

# STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES 2019/9

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Stonesfield Village Hall.

Meeting commenced at 19:30

**Members present:** Cllrs Dave Baldwin (Acting Chair), Geraldine Lawrence, Jim O'Brien, Mick Heduan and Simon Powell.

**Others present:** Cllr Richard Bishop, Richard Norris, Jim Astle and Karen East (Clerk)

**Members of Public:** 2

**Declarations of Interest:** One of the members of public was from CALA.

Apologies: Cllr D Brown, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Cllr P McArdell

**118. Meeting Recording:** It was not apparent that the meeting was being recorded although one member of public spent much of the meeting texting.

**119.** There were no **declarations of pecuniary interest but it was noted that one attendee was from CALA which was not previously declared (although they did not speak).**

**120. Minute Approval:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed Cllr David Brown, Seconded Cllr Phil McArdell.

**121. Matters Arising from the minutes 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

None

#### **122. CALA HOMES**

CALA have taken the case to the High Court. The case is a legal argument, CALA believes that the inspector of the planning appeal acted inappropriately and did not hear evidence correctly. They believe exceptional circumstances exist and that the AONB protection should be waived because Stonesfield need houses.

Jim Astle (acting as an informed member of the public – not a legal representative) has been in contact with WODC legal people and DC barristers who will defend for the District Council. Jim Astle and David Brown are preparing a witness statement for submission to the High Court.

SPC has made available the sum of £2,000 to assist with any associated legal costs in putting the witness statement together. Jim Astle has agreement from a junior barrister to do this for a fee for £1,500 plus VAT. In order to instruct council Jim Astle would have to act as a solicitor and would have to charge a nominal amount in the region of £750 Plus VAT. There may be a court fee on top.

Papers were served to the council and were received on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019 but it was dated 19<sup>th</sup> August, which gives a due date of 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019. As a council we must meet the 9<sup>th</sup> to avoid any ambiguity.

Councilors request that within the witness statement includes a note that papers were served with delay and little notice.

Councilors agree that Jim Astle can proceed but they would like to be kept informed with copies so that comments can be added if required.

The legal representation will determine whom the witness statement should be signed off from (i.e. Chairman etc.). Cllr D Baldwin queried whether there is any risk / liability in SPC signing off on the statement, Jim Astle explained that there could be some risk of liability but its minimal and the legal representation will try to minimize this. Jim Astle understands that provided we act reasonably as an interested party there would be a minimal risk of costs against the Parish Council but this cannot be guaranteed. The District Council is defending its plan for this.

THE MEETING WAS PAUSED FOR PRIVATE SECTION AT 20:20 FOR PRIVATE CESSATION UNTIL 20:25 – Cllr D Baldwin & Cllr M Heduan left the room.

**The SPC RESOLVED to instruct Jim Astle as solicitor with costs to a maximum of £4,000 including the junior barrister. Proposed Simon Powell, Seconded Jim O'Brien**

**123. Public Participation:** None.

**124. Planning Applications / Issues**

None received. (It is noted WODC have some planning department issues)

**125. To receive reports from Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors.**

Richard Bishop gave a report: Oliver's Garage in Hanborough is being developed to houses.

WODC planning department are struggling with staffing so there may be delays.

Cllr M Heduan provided a SAFER update – The report will be circulated.

There have been some problems with the equipment, which is being resolved.

The A44 was also discussed and the Blenheim HGV for their goods in depot. Warning signage needs to be put in place. The clerk and Cllr M Heduan will report.

Cllr G Lawrence gave an update on the village hall. The village hall is not being proactive. The village hall had an incident requiring police presence. Councilors have asked the village hall to confirm if the CCTV is working.

The clerk will contact Jackie at the village hall and suggest an open meeting with the council and the village hall.

Cllr D Baldwin reported that the Playing Fields Association is working well.

**126. Finance**

Also, see clerks report.

The clerk presented the bank reconciliation to end June (circulated to council by email prior to the meeting). It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliations

To approve payment of cheques – it was **RESOLVED** to approve and pay the accounts as presented below.

C No 102095	Came and Company Insurance	£392.78	Inv 26338381
C No 102096	Vision ICT – email accts	£172.80	Inv 9877
C No 102097	Oxfordshire CC – radar surveys	£480.00	inv 1260685
C No 102098	Tudor stone – grass cut	£160.00	Inv 060819
C No 102099	Stonesfield Village Hall (Hire)	£18.40	Inv 2514
C No 102165	Clerk expenses	£41.60	Jul / Aug expenses
C No 102163	Clerk PAYE current	£confidential	PAYE
C No 102164	HMRC / PAYE / NI	£confidential	PAYE
C No 102100	Clive Parsons PAYE	£confidential	PAYE
C No 102161	Secure-a-field Ltd	£59.74	Inv 9748
C No 102162	Vanbrugh Unit Trust	£150.00	Inv 1866

*Grants*

The Pre-school are struggling and numbers are very low. They will submit a grant request.

**117. AOB**

Tudor has done a good job of the grass cutting.

Councillors will review the litter bin on Church Street as reported by a member of the public.

Countryfile had its last year at Blenheim this year.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – 7.30pm**

*Meeting ended at 21:00*

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council

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