

Aynho Parish Council

Tel.: 01869 934164

Email: clerk@aynho.org

Web: www.aynho.org/parish_council/

Twitter: @aynho

Postal Address: c/o Aynho Village Hall, Croughton Road, Aynho, OX17 3BD



Aynho Parish Council meeting held on Monday 5 June 2023 at 7:30pm in Aynho Village Hall Committee Room.

Summary of Public Participation (item 110): Feedback, comments and questions to RH (Aynhoe Park) from residents attending. This is for reference and does not form part of the Parish Council's Minutes of the Meeting.

Present: Chair: Leighton
 Cllrs: Dean, Grant, Horley, James, A.Ryan-Pont, D.Willis and R.Willis.

In attendance: 33 members of the public

Minutes: Mrs R E Horley

2023	
110	Public participation session.
	<p>The Chairman introduced this item by explaining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APC has no remit and very little influence over activities with RH. West Northants Council (WNC) ask APC opinion on matters as with anyone else. They may or may not take note of what we say. Cllr Breeze reminded us recently that APC influence is no better than anyone else's. • The planning consents issued at Aynho Park (formerly Aynhoe Park) all pre-date our time and our remit. • APC try to be a conduit of conversation of express how the village is feeling. APC will do its best to be your mouthpiece and we invite RH to take our points on board. • It seems we all have shared concerns notably parking and traffic control and what will happen when RH opens up soon. • Cllr Grant has had blunt conversations with RH and it is still a work in progress. The last 72 hours have been an indication of that. • Going forward we want RH to come to us.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have questions about non-resident parking on the Croughton Road, The Green, at the Cartwright but we cannot make RH do anything but we can hopefully all stay on good terms. Please understand, following social media, expectation or belief we have no control We hope tonight will be constructive and I hope you can share your questions and not vent any anger. We will communicate the feedback perhaps through the Newsletter. 	
	<u>Residents Questions</u>	
Q1	From Blacksmiths Hill: Chad is Head of Europe for RH and Tim Morris is the manager – both are APC's main contacts, but how much influence do they really have? Also concerned that they have yet to demonstrate that they want to work with us.	A – Chad and Tim want to work with APC but they do not have any PR or websites like other companies. They want to keep a friendly relationship with villagers but genuinely don't know all the answers to our questions such as how many covers will there be at the restaurants. Chad and Tim seem not to have a huge amount of influence over decision making which is left to the CEO. However, APC have a good relationship with them and they have been hugely apologetic and responsive. They just can't tell us very much. A small group of Cllrs (Grant, Horley, Dean and E Ryan-Pont) visited RH on Wednesday 31 May.
Q2	From College Fields: We now have a car park close by with 200+ cars; floodlights shining into our bedrooms beyond 12:30 at night; people shouting – general disturbance. RH do not have planning permission for this.	A – Parking has been agreed at the site for 28 days which is allowed under permitted development rights so no planning consent is required. On-going, a planning application has now been submitted retrospectively but as yet there has been no decision from the council. Parking was allowed here because otherwise there would have been a severe and serious problem with contractors and this has lessened the burden on the village. The application is for 95 parking spaces and if we can't supply parking they would have parked in the village. We can't speak for RH but it was agreed to help for a month. Parking numbers have now been reduced back to the original number and the lights have gone. If WNC say no to the planning then they will have to go somewhere else
Q3	Parents live in the village. Looking at the planning history all the applications have been submitted in a piecemeal fashion. All the issues raised such as highways, parking and travel arrangements are not triggered as requirements to progress listed building applications. Those are planning application requirements. So WNC cannot enforce against anything as there is no Construction Traffic Management Plan, no working hours	A – noted

	and nothing to police. There should have been a holistic application. Also planning applications are taking months.	
Q4	Glebe resident: main concern is traffic management for events. What happened over the weekend was dangerous with 2 lines of traffic going in one direction on the road at one point. The contractor RSS events made the place unsafe for about 2 hours. We need an apology and RSS Events has been reported.	A – This has been reported.
Q5	Charlton Road new residents: We hope that the party was enjoyable – we would all want that but there are three things to note that must be improved upon. 1. Decency 2. Communications and 3. Organisation. This will lead to a better relationship	A – noted
Q6	From Portway Gardens: The event was never detailed and why were RH not up front. They do want they want and then just apologise after.	A – From the details provided to APC there was nothing about Saturday's party. The issue of bussing in staff is not to do with the party. The opening of RH and the party on Saturday are 2 different things. Wednesday was the earliest we heard about any party.
Q7	From Aynho Court: Signage was dumped and trucks parked in the Rectory car park	A – The traffic management company have a lot to answer for
Q8	From Portway Gardens: How many came to the party and was that a usual sort of event or a one off? The parking was clearly inadequate.	A – Before Saturday there had been 90 cars in the filed which went up to 300 spaces where hardstanding was made available but the next day and since it has been back to 90. Also the opening date is Friday 9 June where there will be valet parking (not charged) and RH are not expecting any walk-ins. The valet parking on Charton Road were management valet parkers and not RH's.
Q9	From Roundtown: People will always behave badly. Development in the village is a good thing. There has been investment in the house and the development and facilities are good. As from noise, we would not have known there was an event. But the communications has not been good and parking could definitely be improved. RH should be encouraged to share more information.	A – noted
Q10	From St Michael's House: My experience with RH is good. They are quick to resolution, apologise and no repetition.	A – noted

	They are a fantastic addition to the village and you can visit it which you couldn't do before.	
Q11	There needs to be improved road traffic management and of the team and more clarity for ongoing parking.	A – The construction manager was contacted about parking and parkers have been told that if they don't stop using Roundtown they will get towed. If their registration numbers are reported, there is immediate termination of their contract of employment. Please report any issues to Cllr Dean who is reporting daily.
Q12	Increased cars is not good for polluting emissions.	A – There will be dedicated parking areas outside the village on the Banbury side of Aynho and at Heyford. Staff will be bused in.
APC	<p><u>Cllr Grant provided a general update (note of meeting attached)</u></p> <p>Every month APC meet RH usually with Chad but the last time it was with a small group of councillors (see above). The aim was to show what RH had been doing. RH have spent \$70million (about £58 million) on renovations much of which you can't see such as rewiring, plumbing, power cables, generators. At the time 300 workers were still on site. The work they have done looks fantastic and you can go and have a look without having to buy anything from when it opens on 9 June.</p> <p>The likely times of opening for weekdays are 11am to 8pm (the last time of booking). The design services will close at 6pm. On Sunday there will be shorter hours from 11 am to 5pm. You can visit the RH.com website to see photos and register for any of the eateries.</p> <p>Other points of clarification from questions raised last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH only own the house and deer park, not any other land. • RH do not expect a huge amount of visitors by helicopter and if that does happen they will be picked up and driven to in. • RH is now 99% fully staffed with 140 employees. It is not known how many are from the village. Action to find out • Children and families are welcome as are well behaved dogs. There will not be a dog walking area as such • This year parking on site is provided through 95 valet parking spaces and there are 18-20 spaces at the front of the house • Staff will be bused in • The parking provision is subject of a planning application which is only likely to be temporary until December 2023, after which it is not yet known • Regarding the number of covers at the restaurant and pizzeria, this is still not confirmed but it is likely that the Orangery will have 50 to 60 covers. Action to find out and advise. • There will not be 24 hours security as this is not necessary as RH have other systems in place. • There will be no one living on site. • All lighting will be switched off at night except low level lighting for staff safety. The chandeliers will be left on. • The deer park is managed by a third party and culls will only happen first thing in the morning when no one is around 	

	RH is not an events business. They do not do weddings. It is principally a design service.	
Q13	From Market Square – how will cars enter and leave the site?	A – entrance is through the main gate and out through the side where there is good visibility on the corner. APC made this suggestion and RH took it on board so they do actually listen.
Q14	What are the arrangements for parking this weekend?	A – RH are managing this themselves on their own site. It is assumed that there will be no parking problems because everyone will be valet parked.
Q15	Query about the walkway at the bottom of the deer park which is meant to be open to the public. At the moment the gate is locked and the path leads to nowhere. This is understood to have been a planning requirement when the new houses were built.	A – POST MEETING NOTE (ADVICE AMENDED): This path is not required to be opened yet as the legal agreement states that this is triggered on the occupation of the second house
Q16	Residents comment that RH is a huge investment so APC needs to tap into their success. We mustn't blot our copy book and go in heavy handed.	A - Noted