillor grant agreed and payment to follow in new F/Year. Chairman to ascertain existing quotes are still valid, firm up agreement of Cherry Tree owner for siting and further discussion to be had about residue funds to pay for cabinet, installation and consumables.	<p><u>Chair:</u> actions as described.</p> <p><u>Clerk:</u> May agenda.</p>
13	<p>FINANCE: See finance report, attached to these minutes. PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To note: Budget 2025/2026 – v12 MAR. Not yet available – unbalanced by 40p (need to tick-back statements to accounting records in view of impending Audit season. ➤ Community First 2026 Membership: discussion on merits & benefits & it was resolved to continue for this year & review in future years to ensure still valid. ➤ To discuss/Approve quote for replacement Noticeboard in Kingston Blount. Quote obtained from Greenbarnes for like for like with one side lockable and one not. It was resolved to only replace with one single lockable board & review again in May. Unable to ascertain ownership of the Old Smithy in Pleck Lane, so may have to relocate and repair any damage after being in situ for 35+ years. 	<p><u>Clerk:</u> investigate as urgent.</p> <p><u>Clerk:</u> Confirm back to CFO.</p> <p><u>Clerk:</u> revisit Greenbarnes Sales with new requirement & May agenda.</p>

14	CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED See report attached to these minutes.	
15	POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR next meeting - Deadline: 4/Mar. ➤ To decide on litter picker appointment, per minute 11. ➤ To discuss and agree on costs for defibrillator, per minute 12. ➤ Clerk to obtain fresh quote from Greenbarnes and present in May, per minute 13.	Clerk: ensure all necessary items on May agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 13th May 2026
IN ASTON ROWANT CHURCH

PLANNING REPORT FOR APRIL 2026 MEETING

- a) **New applications as follows to be confirmed/discussed:** None received by agenda publication.
 b) **Decisions of S.O.D.C. as follows to be noted:** None received by agenda publication.
 c) **To consider any planning applications or decisions received since the agenda was issued:**

P26/S0219/HH	P26/S0219/HH, To convert a conservatory to a garden store at: The Old Vicarage, The Green, Aston Rowant, OX49 5ST. GRANTED
P26/S0846/HH (Retrospective) Decision required before May meeting.	Installation of two air-conditioning units to side elevation at: Orchard House, High Street, Kingston Blount, OX39 4SJ. It was resolved to OBJECT on the following grounds: ➤ Application is retrospective – units already installed. ➤ Causing noise nuisance to neighbours. ➤ In a Conservation Area, overhanging a Public Right of Way. ➤ Noise is amplified within the alley-way and units are only approx. one metre away from neighbours (single-glazed) bedroom window.

- 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/MARCH 2026

	£ p
a) <u>The following payments through bank @ 31/March (Costs include VAT):</u>	
CLERK FEBRUARY SALARY & HMRC/P.A.Y.E (PLUS: Feb PAYE not processed)	
CLERK X/S HOURS (4.25h) FOR FEBRUARY -	67.24
DAN CUADRADO (Invoice 852) per, item 24 on Parish Maintenance Tasks list	60.00
DISCOVERY TIMBER PLAY (50% DEPOSIT FOR Phase 2)	6,636.00
SHIELD MAINTENANCE	118.56
SCRIBE (Starboard Systems)	42.00
OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (2026 Membership)	252.00
OXFODSHIRE PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION (2026 Membership)	50.00

b) <u>Receipts as follows to be noted:</u>	
GENERAL RESERVE CREDIT INTEREST	79.74
EAR- MARKED RESERVES CREDIT INTEREST	176.01

c) <u>The following payments to be Approved and Paid</u>	
CLERK MARCH SALARY & HMRC/P.A.Y.E	
GEOXPHERE (Parish Online Mapping)	45.00
COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE – 2026 Membership	55.00
SHIELD MAINTENANCE	118.56

d) <u>To approve:</u> payment of any invoices received after agenda publication	
LIGHTFOOTS SOLICITORS	1,134.40
SCRIBE (Starboard Systems)	42.00
MK WATTS	216.00
DM PAYROLL	144.00
PARISH NOTES (May/Jun Edition)	60.00

e) The financial situation as at 31/March:

Unity Current Account	17,445.96
Unity Instant Access Savings (G/Reserve)	15,568.61
Unity Instant Access Savings (E-M Reserves)	30,410.25
	63,424.82

f) Reserves as at 31/March:

General Reserve **£15,568.61**

Ear-Marked Reserves:

Int to G/Resv (after 24/5 y/e)	-137
Elections Reserve	1,100
Play Area Reserve	5,697
Parish Notes Reserve	430
Trees, Footpaths & Environment FAAG)	3618
Village Hall Reserve	2,938
Deficit cleared by £298 from VAT refund T/Calming	0
Neighbourhood Plan	4,217
Ex-NSI Acct Funds	11,858
E-M Resv interest (to be tf'd to G/Resv)	176
Too much Tf'd back to FAAG from VAT Reclaim	513
Ear-Marked Reserves Total:	30,410

g) To ratify: Transfers to/from Reserves to cover invoices/interest received:

- £176.01 E-M Resv interest to G/Resv.
- £60.00 E-M Resv to Current for P/Notes Invoice.

ARPC - CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (for April 8th 2026 Meeting)

Item	Decision Required	Action to be Taken
1. SODC: Councils offer help to transform empty properties into a home	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 13/Mar
2. Georgina Heritage (OCC Cllr) with more information on proposed new Traffic Advisory Committee	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 13/Mar April agenda?
3. Email from Shield Maintenance advising disruption in Dog Poo collections due to a depot fire in Bletchley.	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 17/Mar
4. CC'd into emails between MOP & Freddie Van Mierlo on OCC Highways incompetence on pot holes ...	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 17/Mar
5. OCC - Flood project funding	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 20/Mar
6. ONH: Planning for Good – Radical change to planning appeals from 1st April	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 20/Mar
7. South News – March edition	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 20/Mar
8. SODC – Change WEF: 26/Mar re: Government change impacting certain planning decisions	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 24/Mar
9. SODC – notification of successful grant application for defibrillator at Cherry Tree - £800.	YES	Apr agenda to discuss/vote on the balance needed.
10. SODC – Easter Holiday Activities	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 25/Mar
11. Thame & Wheatley Ramblers programme for Apr, May & Jun	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 25/Mar Website & KBAR
12. OCC - The latest news for your communities	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 25/Mar
13. SODC Media release: Communities invited to get moving with Everyone Active Grant	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 27/Mar
14. SODC - Leaders reflect on the close of the LGR consultation for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 27/Mar
15. Chilterns National Landscape – March report	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 27/Mar
Received after Agenda Publication		
1. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – March Newsletter	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 31/Mar
2. SODC –Town and Parish Council Forum on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 on changes to Planning Systems	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs 1/Apr
3. OCC - Proposed Diversion Under the Highways Act 1980 s.119 of Part of Aston Rowant Footpath No. 1	NO	Forwarded to Cllrs and FAAG Chairman 7/Apr