

# STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 2020/07

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
via Zoom – Covid 19**

Meeting commenced at 19:00

**Members present:** Cllr David Brown (Chair), Cllr David Baldwin, Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr Phil McArdell, Cllr Geraldine Lawrence, Cllr Simon Powell

**Others present:** Karen East (Clerk), Andy Tacon (Playing Fields Association) – left the meeting after his finance section.

**Apologies:** Cllr Richard Bishop (DC), Cllr Ian Hudspeth (OCC), Cllr Jim O'Brien

**Members of Public:** None

**242. Declarations of pecuniary interest.** Cllr D Baldwin declared an interest with regards to The Playing Fields Association, Stonesfield Mutual Aid and the Pre School.

**243. The Minutes of the meeting** held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were approved.

**244. Matters Arising from the minutes 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

None

**245. Public Participation**

No public participation

**246. Clerks Report**

- Verges have been cut. We did have a complaint regarding the cutting but it did need doing and only Parish land was cut. We did find an iron post within the verge which we had removed for safety reasons.

- The clerk will make landscapers aware that there are slowworms in our area and they are a protected species.

- Roads coming from North Leigh and Combe, the corners are very overgrown and also from the Fawler to Charlbury junction. Well Lane is also overgrown (bridleway). Corner of Akeman st and B4437 (Stonesfield Straight) also. The clerk will report to OCC.

**247. Planning**

APPLICATION NO: 20/01416/HHD

PROPOSAL: Erection of bike store with car port and EV charge point

Town and Country Planning Act

LOCATION: Adina Woodstock Road Stonesfield

APPLICANT: Mr James Wiltshire

REGISTERED: 8th June 2020

There are no objections to this planning application 20/01416/HHD

APPLICATION NO: 20/01511/FUL

PROPOSAL: Conversion of existing office premises to six residential apartments

Town and Country Planning Act

LOCATION: 1 Farley Lane Stonesfield Witney

APPLICANT: Mr Richard Dennis

REGISTERED: 28th May 2020

There are concerns over additional parking with the planning application 20/01511/FUL. It is felt there is too many dwellings on this site although six affordable dwellings would be beneficial for youngsters or single persons in this area. The council OBJECTS to this planning application of six developments on the basis of over development but feel it would be more acceptable to have a smaller development of these apartments with a better design (current design with laundry room downstairs could cause noise for neighbouring properties, there are concerns over fumes entering the building from the neighbouring business, lack of windows in room upstairs is of a concern to the council). The current proposal will cause an increase in parking which will be a problem in this particular area which is currently congested and would already be a problem particularly if emergency vehicles required access.

#### **248. Finance**

The cheques detailed in the clerk's report were **resolved** to be approved.

The precept figure for 2020/21 is formally recorded as £32,180. This was submitted to WODC in January 2020.

The audit report and prepared AGAR forms were circulated to councilors ahead of the meeting and councilors **RESOLVED** to approve the report and AGAR (Annual Governance Statement 2019/20) forms including the Accounting Statements 2019/20 for Stonesfield Parish Council. The clerk will submit to the external auditor and a notice of public rights will be placed on the noticeboard.

In response to the auditor report the clerk has already ordered a self-inking stamp for recording of invoice approvals. One councilor will also formally sign of the bank recs at least quarterly. Councillors had no further queries regarding the audit report. Councillors and the clerk will look over the risk assessment for the Sept meeting. The clerk will respond to the auditor regarding his further recommendations as a formal response.

Allotments – Councillors were asked to consider the allotment rental currently set at £10 a plot. This will be discussed at the Sept meeting.

A Covid 19 grant request of £245 was received from the Playing Fields Association for hand sanitizer. Andy Tacon attended this section of the meeting to assist with

questions and provided an explanation regarding Playing Fields reserves. Councillors discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to approve this grant request. A cheque was raised at this meeting. (It was noted that the funding to the Playing Fields Association will reduce over the next year).

#### **250. SAFER**

Cllr Heduan report was circulated.

The improving road safety in Stonesfield puts forward the argument for a 20mph speed limit in the parish. The OCC automated traffic surveys are now complete and we will receive that data in due course. If Councillors have further comments regarding this report they should send them Cllr M Heduan by 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020. A copy of the report will then be published online and will be sent to TVP, Highways and Cllr I Hudspeth at OCC.

Councillors agreed that it was a very good report.

The SID is in place and we can download the data it collects.

#### **251. Woodstock Road Allotments**

Cllr Heduan wrote to Jon Gordon and advised he should write to Blenheim for a bursary if they require a fence. TVP have the site listed on their rural visit route. Signage has been put up by TVP to note it is on their rural route.

#### **252. The Common**

Jill Barret report circulated regarding wildflowers.

Genny Early has put signs up on the common for us. Huge thanks to Genny for this.

Bill Bachelor is planning to start work on the fencing next week.

Cattle will be coming to the common soon. The clerk will speak to Richard about the type of signage required and exact wording needed.

#### **253. Memorial Bench**

Rita Fletcher would like to have a memorial bench installed in memory of her husband. Suggestion is that it could go at Brook Lane in place of one of the rotten logs. The Fletcher family would pay for the bench and installation.

Where the logs are if branches were cut the view would be opened up.

We need to ensure that our art project site is specifically determined before the memorial bench is installed. Councillors will vote at the next meeting where the bench will be installed but also to confirm the exact position for the art project.

#### **254. Standing Orders**

Councillors were asked to adopt the updated Standing Orders. Detail was circulated ahead of the meeting. Councillors **adopted** the Standing Orders.

#### **255. To receive reports from Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillors.**

Richard Bishop report was circulated ahead of the meeting.

#### **256. Climate Emergency Group**

No updates but Cllr Powell and Cllr Baldwin plan to meet again September time.

#### **257. SUSTO update**

No updates.

#### **258. Playing Field Association Update**

The children's playground and the MUGA will be opening in line with government guidance. The football teams are training up there now.

There is no update regarding the fence planning on the new piece of land – this is in progress.

CLlr Baldwin noted that to get the new piece of land to a playing field standard it could cost up to £30,000. Grants will need to be applied for as this is not a fund the Parish Council could cover.

**259. AOB**

**The White Horse pub** in the village appears to be up for sale. Several residents have contacted councillors. We can renew our interest as the pub as a community asset when that is due for renewal in October. The Parish Council could not purchase the pub, the value suggested for purchase is 400-650k. The community could get together for a purchase (like Bladon has). A note will go in the slate to see if anyone is interested to support this. CLlr W Gould can be the Parish Council contact. CLlr D Baldwin will place a note on social media also. Contact can also be made via the clerk. The clerk will speak to WODC to see what their thoughts are.

The District Council is in the process of introducing the **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** which is a charge on redevelopments (housing). Consultation is between 10<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> August. The Parish Council will submit a formal response, councillors should send comments to the clerk for collation via email.

We had a report that someone cut their foot on glass within the river. The clerk will report to WODC.

Lane coming down to the river is owned by Highways as it is a public footpath. Highways also maintain the footpath. The clerk will contact OCC to see if the land on the bank of the river is owned by OCC or the Duke (Blenheim Palace) as tree maintenance is required etc.

**Glebe** is currently leased to the SPC. The Parish Council has in the past attempted to purchase it without success. The current lease runs for a further 30 years. The clerk will ask the Diocese if they would sell the Glebe and if so what the cost would be.

A lady in the village has made masks for the community – over 400 masks. (Judy Franklin does not sell the masks – she donates them to people). Geraldine will pass her a Covid 19 grant form to complete.

There is a neighbor dispute in Charity Farm and the clerk will see if WODC can assist.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 7pm – Zoom Virtual Meeting (No August meeting unless business requires in which case it will be 5<sup>th</sup> August)**

*Meeting ended at 20:58*

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council

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