

Meeting of the **Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council** on Monday
22nd January 2021 at 5.00pm
at the Aston Clinton Parish Virtual Meeting Room.

Present:

Cllr Tubb (Chairman)

Cllr Ronson

Cllr Wyatt

Cllr Howard

Cllr Duffield

Cllr Read

Cllr Watton

Cllr Judge

Cllr McCall

Cllr Mason

In attendance: E Barry, Clerk (recording)

Members of the public 2

Cllr Tubb apologised for calling two parish council meetings in one week and explained that the consideration for the item on the agenda at 21.16 was too late for the parish council meeting as that meeting agenda had already been published.

21.13 Apologies

No apologies were received

21.14 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest

21.15 Public Participation:

Members of the public were invited to speak by the chairman who explained the rules of public participation. They said they were interested in the item on the agenda at 221.16 and were here to understand why this was being proposed.

21.16 Access to Aston Clinton Park

The Chair had requested the meeting be called and had proposed the MOTION. She gave the following reasons for this:

Although previously she was very anti closing the park particularly during the pandemic, the park was now in the worst state it had ever been. The pitches were in a shocking state and the paths extremely muddy. Any remedial work would have to be paid for by the parish council and this would come at a cost. The Clerk had discussed with the chairman that maybe there were other options that could be looked at such as limiting times during the day for access by vehicle or closing off areas of the park where possible. The Chairman then opened up the discussion to the Councillors with the following matters raised:

- Local residents would still be able to access the park on foot
- Areas of the park were being damaged
- Concerns that people would park on the road instead
- It was hoped that this would discourage people travelling to the park from long distances
- Concerns that closing during the week won't make much of a difference if it is open at weekends
- Concerns over the café business if it was shut at weekends – but maybe look at closing off just the main car park
- Recognition that it may be unpopular with some but that drastic action was needed to protect the park
- Concerns that shutting during the weekday may discriminate some from accessing the park
- Concerns over the current condition of the park being dangerous to those who are less able, expressed by a member of Council with disabilities.
- Issues with cordoning off areas being ignored as experienced in the past.
- Cost was a concerning factor for repairing the damage

The Chairman opened up to the members of the public for comment and they raised the following matters:

- They did not walk the in the park much but did so in other green spaces in and around the area and felt that most of those areas were far worse
- They felt that the park was one of the few places that is relatively flat and accessible and would stop the elderly and less mobile from accessing.
- Completely understood the concerns in the park and would agree that fencing off certain areas would make little difference
- They felt that this was one of the green paces that was more accessible.
- Ended by urging the parish councillors to consider whether the price was worth paying to make any repairs considering that there was so much limitations on activities already at the moment.

Following this, there was further discussion, but the majority felt that closing the park during weekdays with regular reviews would be the best option.

The clerk asked that should the Council agree to closing the car parks, that they consider a strategy for any issues that might arise as a result of this, how to deal with them and to think about who would need informing ahead of the closure. Cllr Wyatt suggested that if the Council agree to this MOTION, that a weeks notice was given to allow time to inform the public and relevant bodies.

The Chairman proposed the MOTION be amended from

MOTION: To agree to the closing of Aston Clinton Park to all domestic vehicles Monday to Friday each week. Such decision to be reviewed on 29th January and thereafter weekly on

the Friday of (from the 1st Feb) every week by the Facilities Committee, or earlier should public sporting activities be permitted by govt under the Covid regulations.

To

AMENDED MOTION: To agree to the closing of Aston Clinton Park to all domestic vehicles Monday to Friday each week, starting from the 1st February. Such decision to be reviewed on 29th January and thereafter weekly on the Friday of every week by the Facilities Committee, or earlier should public sporting activities be permitted by govt under the Covid regulations, PROPOSED by Cllr Ronson, SECONDED by Cllr Wyatt and AGREED by majority with 3 votes against.

21.17 Any payments to be agreed

The following invoices had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting for consideration.

- Streetscapes – Play park refurbishment - £17,720 plus VAT
- Hayward Smart Architects – Oct CA fee - £2,700 plus VAT
- Hayward Smart Architects – Nov CA fee - £2,700 plus VAT

Cllr Tubb explained that a meeting had been held between members of the Community Centre Delegated Authority and the architect, where the architect accepted an element of responsibility for some of extra costs incurred to the contractors fee for the community center build. He agreed that he would not invoice beyond the November invoices by way of compensation. The DA were recommending to Parish Council the following with regards to the Architects invoices:

1. Release payment for the October invoice
2. Defer payment of the November one to the end of the 12 month defect period and ask for a credit for the £500 chairing fee for the November invoice as there was no site meeting that month.

Members of the Facilities Committee agreed that the Play park refurbishment had been completed satisfactorily.

MOTION: to approve payment of Community Centre project invoices was amended to - To approve payment of invoices as detailed above, and was PROPOSED by Cllr Mason, SECONDED by Cllr Read and AGREED

20.146 Date of next meeting

The Clerk confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting was set for the 17th February 2021

..... Chairman Date