

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT 2022/February

Clerks report to support the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd Feb 2022 at St James Centre, Stonesfield.

1. Parish Matters

- The clerk has asked Councillor Powell if he can help clear some of the shrubbery on the wall along Pond Hill and invoice the PC.
- Common – Richard Morris would like to purchase some Alder trees to plant along the river bank on the 'cricket pitch' part of the Common. Alder 'thrive in poor wet conditions' (RHS) and would be particularly suitable for the river bank. More details below. Now is the time to plant and the Woodland Trust has stock available. A pack of 15 trees saplings cost £35.95. Whilst this is slightly more than necessary it allows for the inevitable losses, and in any case smaller numbers don't end up much cheaper. One last thing in the alders favour is that unlike the willows it won't require continual pollarding etc.

We will also need to buy some stakes and protectors, although I hope to reuse as many old protectors as I can get hold of so that should be minimal cost. If this can be agreed at today's PC that would be great.

2. SAFER Working Group – Report from Cllr M Heduan

Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

3. Planning

Applications received from WODC for this parish. Councillors are asked to consider these at the meeting:

None since last meeting

4. WODC Art Project / The Common / Rural Payments Agency

Art Project. In progress. Clerk has chased and it should be ready by end March 2022.

5. Financial Matters:

The following payments need to be approved in this full council meeting

Clive Parsons	102435	£58.41
Clerk	102436	£841.03
HMRC	102437	£325.91
Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund	102438	£310.63
St James Centre	102439	£18.00
Paul Bates	102440	£298.00
Clerk	102441	£78.60
HMRC	102442	£315.03

The £confidential relates to PAYE. Councillors signing see these figures for approval during the meeting.

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There may be further cheques to add at the meeting. The above includes January cheques (post-dated) that we know of in case Covid means we cannot meet in person.

Phil McArdell will review the bank reconciliations and bank statements to consider and assist with budgeting. Councillors are also sent the bank reconciliation with this report.

In this meeting we need to:

To receive and acknowledge acceptance of the finance report.

- a) To consider and approve the payment list
- b) To consider Queens jubilee / possible expenditure.
- c) Consider costs for trees for common
- d) Consider grant requests received (circulated to councillors in advance)

6. Legal

The clerk has asked the solicitor to prepare a 25-year lease for the Playing Fields Association to have the land at North Farm. We have a hard copy of the lease and this is being signed w/c 10th Jan. PFA have signed. Papers with solicitors.

7. Old Lock Up

The clerk is in conversation with Oxfordshire Building Trust about possible grant to cover any costs at Old Lock Up – in case we can go ahead! We have a key. (Wendy Gould). The building is sound. Not confirmed who owns it but it is not the PC.

8. Neighbourhood plan

Update from Wendy.

PROGRESS REPORT

Terms of Reference drawn up and published on website. Two zoom meetings attended since Council last met.

4 members of the steering group met with Astrid Harvey at WODC last week. It went very well; Astrid was helpful and informative answering questions ranging from funding, map software, local land owners etc. She will work with us as and when required.

We learnt that a Strategic Environment Assessment may not be required and if it is will be handled by WODC at no cost to us. She was unsure on the question of an independent landscape assessment as it can be a two-edged sword if developers become involved. Richard will speak to landscape contacts before we decide. Funding is a little concerning as the present scheme of £10,000 ends in March and how it will be for next year is still unknown, even to Astrid. However, she doesn't think there will be a problem as it should rollover.

On Monday, the group met again to discuss our meeting with Astrid and also make some plans regarding the village meeting on 28 March. Good publicity for this is key to get residents to come along for the launch; also we decided to try and contact as many villagers as possible with 3 or 4 pertinent opening questions. It was resolved to contact as many people as possible by using the networking setups of various clubs, we will use Survey Monkey if they are in agreement.

I will try and furnish further information as required at our meeting tomorrow but thought this email will save time. I also will bring hard copies of a diagram to get you thinking!

14. Date of Next Meeting – 2nd March 2022 at 7pm – St James Centre

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