

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES 2021/02

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 3rd February 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 David Brown, Cllr Richard Bishop (DC), Cllr Natalie Chapple (DC),

Others present: Karen East (Clerk), Brendan O'Brien (Empire Homes), Dom Homes (Gigaclear), Ben Whitworth (Scouts).

Apologies: Cllr Geraldine Lawrence

Members of Public: None

327. Declarations of pecuniary interest. None

328. The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2020 were approved.

329. Matters Arising from the minutes 6 January 2020

The camber at The Ridings is still flooding. The clerk will raise this again with Highways.

330. GigaClear (Dom Hones Guest)

Dom Hones, a representative from Gigaclear gave a presentation to the council. Gigaclear invests in rural communities providing full fibre broadband to premises. Stonesfield is at the validation stage. The plan is long term and future proofed. Approx. 658 in Stonesfield would be covered by Gigaclear. Currently planned for completion Quarter 4 (end year), (starting Q1 – approx. March). Residents will be written to when work starts. By the end of June, it is hoped some properties will be able to start ordering if they wish.

All verges, pathways and roads will be reinstated within a maximum of 6 months of completing the build. Reinstatement may be dependent on weather, materials, location and type of investment. All reinstatement is to Highways and utilities committee standards.

networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com and 01865 591137 are residents direct contact email and phone number if they need it or want more info.

Cllr M Heduan advised that some residents don't want this. Dom Hones confirmed that OCC have already authorized this. This is future proofing, people may not want the service now but they may in the future.

If it is private land residents sign wayleave agreements and it won't be dug up if not signed. If it is public land and OCC has authorized it the work will be done as this is now permitted. On private land if they need to cross it they can use ports (i.e. BT boxes and undergrounds chambers already there which will not damage the land).

Cllr Brown noted there were problems when Gigaclear were last in the village. Dom Hones advised that they have a reputable contractor to do the work which are audited to ensure there are no problems. Gigaclear plan to engage closely with the communities.

Standard installations for residents will be free to install. Complex installations will have surveys and costs quoted.

Gigaclear will be keeping the clerk updated weekly.

331. Public Participation

Ben Whitworth (Scouts) joined the meeting to introduce himself as the new Chairman for the Scouts.

The group do need a cub leader – if anyone is keen please let Ben know.

Quotes have come in for the new build which has been accepted by the scouts. The budget is £175,000. Fundraising is starting for this.

332. Planning

20/03527/FUL – Empire Homes (Farley Lane) – Cllr Jim O’Brien declared an interest in this development and will not comment or vote regarding this.

Brendan O’Brien from Empire Homes attended the meeting to answer questions.

Cllr W Gould asked if Empire Homes could build some smaller homes.

Brendan advised that land prices are high etc. and they have to work in the context of the policies. Cllr S Powell echoed that the houses are too large for the area.

Cllr Baldwin noted that the affordability gap in Stonesfield is £167,000. This development will not meet the needs of the village.

Cllr Heduan circulated some positive comments supporting the development.

Brendan confirmed there is no works planned for Farley Lane as this is an adopted road. It was noted by councillors that Farley Lane is busy but a previous development approved of flats is not helping this either. The road is busy and traffic problems will not improve. Access may be an issue.

The council **RESOLVED** to agree NO OBJECTION to this development but with comments to WODC which the clerk will put together.

21/00027/LBC – Internal alterations – Clockcase, Laughton Hill (Mr and Mrs Maroney).

The council **RESOLVED** to agree NO OBJECTION to this development, all the work is internal.

White Horse Pub - The application for the ACV has been accepted. This is good news. We are aware the ownership of the pub has now changed. The community pub was not successful in purchasing this pub. Cllr Bishop echoed that if the pub is opened by the new owners then the village must use it otherwise it will undo the good work that the community has done. The more it is used, the more it will be preserved. Cllr O’Brien echoed that people **MUST** use the pub if it opens if they want to keep it as a pub.

Cllr David Brown asked about Compulsory Purchase Order. Cllr Ian Hudspeth advised a Compulsory Purchase Order is not an easy option. Only WODC could do this and it could take years and it would have to be shown that the premises were not operating in the way they should be.

The clerk will see if the new owner would like to come to a future Parish Council meeting to tell us his plans for the pub.

333. Reports from Parish, District and County Councillors

Cllr Richard Bishop (DC) – Issues in Combe with flooding, not so much in Stonesfield. Cllr Bishop confirmed the Empire Homes Development up for planning consideration will be going through the planning committee at WODC and will not be delegated.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth (OCC) – The OCC budget comes up next Tuesday at the County meeting, Cllr Hudspeth is pleased with the budget planned. Cllr Hudspeth gave a report to the council which was circulated.

Cllr Natalie Chapple (DC) disappointed that the White Horse pub community bid was not successful.

334. Questions arising from the clerk’s report

Legal – update the North Farm paperwork is about to be signed off. There was a £1,000 payment given by Empire Homes as part of this for maintenance which is well received.

The Playing Field transfer legal paperwork has been signed and returned to solicitors.

335. Finance

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

Paul Bates	£ 283.50	102273	SPC website domain and hosting expenses
Litelines Direct	£ 275.63	102274	Litter pick equipment
Clerk expenses - Dec and Jan combined	£ 105.70	102275	home office Dec and Jan, stamps, print etc
Wendy Gould expenses	£ 30.00	102276	xmas flowers
Oxfordshire County Council Pensions	£ 302.15	102277	pensions paye
HMRC -PAYE	£ confidential	102278	hmrc paye - includes employer NI contributions
Clerk paye	£ confidential	102279	paye clerk

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

Cllr McArdell is in the process of applying for online banking for the parish council. Signatories on the council are required to also contact the bank for access.

Consideration of Playing Fields Maintenance Budget / Grant-

Cllr McArdell proposed that SPC fund £2,000 from our maintenance budget to the Playing Fields Committee, and ongoing this would be part of the precept.

Cllr David Brown did not think providing money to the playing fields committee is something we should do. Cllr Brown believed Cllr D Baldwin has vested interest in this. Cllr McArdell disagreed as there are 8 councillors within this discussion. Cllr Baldwin is the parish council representative for the parish council.

After heated exchanges, the clerk reminded Councillor Brown and Cllr Baldwin to keep order as this is a public meeting.

Councillors could not agree on using money from the maintenance fund so the funds were considered as a grant (grant form was submitted ahead of the meeting). Proposal to grant £2,000 to the playing fields committee for the 21/22 year. It was RESOLVED to approve this grant for the £2,000 unanimously.

336. Village Survey

It was agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss the village survey.

Cllr Baldwin noted some socio economic data which may also be useful. Cllr Baldwin will share this.

11th February at 7pm for survey meeting.

It is planned to have the survey every two years.

337. AOB

Stockey Woods – Cllr Brown advised that the public inquiry was due to be held in January, the issue may now be possible to be dealt with within delegation powers of the officers. This cannot be done until officers are back in office so this is delayed until Covid restrictions relax.

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

Meeting ended at 20.45

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council

Email: clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk