

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 2021/01

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 6th January 2021
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 David Brown, Cllr Richard Bishop (DC)

Others present: Karen East (Clerk),

Apologies: None

Members of Public: None

316. Declarations of pecuniary interest. None

317. The Minutes of the meeting held on December 2020 were approved.

318. Matters Arising from the minutes December 2020

Cllr W Gould asked when the PC were meeting to talk with the Playing Fields Committee – this will take place on January 13th at 7pm via Zoom. Andy Tacon is arranging this.

319. Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Hudspeth circulated his report ahead of the meeting.

He also discussed the drive to push for 20mph on some of our roads, including Stonesfield.

It was noted that Blenheim have closed their car parks due to the lockdown and many people are using the local gates.

The Covid situation is rapidly changing, currently in a National Lockdown. The vaccine is being rolled out. Cllr Powell queried when it will reach our area.

Woodstock surgery vaccine clinic will likely be in Islip. People aged over 80 appointments will be starting in our area very soon. People must wait for the surgeries to contact them. The clerk raised the issue of getting people to the vaccine clinics. Long Hanborough surgery patients will be directed to Witney for vaccines.

Cllr Bishop reported that the budget process for WODC is underway.

The clerk asked if planning were behind schedule as we are not always notified of planning applications. There was an application in Field Close for a loft conversion that we do not see.

321. Public Participation

None

323. Clerks Report

Legal – It was agreed that we would push the land transfer through. The easement can be dealt with once the land at North Farm has completed.

324. Planning

None

325. 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	£ Confidential	102270	paye clerk
HMRC -PAYE	£ 300.54	102271	hmrc paye - includes employer NI contributions
Oxfordshire County Council Pensions	£ 302.15	102272	pensions paye

Precept / Budget

The budget was circulated for 21/22. Councillors considered an increase to the precept following the finance committee meeting in December. Cllr Baldwin opposed the precept figure on the basis the increase should be higher. All other councillors voted in favour of the increase. Proposed Cllr P McArdell, Seconded Cllr J O'Brien. It was **RESOLVED** to increase the precept to £33,993 per year. This equates to approximately a 5% increase per Band D property.

Grant Requests

The Playing Field Committee submitted a grant request of £2,000. This money would be for ROSPA inspections, operational insurance. Since 2016 the PFC have received £16k in grants from the Playing Field Committee. The new grant request would be for payment in the next financial year. This created some discussion. It was noted the Playing Field Committee is an important asset and we need to pay towards the children's areas at least. The decision was deferred until after the next meeting to give the clerk and councillors time to have a meeting with the Playing Fields committee.

Councillors discussed that we need to have a contingency fund going forward.

326. AOB

- Cllr M Heduan / Cllr W Gould – Surface water in the Ridings Close is bad. The clerk will contact Fix my street.

- Cllr D Brown – Criminal damage on Ollie Stobo land. The PCSO has had damage reports. Councillors would like to meet him on site. The clerk will email Ollie Stobo and will arrange to meet once restrictions allow.

- Cllr S Powell – opposite Cockshoot Close, grass up to the tap (bungalows above). There are trees on that patch of grass. The hawthorn is being overgrown by ivy. Cllr Powell will cut the ivy back.

- Cllr W Gould – Need a new noticeboard. The clerk will contact Blenheim to see if they can contribute.

- Cllr Baldwin – Stonesfield Mutual Aid ran the reverse advert calendar programme which was very successful (40 boxes donated). Thanks to the village for their contributions. Separately some fundraising and gifts were gathered and given which were distributed along with approx. 50 food parcels from the Chippy Larder. People really needed these and it went very well. Approx. £400 worth of £50 emergency grants were also given during the Christmas period. More people will need to be supported ongoing. We need to discuss further whether we open the emergency grant fund as a parish council. Loneliness is also a huge issue. Please flag where people need help or company so that phone calls etc. can be arranged. The clerk and Cllr Baldwin will put together a help sheet to be put up around the village and in the slate.

- Cllr Brown advised that sadly David Lines has passed away. This is a big loss to the village. Our condolences are with his family.

Date of next full council (public) meeting: Wednesday 3rd February 2021 – 7pm – Zoom Virtual Meeting

Meeting ended at 20.40

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council

Email: clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk