

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT 2019/July

Clerks report to support the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2019 in Stonesfield Village Hall.

1. **Parish Matters**

The sign at Greenfield Road and Farley Close are damaged. The clerk is arranging replacements with West Oxfordshire who will cover the cost.

The clerk is continuing to try and contact Phil Archer to book the fencing at the common in (as quoted for in January 2019 – still not confirmed).

2. **SAFER Working Group**

No update ahead of the meeting

3. **Garden Waste Collections**

It was noted that Garden Waste collections had problems (due 2 July). The clerk did report to WODC as did some residents.

4. **SCT**

No update in advance of the meeting.

5. **Sustainable Stonesfield / CALA Appeal**

CALA homes appeal has been dismissed by the inspector. Full judgment details available on the parish website (and has been circulated to Councillors)

6. **Village Tidy Up Working Group**

No update ahead of the meeting.

7. **Pre-School**

The pre school is facing a financial crunch based on projections. Their child numbers are likely to drop next year which will reduce income. Costs can be reduced slightly but not significantly without reducing sessions. They are concerned that reducing sessions will drive their customers elsewhere. They will provide some figures in advance for SPC to consider if and how SPC could help.

8. **SAFER**

No update in advance of the meeting

9. **Planning**

Applications received from WODC:

None

10. **Stonesfield Bus Services**

Mark Winstanley in his role as parish council transport representative attended the Parish Transport Representatives meeting at County Hall on 3/7/19.

In a well attended meeting two relevant issues emerged.

* There was discussion of the pending Local Transport Plan (LTP5) which will cover place shaping and connectivity as well as transport, and be linked to longer term County Council planning for infrastructure. I do not know what approach the Parish Council wishes to take to this, but the Transport Representatives meeting is a channel by which submissions can be made.

* More seriously, the long awaited draft regulations for PSV exemption, which I have mentioned in the Slate, now suggest exemption applies only to services on a 10 mile radius of the local centre or a 10 mile straight line from the point of first pickup, otherwise a qualified (and paid) bus driver must be used. This potentially impacts on our Villager service as their routes are long due to low population density in our corner of West Oxfordshire and south Gloucestershire and the distance of some villages to Witney.

Mark will contact Villager about this, but in the event of difficulty we may have to involve our

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

local MP who has spoken warmly about the service provided.

It is also worth noting also that S106 funding covers capital and not revenue with the consequence that two parishes had got new bus stops/shelters which are not served by a bus. I think we have avoided this.

11. Financial Matters:

Bank mandate changes have now been implemented.

Bank reconciliation has been circulated.

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

C No 102079	Starboard Systems (Scribe accounts)	£308.40	Invoice 0534
C No tbc	Clive Parsons	£confidential	PAYE
C No tbc	Clerk	£confidential	PAYE
C No tbc	HMRC PAYE /NI	£confidential	PAYE
C No 102080	Castle Water	£4.21	Inv 2012260
C No 102081	WODC	£591.13	Inv 33309938
C No 102082	VOID		
C No 102083	WODC	£1,141.00	Inv 33309070
C No 102084	Stonesfield Village Hall (Hire)	£18.40	Inv 2501
C No 102085	Clerk expenses	£20.10	June 19 expenses

The £confidential relates to PAYE. Councillors see these figures for approval during the meeting.

Scribe Accounts is now in place and the clerk is working to update it.

Remittance advice has been received for payment from the Rural Payments Agency of £839.25.

Grants

The clerk is looking in to updating the grant policy and hopes to bring to the September meeting for approval for the next financial year. It seems that the maximum limit for any grant should not exceed £2,000 as SPC are a small local council.

Most parishes of SPC size grant £200-£500 maximum.

Pension

The clerk is working with the pensions team to enrol into the pension scheme.

12. Register of Members Interests

If any Councillors are still to complete these forms and have not passed to the clerk or sent direct to West Oxon Council please do so urgently.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 11th September 2019 – 7.30pm (No August meeting)

Calendar

Council Meetings – Stonesfield Village Hall – Wednesdays 7.30pm

11th September 2019

9th October 2019

13th November 2019

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

11th December 2019

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