

ASTLEY AND DUNLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Present: Mr. D Taylor (Chairman), Mr. G. Darby, Mr. P. Gorbings, Mr. J. Horne, Mrs. S. James, Mrs. C. MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. P. Cumming (District Council) and one member of the public.

Apologies: Mrs H. Tanser.

Declaration of Interest: None.

Questions / Comments from member of the public: Dealt with under Section 106

Correspondence: circulated.

Minutes of meeting held on 18th February 2026: Approved and signed

District Council

- Paul Cumming reported that the South Worcestershire Development Plan(SWDP) was finally complete and just needed final approval which was expected before the end of the week
- The importance of the SWDP and the benefit of a neighbourhood plan for Astley and Dunley was discussed. There is some merit in a neighbourhood plan because it must be taken into account in the planning process but there is no guarantee that it will eventually be respected
- The introduction of a new unitary authority was discussed. There is a debate about having a single or split authority. The survey on this is now complete and a decision will be made by central government soon
- Pamela Cumming mentioned the Astley vineyard winning an award and the availability of grants for tourist businesses.

County Council

- Mel Fordington was not present but had submitted a report (circulated). This mentioned the increase of 8.98% in the county council tax and also the work being carried out on traffic management and the proposed parking area near to Astley School
- The proposed parking area would help traffic flow and improve safety but currently there is no funding. David confirmed he is in process of preparing a justification for Mel F to try to unlock funding

Planning and discussion with neighbouring parishes

- The scale of new development in the area remains a concern for all residents. The new SWDP should help but the cumulative effect of numerous planning proposals is often ignored
- Paul Cumming suggested using the annual infrastructure and traffic survey to press for developer contributions toward road/health/schools' infrastructure
- Clive James raised concerns about developers not consulting the village before purchasing land and questioned the transparency of land banking and the need for better tracking of land purchases.
- It was confirmed that developers are not obliged to notify anyone when land is purchased or what it will be used for and objections can only be made when a planning application had been submitted.
- The retrospective application for Tudor Lodges was discussed and there was no objection

- The reserved matters application for the 55 houses on the Snipes was discussed. The council has already objected but it was agreed David Taylor would investigate the Woodhampton Close access proposal and check whether the access route will be from Woodhampton Close or via the adjacent development and advise if there are grounds for objection.

Roads and Traffic, Village signs etc. School parking

- Jason Horne presented a proposal for installing traffic repeater and interactive speed warning signs to reduce speeding in the village.
- The potential benefits and costs of the proposed speed control measures were discussed. The repeaters cost £800 after a £400 contribution from county and the signs £5090
- Catherine MacDonald and Sarah James expressed concerns about the effectiveness of speed control measures.
- Peter Gorbing, , Graham Darby and Jason Horne support the proposal, and it was agreed that despite some reservations about how effective it would be, both the repeaters and the signs would be actioned by Jason Horne.

Rights of Way

- Graham reported that he is no longer the parish paths warden due to County Council requirements for training that he was not aware of.
- There is currently no training course planned so until this is organised there will be no parish paths warden and problems will be reported to county
- Graham D. agreed to undergo training when available.

Parish Council Activity and Plans

Section 106 update

- Clive James expressed concern over where the proposed track would be positioned as the AI generated representations of the track showed it to be more towards the centre of the recreation ground rather than the edges.
- David Taylor said that the images circulated were just for guidance and that the track would be 450m in length, as previously agreed, with a space of around 100m x100m in the centre for other activities
- After further discussion it was agreed to measure out the track again to confirm where it should optimally be positioned.

Summer Event June 13th

- The brass band has been provisionally booked for the Summer event and after a brief discussion it was agreed that this could be confirmed.
- The format of the event was discussed, and it was agreed that it would follow a similar format to last year but perhaps with some new additions
- There was a brief discussion of what new things we could include. Suggestions included a tug of war, plant stall, honey stall, etc.
- It was agreed to raise this for discussion at the annual meeting in April before agreeing final details at the meeting in May.

New Notice board and sign at Lanes End

- This is being progressed by Pamela Perfect and should hopefully be finalised within the next few weeks. It was suggested that as we move into a new financial year it might be worth approaching the council for further financial support.

Defibrillator (Ridleys Cross)

- This has reached the end of its design life and needs to be replaced. Costs vary between £750 and £950. Not having the expertise to choose which model. Jason Horne offered to get an opinion from his daughter who is a paramedic. Agreed.

Forest School (Astley Primary)

- A request for funding has been received from the Forest School. This was discussed and there was strong agreement that this is something we should support
- The request did not specify how much funding so it was agreed we should talk with the school to find out what they needed (Jason H.)
- It was agreed we could fund up to £250

Fly Tipping – Asbestos

- There has been more fly tipping of bags of waste at Yarhampton. The waste turned out to be asbestos and Malvern Hills Council and The Environment Agency have been informed.
- The landowner arranged to have the waste removed by contractors but there has been a problem in that the waste is of a highly toxic nature and needs more specialist handling
- A CCTV camera has been installed by a neighbour who has asked it to be approved by the Parish Council. The Parish Council confirmed approval.
- The CCTV has caught further fly tipping from a white van and this will be reported to the police when the footage is available.
- It was agreed this situation needed careful monitoring.

Any Other Business

Football Proposal

- Peter Gorbings and Sarah James said the football proposal had been discussed further at the village hall committee. There was a mixture of views with some strongly in favour, some not really in favour and some undecided. No vote was taken at this stage.
- The view of the village hall committee is that the proposition could perhaps have been debated more fully and had been dismissed too quickly.
- It was recognised that the football proposal would cause a problem with the use of the grounds by the caravan clubs. However in the longer-term the use of the hall by the

caravans might need to be reconsidered. The caravans are an important source of revenue but the feeling was that they blocked use of the hall by other users. The caravans currently are booked for between 14 and 16 weekends per year and generate around £6000 of income. It was confirmed that the use of the hall by the caravans was a decision for the village hall committee.

- There was a discussion amongst councillors of the merits of the football proposal with some strongly in favour, some against and some unsure. A second vote was proposed by Mr Taylor but not agreed at this stage.
- The discussion did not reach a conclusion, but it was agreed that discussions could continue perhaps when measuring out the path around the field during the coming week.

There being no further matters arising, Mr. Taylor closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance.

Dates of next meetings: Wednesday 22nd April - Annual Parish Meeting (main room)

Wednesday 13th May - Annual Meeting followed by ordinary meeting