

# STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 2020/12

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
via Zoom – Covid 19**

Meeting commenced at 19:00

**Members present:** 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:** Cllr David Brown

**Members of Public:** 3 members of the public (Peter Smyth, Paul Barrett, Richard Morris)

**305. Declarations of pecuniary interest.** None

**306. The Minutes of the meeting** held on November 2020 were approved.

**307. Matters Arising from the minutes November 2020**

Progress with Ollie Stobo –plan to try and walk around with Ollie, chat further in January.

**308. Stockey Woods Update (Richard Morris)**

Update on status of moving Stockey Woods to Village Green status. Jim Astle put in a statement of case for Stonesfield. Blenheim has withdrawn their objection to the application. It is not confirmed if it is necessary to have an inquiry as the only objection received has been withdrawn. The matter is currently with OCC legal and we await a decision / update from them.

**309. Reports from District and County Councillors**

Report circulated from Richard Bishop to councillors ahead of the meeting. District cabinet decision to close recycling sites (including Stonesfield (Field Close)). This decision has been taken due to fly tipping, things being put at the sites in an untidy way. Richard has raised this and there is a meeting on 10/12 with the environment scrutiny committee where it will be discussed again. Bi weekly recycling collections for households will take more recycling in place of this apart from large bulky items. Vaccinations for Covid 19 have started taking place in Oxfordshire (commenced yesterday). Opening on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec there will be a Covid testing centre in a car park in Witney.

Cllr Hudspeth report circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting. Cannot be complacent against Covid 19 despite the vaccine. It will take in to the summer before majority are vaccinated and we do not know how long the vaccine works for at the moment. The testing facility is welcome for West Oxfordshire. It's very important that people with symptoms continue to be

tested.

OCC endorsed the climate and ecological emergency bill. This is a motion that goes to the House of Commons asking MPs to support this.

### 310. Public Participation

Peter Smyth reported that the White Horse community fundraising is going well. They now have over 380k and over 800 members which is impressive. They are hoping to be in a position to put a bid in shortly.

### 311. Asset Community Value

The clerk has submitted the paperwork for the Asset of Community Value. Cllr Baldwin asked for a couple of bits to be added to the form regarding the community pub.

### 312. Clerks Report

Allotments –we think we have two vacant allotments coming up. The clerk will confirm in January and we will advertise them in the slate if they have been given up. Allotment invoices have been issued.

### 313. Planning

20/02995/HHD | Alterations and erection of two storey rear extension | Hedgehog House 3 The Square Pond Hill Stonesfield Witney Oxfordshire OX29 8QT – No objections

Cllr David Baldwin – Buffer zone for the playing fields behind the land, the clerk confirmed the buffer zone is behind the fence but Empire Homes is not obliged to plant it.

Cllr McArdell and the clerk will see if they can meet with Pat Hunt, Empire Homes and the PFA to establish usage on the playing field area to move the legal issue forward.

### 314. 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.

Clive Parsons paye	£ confidential	102263	Clive paye
Clerk paye	£ confidential	102264	paye clerk
HMRC –PAYE	£ 300.34	102265	hmrc paye - includes employer NI contribution
Oxfordshire County Council Pensions	£ 302.15	102266	pensions paye
clerk expenses	£ 62.24	102267	home office Nov expenses, printing, postage

### **Salary Scales 2021/22**

Following the finance committee meeting:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve moving Clive Parsons on to the NALC New SCP salary scale 8 with effect from April 2021.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve moving the clerk on to the NALC New SCP salary scale 31 with effect from April 2021.

These result in small increments to both members of staff.

### ***Precept / Budget***

Councillors considered an increase to the precept of 7% following the finance meeting. Proposed Cllr McArdell, Seconded Cllr S Powell. Cllr Gould, Cllr Lawrence Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Brown (by proxy) prefer a lower precept increase at 5% due to other taxes in the area increasing. As the vote is 50/50 split vote the council will discuss the finances further before making a resolution. 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm councillors will discuss further in a closed finance committee meeting. The precept will be approved in the January full council meeting.

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 January agenda as the budget for 21/22 has not yet been confirmed.

Grant request received from the Volunteer Link Up for a grant request this financial year for £50. Councillors have documentation and were asked to consider this ahead of the meeting. Based on a majority of council reviews and the lack of budget this grant request has been declined at this time. Proposed Cllr McArdell and seconded Cllr O'Brien (Cllr Baldwin supported the grant request).

Cllr Baldwin, Cllr McArdell, Cllr Gould will work with the PFA to discuss an ongoing maintenance budget which would be added to the precept. Plan to have this meeting in January 2021.

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.

### **315. AOB**

- Cycle group, the clerk arranged £252 grant via Cllr Hudspeth and OCC to pass to the group for cycle signage to assist the children cycling to school from the village. Huge thanks to OCC and Cllr Hudspeth for the fast turnaround of this.
- Grant forms, Cllr M Heduan suggested some amendments. The clerk alongside Cllr Heduan, Cllr Baldwin will review the grant form.
- Gigaclear plan to work in the village, safe access on The Cross needed because of access to Preschool. The clerk will try and contact Gigaclear.
- Cllr Heduan – car parking on the pavement outside the shop is increasing. Area immediately outside of the shop is the problem particularly at school pick up. The clerk will contact Highways.

- Cllr O'Brien - Suggestion of additional dog bin in the village. The clerk will get a location map of the dog bins to share with Councillors.
- Top Woodstock Rd (near Charlbury Road) approx. 30 cars going parked going in to Blenheim public right of way. The clerk will note this to the police and Blenheim as this is a very dangerous area to park. Some parking signage needs to be put there.
- Cllr Baldwin – thanks to Stonesfield Mutual Aid to the Community Pub Group who are running a reverse advert calendar. There has been an overwhelming response which will support families in the village. If anyone knows anyone who needs support through Christmas, the Community Pub group and Stonesfield Mutual Aid are able to help. Contact Cllr Baldwin for this help.
- Handrails near the scout hut, (located between the church and Stockey Woods that runs parallel to Brook Lane) are broken and needs replacing. The clerk will contact OCC to see if they would consider paying for this.
- Cllr Lawrence has passed the defibrillator number to Ben Tomalin.
- The clerk will finish for Christmas break on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec (afternoon) – January agenda will be published before 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Date of next full council (public) meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 7pm – Zoom Virtual Meeting**

*Meeting ended at 20.40*

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council

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