

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

CLERKS REPORT 2021/October

Clerks report to support the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2021 – St James Centre, Stonesfield

1. Parish Matters

- The clerk added a note to the slate asking villagers to keep gardens tidy.
- Cllr Powell has done a great job cutting back some overgrown areas for the parish.
- The cows will be coming to the common this or next week.
- Streetlights – A resident asked if streetlights can be once again considered for the village.

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:

21/03189/HHD

PROPOSAL: Insertion of two rear facing velux rooflights to annex building

Town and Country Planning Act

LOCATION: Waterloo Barn Laughton Hill Stonesfield

APPLICANT: Mr Bates

REGISTERED: 4th October 2021

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

Art Project – no update. In progress.

5. Financial Matters:

The following payments require cheque signatories and approval in the September full council meeting

Clerk paye	£ 822.03	102403	paye
HMRC -PAYE	£ 313.11	102404	paye
Clive Parsons paye	£ 72.59	102405	paye
clerk expenses	£ 36.80	102406	expenses sept
Oxfordshire County Council Pensions	£ 310.63	102402	pensions paye
Moore	£ 240.00	102401	External audit
St James centre	£ 18.00	102407	room hire

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

There may be further cheques to add at the meeting.

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.

A copy of the expenditure summary for the year to date is included with this report for councillor transparency.

The external audit has now concluded.

Grants

Scouts grant – circulated to councillors in advance.

PCC at St James has been supported with a grant towards the cost of cutting the grass in both churchyards. The Council's support in previous years has been much appreciated, and has helped us to keep our beautiful churchyards tidy and well kept for the benefit of the whole village.

The Parish Church would be very grateful if the Parish Council could, once again, consider financial support towards the cost of grass cutting in the village churchyards. The cost of mowing increases every year, and for 2021 the total is of the order of £1900. As you will appreciate, this is a huge sum of money for the church members to find, in addition to all other necessary expenditure. Please could I make a request for the Parish Council to consider a more generous grant to enable the attractive appearance of the churchyards to be maintained next year? Such a contribution would be very welcome. To be discussed.

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. Solicitors are busy and we anticipate this to be actioned anytime now. PFA are aware are also arranging their own solicitor for the costs their side. – The clerk has nudged the solicitor again. Ongoing...

7. Allotments

The clerk will be invoicing for allotments again soon. Planning to invoice in October.

8. Trees

The clerk is working on arranging quotes for the tree cutting by the river. Tudor is in process of quoting. Blenheim have permitted access across their land. Cllr Powell is also assisting with meeting tree surgeons.

9. Neighbourhood plan

Cllr Gould, Cllr Powell, Cllr McArdell, the clerk Jim Astle and Richard Morris met to get things moving. The clerk is in the process of making an application to WODC for the designation of Stonesfield Neighbourhood area. The group will meet again shortly but it is not right to canvass the public just yet.

10. Lock Up

No one area has confirmed ownership of this. Diocese do not own it. It is likely the church do and they have keys. We could arrange maintenance (roof, weeds, pointing) to get it back to a good state of repair.

11. Bus Shelters

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WODC came and did a survey – the shelter is safe. We need to repair the roof tiles and the bench. The clerk has asked a maintenance company to assess this / provide quote. No further progress. The clerk has also asked Ian Hedges if he can carry out the work.

12. Barriers at Ditchley Gate – response from Blenheim

The section of barriers in question was put in by the Highways Department due to health and safety concerns. Over the last few years, and more recently with the increased use following lockdown restrictions, this section of road has been of concern due to the speed of traffic and number of parked cars, causing highway issues. This was a highways decision on a council owned verge outside of the Blenheim ownership.

With regard to the pedestrian access, indeed we have explored the potential to provide a separate pedestrian access due to security risks of the Ditchley Gate and its increased frequency of becoming damaged. This we have not taken forward at present due to cost and changes in usage of the gate.

13. Tudor

The council needs to confirm if they are happy for Tudor to continue to top the Glebe and the Cricket Pitch on the Common this season and to April.

14. Date of Next Meeting – 3rd November 2021

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish Council
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