

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 2020/11

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 12th November 2020
via Zoom – Covid 19**

Meeting commenced at 19:00

Members present: Cllr David Brown (Vice Chair), Cllr David Baldwin, Cllr W Gould, Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr Phil McArdell (Chair), Cllr Simon Powell, Cllr Ian Hudspeth (OCC), Cllr Jim O'Brien, Cllr Geraldine Lawrence, Cllr Richard Bishop (DC)

Others present: Karen East (Clerk),

Apologies: None

Members of Public: 11 members of the public (Ollie Stobo, Claire Brooks, Steve Holmes, Deanna Holmes, Simon Warr, Steve Callaghan, Claire Renshaw, Paul Barrett, Claire Renshaw, Pete Smyth)

294. Declarations of pecuniary interest. None

295. The Minutes of the meeting held on October 2020 were approved with the following amendments:

It was proposed to make an amendment to section 291 in November 2020 minutes to add the following "The letters did however ask that as our representatives we looked to use all moral, legal and financial tools available to support saving the White Horse as an asset for the whole community.

Stockey Woods – note D Baldwin abstained rather than did not agree with decision.

Item 287 Remove words: grant given on this basis from item. .

296. Matters Arising from the minutes October 2020

White Horse pub – The Council has not surveyed the village for opinion on the pub to date and Cllr Baldwin asked that it is made clear that the parish has not yet been surveyed by council.

297. Public Participation

Ollie Stobo (member of public, local farmer) – question sent in advance and circulated to councillors: Regarding dog walking on his private ground Mr Stobo asked how the parish council can help stop the continued trespassing on two of his fields. One of which is a Mid-Tier Stewardship scheme for Natural England on Combe Road and the other is an arable field on the top of Stockey Wood near the Common. Dog walkers are destroying the habitat that he is trying to manage for environmental stewardship. People are climbing the wall to walk on the land but they are trespassing. It was decided that the clerk with work with Ollie to add a note to the slate and the parish website.

298. White Horse Community Pub Group

Several members of the pub group attended the meeting as requested by the clerk in order for them to provide a parish update. They updated parish councillors advising them that just under £200k share sales have been made for the White Horse Pub. This is a fantastic response from the village, 167 members. There is still a long way to go.

It was made known to the council that the excerpt published in the slate from last month's minutes had inferred that the whole council thought the business plan was unsound. We clarify that the concern about the draft business plan was raised by one councillor and is not necessarily the view of the whole parish council. The excerpt in the slate was a snapshot of the minutes. Full minutes with all the detail will be published online.

The council re-iterated their support for the Pub Group and understand many of the community benefits a successful project will bring the village and look forward to working with a successful group

There was emotive discussion amongst all members of the meeting regarding this topic.

Cllr P McArdell and Cllr D Brown have been invited to a meeting with Robert Courts, the Plunkett Foundation and the White Horse Community Pub. The clerk will also attend. There is no agenda and this is an open discussion.

299. Reports from Councillors, District Councillors

Reports from Cllr Hudspeth and Cllr Bishop were circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting. There were no additional comments.

300. Questions arising from the clerk's report

Finance – Cllr Gould noted the figures are confirming that the budget is not good and it needs discussion. The clerk reminded councillors that they have a legal obligation to keep to budget.

Clerks appraisal – It was agreed that the appraisal policy will be looked at so that all councillors can input well ahead of the appraisal if they wish.

Legal issues with playing field – the clerk received an update just before the meeting regarding legal issues. The clerk advised that we have no formal clarification but that the solicitor is not seeing issues on the playing field transfer and is liaising with the other party solicitor. We hope to finalise before the end of December. The legal process regarding North Farm is awaiting a response from the other party solicitor. We also await the fence to be put up before signing.

301. Planning applications

APPLICATION NO: 20/02667/S73 PROPOSAL: Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 17/02108HHD to allow a change in materials. Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Cotswold View Pond Hill Stonesfield APPLICANT: Mr Mark Walker REGISTERED: 5th October 2020

No objections

APPLICATION NO: 20/02440/HHD PROPOSAL: Installation of flue to serve wood burning stove. Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Flat 8 Sanders House Churchfields APPLICANT: Mr Steven Holmes REGISTERED: 19th October 2020

No objections

It was also noted that we received this appeal update from planning.

Appeal Ref: APP/D3125/W/20/3255183

Stable building to rear of Valhalla and Skyfall, Church Street, Stonesfield
OX29 8PS

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 - The appeal is made by Mr Derek Hobbs against the decision of West Oxfordshire District Council.
 - The application Ref 20/00276/FUL, dated 21 January 2020, was refused by notice dated 2 April 2020.
 - The development proposed is change of use of stable building into ancillary residential use (home office and arts studio/gym) in connection with Valhalla and Skyfall.
- Decision

1. The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the change of use

of stable building into ancillary residential use (home office and arts studio/gym) in connection with Valhalla and Skyfall in accordance with application 20/00276/FUL, dated 21 January 2020, subject to the following conditions:

1) The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than 3 years from the date of this decision.

2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Location Plan Drawing Number 196318/20:1; Block Plan Drawing Number 196318/20:2; As existing floor plan and elevations Drawing Number 196318/20:3 and As proposed floor plan and elevations Drawing Number 196318/20:4.

Cllr Baldwin asked if the clerk would renew interest in the white horse pub as a community asset when it is due. Councillors **resolved** unanimously to renew the registration of the pub as a community asset when it is due in January 2021.

302. Finance

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the cheque payments as presented below.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation.

Cllr McArdell is in the process of applying for online banking for the parish council.

Clerk paye	£ 801.49	102252	paye clerk
HMRC –PAYE	£ 248.26	102253	hmrc paye
Oxfordshire County Council Pensions	£ 302.15	102254	pensions paye

ENTC Ltd - tennis court maintenance	£ 1,440.00	102255	withdrawal from MUGA maintenance fund for Playing Field Association
clerk expenses	£ 44.92	102256	home office Oct expenses, printing, postage
OCC - Oxfordshire County Council	£ 468.00	102257	Traffic surveys - SAFER budget
White Hill direct	£ 348.00	102258	SAFER grant budget - mirrors
Clive Parsons PAYE	£ 82.15	102259	£1.99 bin liners expense and Clive paye £80.16

Councillors **RESOLVED** to make a payment of £50 for a poppy wreath for the Royal British Legion. The clerk will raise a cheque.

Grant requests. A grant request came in from the Playing Fields Committee for funds in the next financial year. Councillors deferred considering this until we have considered the next financial year budget as we do not know the grant budget at this time. The clerk will add it to the December agenda.

The clerk reminded councillors that the parish council needs to spend within budget and that when budget conversations are had grants need to be considered and budgeted carefully. Councilors have a legal responsibility to work within budgets set.

Cllr Baldwin explained that the playing fields committee sent their form in early so that it could be budgeted.

Councillors agreed to set a date for a budget meeting: Wednesday 25th November at 7pm. The clerk will circulate a zoom link. Councillors must send any preparation for budget input to Cllr McArdell and the clerk by 20th November. A draft budget option will be sent to councillors ahead of the meeting by Cllr McArdell.

Cllr Baldwin noted that Stonesfield Mutual Aid are trying to negotiate to get the lunch club going again (perhaps through delivery) and looking to establish some sort of food bank. They are looking at a reverse advert calendar / food bank options. It is not known if further financial support will be requested at the moment.

303. Stockey Woods

Cllr Brown explained that Freeths are still proceeding with the enquiry at the moment, nothing much has changed but we feel there is a strong case and we are quietly confident of a good outcome. Updates will follow.

304. AOB

- Cllr G Lawrence asked the clerk about access to the village hall. The clerk advised that if we need access Jackie can provide it but we won't have a code for access during Covid.
- Cllr G Lawrence will give the defibrillator code to Ben at the social club. The clerk will note this in the slate.
- Cllr D Brown received a report from a member of the parish regarding vandalism to a van in Longore. The clerk will report it to the police.
- The Clerk suggested writing a report for the slate detailing all of the positive things the council has done for the village over the year. Councillors are to send items to include in this by the end of the week to the clerk.

**Date of next full council (public) meeting: Wednesday 9th December 2020 – 7pm
– Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Meeting ended at 20.52

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council

Email: clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk