

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 2019/01

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th January 2019 in Stonesfield Village Hall. Meeting commenced at 7.35pm.

Members present: Cllrs. David Brown (Chair), Frank Huddleston (Vice Chair), Wendy Gould, Phil McArdell, Dave Baldwin, Geraldine Lawrence, Jim O'Brien and Simon Powell.

Others present: Gill Hill (Clerk) plus 7 members of the public.

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

301. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Ian Hudspeth and Richard Bishop.

302. Declarations of pecuniary interest.

There were none.

303. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Frank Huddleston and seconded by Cllr Geraldine Lawrence

304. Public Participation.

There was none at this stage.

305. Visit by Dominic, Chief Executive Officer, Blenheim Palace

SPC would like to thank Dominic Hare for his visit to provide an update on the progress of the ten goals made to improve Blenheim Palace, the Estate and surrounding areas.

He explained the purchase of Pye and that nothing would change in respect of the building process. They were not planning to appeal on the refusal of the Pye Phase 2 development. Blenheim were planning to employ 100 new apprentices (currently 10 employed) in roles across the estate. Employment would be all year round in future rather than seasonal. High quality affordable homes for 300 families were being built at a 40% discount in Hanborough and Woodstock with more anticipated. Stonesfield is not included in any more development plans at present. Blenheim have become a Net Generator of Green Energy. By the end of the year £31million of an expected £40million has been spent on the restoration programme for Blenheim Palace and Park. The first houses in the Woodstock East property development will go on the public market by March 2019. More events are planned for Blenheim Palace to include a 10-week Shakespeare theatre experience along with a Turner and Churchill art exhibition. When questioned about the inconvenience experienced by the residents of Stonesfield during the Countryfile event and the lack of complementary tickets, a promise was made to investigate this matter. With regard to the possibility of heavy vehicles entering Blenheim at the Gorrel's gate, signage would be erected to make it difficult for any lorries to miss the entrance.

306. Matters arising from previous Minutes.

There were none.

307. District & County Councillors' Reports.

Apologies were received from both Cllr Richard Bishop and Cllr Ian Hudspeth. The County Council report is attached to the Minutes.

308. Speed Survey & Traffic Control

Cllr Simon Powell had attended two meetings with the SAFER group regarding the speeding project. It was suggested that the equipment required to deter speeding traffic could be shared with other local parishes: North Leigh, Charlbury, Freeland and Bampton. A meeting to be arranged with James Wright, Technical Officer Traffic Schemes at OCC. Also to ascertain the best deterrent to prevent traffic cutting across the verges at Hank's Corner.

Dates to be advised to Clerk to arrange meeting.

309. Volunteer Bus Service

There is a possibility that finance for the Villager bus service could be under threat.

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

310. **The Common**

The new fencing has been completed. Sheep have returned to the Common and will be there until mid-April. The Management Agreement with Natural England to be reviewed as to the best way to the preferred way to control the grass. Gary Miller offered to assist. Another fence is required. The noticeboards to be taken over by Genny Early.

Clerk to arrange quote for more fencing.

311. **Playing Field**

Nothing to report.

312. **SCT**

There had been a further hold up on the completion of the sale of the land by SCT to Oxfordshire Community Land Trust. Hopefully this will be concluded by the end of the month. It was noted that the SCT website needed updating. The new trustee, Mr Bill Oddy to be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting. **Clerk to arrange.**

313. **Pre-School**

OCC are arranging a meeting to include School Governors, SPC and OCC to discuss the possibility of the Pre-School being moved to the School grounds.

314. **Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

315. **Scout Group**

Nothing to report.

316. **Sustainable Stonesfield**

SUSTO have been focusing on the CALA appeal which is due to take place on 2 April 2019. It is thought that with the Inspector's ruling for the protection of the AONB in this area, CALA will need to prove an exceptional need for them to succeed. The search for the best representation continues. SPC have agreed to provide funds in the region of £3,500. Proposed by Cllr Frank Huddleston, seconded by Cllr Jim O'Brien. Will Harley is available as a landscape expert in this case.

317. **Neighbourhood Plan**

Nothing to report.

318. **Great British Tidy-up**

Jess Huband reported that there had been an enthusiastic response to providing help in the Great British Tidy-up. The Sports and Social Club had agreed to be a base for the day which has been agreed as Sunday 24 March 2019.

319. **Website**

Nothing to report.

320. **Planning**

Applications received from WODC: None

Applications approved by WODC:

18/02871/FUL Old Orchard Woodstock Road. Demolition of existing dormer bungalow & replace with new zero energy dwelling. SPC had no objection to this.

321. **Other Planning Issues**

CALA Homes – appeal due to go ahead on 2 April 2019.

North Farm and discharge of conditions 18/3160 – approved.

North Farm gifted land. Planning permission would be required for fencing in excess of 2metres in height. Cost for application would be 50% off the normal cost in the region of £200. **Clerk to contact Brendan O'Brien for date land would be available**

Purchase of Pye Homes by Blenheim. There would be no change.

322. **Working Group for Finance & Planning**

Cllr Phil McArdell presented his Budget Summary. SPC thanked him for all his work and preparation of the Finance Report.

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

323. Financial Matters

The monthly financial summary was circulated at the meeting.

The following payments were approved and cheques signed:

SO	Clerk's salary January 2019	£646.58
C No 102022	HMRC January	£161.60
C No 102023	Archer & Bishop – fencing the Common	£3545.76
C No 102024	Tudor Stone Clear & grass cut, Burial Ground	£160.00

The Bank recs were approved.

324. Report for the Slate: February edition

325. Correspondence None

326. Any Other Matters:

The drain at the Tap needs clearing

Meeting closed at 9.55pm

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th February 2019
in the Club Room of the Village Hall.**

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