

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT 2019/June

Clerks report to support the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2019 in Stonesfield Village Hall.

1. **Parish Matters**

The sign at Greenfield Road is damaged. The clerk is arranging a replacement.

The clerk is continuing to try and contact Phil Archer to book the fencing at the common in (as quoted for in January 2019).

2. **SAFER Working Group**

No update in advance of the meeting.

3. **SCT**

No update in advance of the meeting.

4. **Sustainable Stonesfield / CALA Appeal**

The 16th May saw the final day of the hearing. Jim Astle represented the Parish and his initial brief report is here:

It was difficult to tell how it went overall. The Inspector is charming but plays everything with a straight bat so gives no clue which way he leans. It as an uphill battle throughout especially yesterday because the LPA put us in such a difficult position. I thought that their barrister made the best job he could of defending a stance which was the contrary of the position the LPA had taken for 2 years and attacking the Appellant for arguing precisely the case the LPA had argued during that time. All I can say is that we did the very best I think we could have been expected to do. Our witnesses all went a great deal further than just the extra mile in preparation and valiantly putting their case when they gave evidence. None of us could have done any more.

The inspector gave an indication before the adjournment of how long it would take to get a decision. It was estimated six weeks or two months.

One thing which was I confess worrying me quite considerably was the possibility of an application for costs against us for putting the Appellant to the necessity of arguing the question of sustainability which the LPA had conceded in its statement of common ground. That application was not made. Neither the LPA nor the Appellant made an application for costs.

I sat in on the section 106/conditions discussion, having first conferred with Wendy (ex Councillor) and Karen (clerk), but I am afraid the outcome was that we get what we are given and nothing more. The justification for that is in essence that the LPA contends that it must comply with the general law, regulations and its policy. The combination of these, they say, restricts them from exacting any payment from the developer which exceeds the marginal costs to the community consequent upon the development. Thus for example they would only be able to get an amount for the pre-school which would be calculated on the basis of the estimated number of new children who would require the pre-school service. That principle applied to each and every head of expenditure. One point which did arise, of which you may already be aware, is that funds for the recreation ground are calculated in accordance with provisions which are in some way or another set out on the Sport England website so you may be able to check from that whether or not you are getting the maximum you might expect for sport and recreation. The inspector counselled, and I think he may be right, that there may be something to be gained from more general negotiations between the Parish Council and the District Council about how they arrive at amounts they deem appropriate to compensate the community for the additional burdens of any new development.

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I have reported in similar fashion to the above to John Mills at the Conservation Board.

Village Tidy Up Working Group

No update in advance of the meeting

5. Planning

Applications received from WODC:

APPLICATION NO: 19/01315/FUL

PROPOSAL: Change of use of detached garage into one bedroom holiday let, including changes to fenestration and insertion of new rooflights.

Town and Country Planning Act

LOCATION: Valhalla Church Street Stonesfield

APPLICANT: Mr Derek Hobbs

REGISTERED: 2nd May 2019

Applications approved by WODC:

None advised

6. Financial Matters:

Bank mandate changes have been requested via Barclays. We are still waiting for confirmation of the signatory change over requests being put in place but the update as of 6th June is that it should be completed within the next 10 days. There is still a delay for the clerk receiving bank statements as a result.

The following payments require cheque signatories and approval in the June full council meeting:

C No 102069	Stonesfield Village Hall	£32.20	Invoice 2489
C No 102070	Clive Parsons	£202.39	PAYE
C No 102071	Clerk	£917.94	PAYE
C No 102072	HMRC PAYE /NI	£305.31	PAYE
C No 102073	Clerk expenses	£30.74	May expenses

The clerk has sent the end of year internal audit paperwork to Moore Stephens the external auditors.

The clerk asks Councillors to consider and approve the cost of Scribe Accounts 12 Months Software Licence £257.00 plus VAT. This is a specific council accounting system based on Single User Licence and would allow the clerk to prepare financial information and produce reports much more efficiently. A copy of this quotation has been circulated to Councillors. If approved the clerk requests a cheque in this meeting.

The clerk received a cheque (income) from OCC for grass cutting, remittance of £522.40. This has been banked in the SPC Barclays current account.

7. Register of Members Interests

Councillors need to complete registers of members interest forms to satisfy audit and electoral requirements. The clerk has circulated forms and requests that these are urgently returned if you have not already done so.

8. Parish Post

The majority of post is being redirected via the previous clerk to the new clerk still. This is gradually improving.

9. Email / Website

The clerk is liaising with council provider Microshade and Vision ICT to produce mailboxes for the This should be in place imminently. Councillors new email addresses will be on the website.

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The clerk has asked Paul Bates who manages the website to see if he can arrange the web pages for the parish more clearly as it is difficult to navigate and locate old data particularly past minutes and finance information which we must publish clearly.

10. Annual Parish Meeting

The APM was held on 13th May. Draft minutes have been placed on the website.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 10th July 2019 – 7.30pm

Calendar

Council Meetings – Stonesfield Village Hall – Wednesdays 7.30pm

10th July 2019

No August meeting?

11th September 2019

9th October 2019

13th November 2019

11th December 2019

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council
Email: stonesfieldpc@gmail.com