

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES 2018/03

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018 in Stonesfield Village Hall. Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Members present: Cllrs Wendy Gould (Chair), Frank Huddleston (Vice Chair), Dave Baldwin, Geraldine Lawrence, Jim O'Brien, Nigel Villiers.

Others present: Gill Hill (Clerk), Cllrs Richard Bishop and Ian Hudspeth plus 1 member of the public.

28. It was not apparent that the meeting was being recorded.

29. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs David Brown and Phil MacArdell.

30. **Declarations of pecuniary interest**

There were none.

31. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th February 2018 were approved and signed.

32. **Public Participation**

There was none.

33. **Matters arising from the previous minutes**

There were none.

34. **District Councillor and County Councillor Reports**

The **District Council** has formalised its Balanced Budget for 2018/19. This has been achieved with a rise in Council Tax of only £2.75 at Band D. To the delight of council members and the relief of residents of West Oxfordshire, this has been achieved without any reduction in services or diminution in the quality of those services. Our District Council has also maintained its position as the second lowest taxation authority in England.

The decisions contained in the Government Inspector's letter have brought about various developments. Although it now seems unlikely that the Cala proposals for land off the Woodstock Road in Stonesfield will materialise it could still happen. The application for 170 units in Long Hanborough, which received approval recently, will now be reviewed. The District has achieved its goal of a five-year housing land supply, so has regained its "teeth". This means that any planning refusals are less likely to be overturned on appeal. District will continue its efforts to give all residents in West Oxfordshire the best possible service and is, of course, determined to seek solutions acceptable to all to the various problems and difficulties which our electorate bring before us.

The **County Council** Report:

OCC BUDGET 2018/19

OCC agreed its budget at a Full Council meeting on 13 February following a five-hour meeting of all 63 county councillors. Council Tax will rise by 5.99%, the maximum amount allowed without a referendum. Key points include:

- Finances are sound compared to other councils, with difficult decisions having already been taken
- The Council Tax rise will deliver extra money for adults and children's social care

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- Proposal to extend £500,000 contribution for homelessness for an extra year in 2019/20
- 10-year programme to improve transport network and release more money for road maintenance
- £15,000 for each of the 63 county councillors to spend on local priorities in their area.

GROWTH DEAL

The Growth Deal has now been agreed by the six councils, this will bring an initial £150 million of infrastructure funds into Oxfordshire along with £60 million to deliver affordable homes and £5million to develop a Joint Statutory Strategic Plan. This additional £215m of investment over the next five years will support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county.

OCC STEPS UP POTHOLE WORK AS WINTER HITS THE ROADS

Repeated cycles of ice, thaws and snow created the worst possible weather conditions for roads over the last few months leading to a rise in reports on Fix My Street from 3,000 pre-Christmas to 7,000 during January. OCC has drafted in more staff to carry out inspections and contractors Skanska are sending out more teams to carry out repairs. An additional Dragon-Patcher is now in action on the road network travelling round on an 'inspect and fix' basis on the rural network. There is also good news in the form of almost £1m in extra funding from the Department for Transport in recognition of damage done to the roads by bad weather. This money will be spent on road patching later this year as that will give longer lasting benefits and better value for money. Defects that make roads hazardous will be dealt with within 24 hours as usual. Remember, if a defect has paint markings around it then it has already been scheduled for repair and does not need a new report.

OXFORDSHIRE'S LIBRARIES ARE THRIVING – NOT JUST SURVIVING

Libraries Minister Michael Ellis MP attended the official opening of Oxfordshire County Library in February. The newly refitted facility welcomed more than 100 guests including staff, volunteers and community groups who have helped ensure the county's 43 branches have a bright future.

Mr Ellis toured the library and spoke with staff and volunteers about its transformation and wider network of Oxfordshire branches. He said: *"This is a wonderful example of a library that is an integral part of the community. We want to see libraries thrive - not just survive - and this is an example of a library that is clearly thriving. This is a classic example of how to do it and protect our libraries, and they are still greatly valued by many people."*

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CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) REVIEW IN OXFORDSHIRE

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) visited Oxfordshire in November 2017 to carry out one of 20 targeted reviews taking place in England. The CQC report, published on Monday 12 February says: *“People were treated with kindness when they moved between health and social care services. Frontline staff were dedicated and provided person centred care, going the extra mile for people they cared for.”* Across all areas of health and social care, an above-average proportion of services achieve a ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ CQC rating in Oxfordshire, compared to the national average. However, there remain significant challenges to join up services across organisations in Oxfordshire. The final report has provided areas of action for senior managers in the NHS, social care and other bodies to act upon to make the whole health and care system work better. All of the CQC’s recommendations for actions have been agreed by the five organisations involved which are:

- Oxfordshire County Council (local authority)
 - Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT)
 - Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG)
 - Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUHFT)
 - South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)
- CQC inspectors found the problems of recruiting care staff in Oxfordshire were holding back improvement. Incompatible computer systems also hampered integration of services. The inspectors did find that Oxfordshire had made progress in tackling ‘delayed transfers of care’. Health and social care leaders from the five organisations involved in the inspection have already met with the CQC to develop an action plan. The key points of the action plan are:

- Making services more local by using a ‘place-based’ approach to design and delivery of care
- Improving information available to people who fund their own care so they can get the support they need more quickly
- Investing more in recruitment and retention of care staff so more care packages can be delivered, particularly for older people.

PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OXFORDSHIRE

Residents in Oxfordshire have been amongst the best at recycling (including plastics) and composting for a few years now, and the countywide recycling rate is around 60%, one of the best in the country. However, the ambition is to do better. Plastic is a topical target. The OCC Recycling Team has put together top tips to kick the plastic habit:

- Remember your reusable bags when shopping.
- Invest in a reusable water bottle (stainless steel bottles are more sustainable than plastic)

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- For takeaway coffee, use a reusable mug. Collapsible ones that fit easily in a bag are obtainable, or there are ones made from bamboo to avoid more plastic. (Disposable coffee cups are lined with plastic and hard to recycle.)
- Look for products with less packaging, or no packaging, such as fruit or vegetables.
- Buy concentrated products and refill packs instead of fully packaged products, such as fabric conditioner, washing powders and some beauty products.
- Recycle the packaging where possible. While 90% of packaging is recycled in the kitchens, only 50% is being recycled in the bathroom. Shampoo, conditioner, make up, hand wash and cleaning product bottles can all be recycled (pump trigger must be removed).
- Buy larger or economy sizes of goods such as breakfast cereal, tomato ketchup, toilet rolls and soap powder. This saves money and creates less packaging in the long run.

All the councils in Oxfordshire are working together to seek views on reducing waste and increasing recycling. Respond to the consultation

here: www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk

35. **The Common**

A meeting is due to be held to discuss the two new noticeboards for the Common which are being paid for with WODC money allocated over the next ten years in the amount of £7K. The condition of the fencing is to be watched carefully. Scrub is due to be cleared soon. One of the sheep was found dead on the Common for which the cause of death is unknown as the shepherd had been with the flock only four hours before the sheep was found.

36. **Playing Field**

The Mobile Phone Mast is definitely going ahead with a slight further delay to avoid cancelling cricket matches. Work will commence on 10th September and will take around three weeks.

37. **SCT**

A meeting is to be arranged between SPC, SCT and the Pre-school.

38. **Village Hall**

No report

39. **Glebe Land**

No report

40. **Scout Group**

No report

41. **New Cemetery Land**

A possible tenant has been found to rent the land for the time being at a suggested rent of £60 per annum. If suitable a lease to be raised.

42. **Sustainable Stonesfield**

Due to the Local Plan recommendation £1,000 for legal advice agreed to be paid as a grant by SPC would not be required in this financial year.

43. **Rights of Way**

Exact details on the rights of way to be included on the Definitive Map on Footpath No. 2 with the anomalies of the footpath not used and the alternative footpath which is used have been identified. **The Clerk to contact Gillian**

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Ghosh of OCC Footpaths & Rights of Way to discuss. Also to follow up on the Stockey Woods application as a Village Green.

44. **Neighbourhood Plan**

No report

45. **Data Protection (GDPR) Liability & Transparency**

The new law coming into effect on 25 May 2018 was discussed. Further information from WODC and OALC awaited to know how parish councils are expected to manage this.

46. **Local Plan**

SPC are happy with the results from the Inspector's report protecting AONB areas. **Clerk to write to WODC confirm..**

47. **Planning**

Applications received from WODC:

18/00345/FUL Demolition of the existing bungalow & erection of new two storey dwelling with detached garage (Amendments to the approved scheme Planning Permission 17/02559/FUL). Eastcote, Peaks Lane. SPC have no objection.

Applications approved:

17/03681/HHD Rear single storey extension & associated internal works. Ridgeway House, The Ridings.

17/04044/HHD Erection of single storey front extension. 63 Longore.

17/04138/HHD Single storey rear extension. Home Close, High Street.

18/00009/S73 Removal of condition 4 (External rendering) of Planning Permission 14/01443/FUL. Tyne Lodge, 2 Brook Lane.

Applications refused: None

48. **OCC Highways**

Speeding survey at Laughton Hill. The results showed a slight increase in speed at certain times of the day. However OCC Highways did not consider it necessary for any enforcement signs.

49. **Working Group for Finance and Planning**

A monthly spreadsheet was provided in the absence of Cllr Phil MacArdell.

50. **Financial matters**

50.1 The monthly financial summary was circulated at the meeting.

50.2 C No 101952 OALC Annual subscription £290.28

C No 101953 LCF Law prep work for land registration £322.40

C No 101954 Clerk's salary March 2018 £646.58

C No 101955 HMRC March 2018 £161.60

C No 101956 Norton Anti-virus £ 69.99

C No 101957 Grant to Pre-school £850.00

C No 101958 T Baldwin Plants for hedge cemetery £2224.00

50.3 Banks recs were approved and signed

50.4 It was agreed to use WODC for grass cutting 2018/19

50.5 Grant requests:

Scout Group – deferred to next meeting

Sustainable Stonesfield - £1000 not required in this financial year.

51. Clerk's Job Description circulated. **Further input from Clerk required.**

51.1 It was agreed to pay the Clerk's salary by standing order in future.

51.2 Contingency plan for Clerk's holiday at Christmas not now required,

52. Website – should be up and running soon.

53. Report for The Slate: April issue – Clerk to do.

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54. **Correspondence**

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group – Consultation.

Big Things – nominate Stonesfield.

Local Airspace Development Consultation notice and RAF Brize Norton Public Consultation.

55. **Any Other Matters**

Apply for new grit bin at Farley Corner

Remove planter at Combe Road

Smarten up the Bus shelter at top of Laughton Hill

No parish council meetings to be held in August or December unless matters of urgency arise.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 12th April 2018

Gill Hill, Clerk to Stonesfield Parish Council

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