

# Stonesfield Parish Council

Meeting held at St James Centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.00pm

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

*Meeting commenced 19.00*

**Councillors Present** – Cllr Phil McArdeil (Chair), Cllr Wendy Gould, Cllr Andy Graham (OCC), Cllr Geraldine Lawrence, Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr Eleanor Bailey, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Jim O'Brien  
**Also in Attendance** – Clerk to the Council (K East), 4 members of the public

No Declarations of interest.

### **22/473 Apologises for absence**

None

### **22/474 Declarations of interest:**

None

### **22/475 Welcome new Councillor**

Councillors welcomed new councillor Eleanor Bailey to the meeting. Eleanor was elected as the only standing candidate for the one vacancy.

### **22/476 Public Participation**

Ben Whitworth from the Scouts came to the meeting to discuss the Scouts Jubilee ideas. Councillors also suggested scouts could possibly put a mural on the bus shelter wall (Ridings bus stop). They may do a jubilee walk around the village. Scouts may do a gas beacon from the Glebe, councillors had no objection to this. Scouts would like to put a tree on the Green – the PC has no objection to this.

John Sampson would like to apply to Woodland Trust for tree grants to enable more planting in the parish (circa 200 years). Councillors had no objection to the application but would like to discuss locations if successful.

Benches on circular walk to be discussed further but generally in support.

### **22/477 To confirm the minutes of the previous council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

The minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 were confirmed.

### **22/478 Update on progress from the minutes held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

None

### **22/479 To receive reports from District or County Councillors and Parish councillor reports**

*Cllr Andy Graham*

(22/479.01) Parking in front of the shop, Pavement outside of shop needs to be dropped; Andy Graham is assisting with this. The drain will hopefully be cleared too. Councillors noted to Cllr Graham that the drains need to be cleared throughout.

(22/478.02) Cllr Graham is still working with the bus companies regarding services to the area.  
 (22/479.03) Boundary merger consultations will be out soon at District / County level. There will be consultations.

*Cllr Matthew Parkinson*

(22/479.04) 1 Farley Lane – Planning are looking into this to check planning conditions have been met.  
 (22/479.05) White Horse Pub – Have tried contacting the owner of the pub for latest status – no update at the moment.  
 (22/479.06) Issues with WODC waste disposal, a lot of workers off with Covid. Struggling with recruitment too.  
 (22/479.07) Stretch between Pumbro and Ridings, no update but Councillor M Parkinson and Cllr A Graham will press this forward.

**22/480 Reports**

(22/480.01) Cllr W Gould questioned what Stonesfield Community Trust does / when trustees appointed. Cllr McArdell confirmed information is shared in the slate and the website is being updated. (Grants cover education, special needs and sport generally). Cllr McArdell will encourage them to attend the Neighbourhood Plan meetings / get involved.  
 (22/480.02) Bin at Charity Farm – the clerk will contact the residents as it was deemed that a bin is required but in a different location.  
 (22/480.03) Brook Lane bench is being installed at Brook Lane. The clerk has also asked for 2 no parking signs to be put in.  
 (22/480.04) Pothole issues – reminder to report these on Fix My Street.  
 (22/480.05) Trees around Charity Farm – it was suggested that the parish council could see whether trees could be planted around Charity Farm.

**22/481 Financial Matters**

(22/481.01) Cllr McArdell will request forms to add Cllr Eleanor Bailey for online banking.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve payments - Payment list of approvals – April 2022

Clerk salary	Staff Salaries	£ confidential
HMRC PAYE	HMRC PAYE	£ confidential
Pension	Pensions	£ confidential
Clerks expenses	office expenses	£ 49.60
Tree grant	Grants awarded by Council	£ 84.48
Art Project bench (balance payment)	s106 Art Project	£ 3,960.00
Accounts package - annual charge (Scribe)	office expenses	£ 345.60

Solicitor fees - Stacey & Mason (Playing Fields legal)	Legal expenses	£ 600.00
SAFER equipment	SAFER	£ 169.95
SAFER equipment	SAFER	£ 292.39
Playing Field Association – maintenance grant as part of legal land transfer	Grants awarded by Council	£ 1,000.00
Geoff Booth Landscaping – bus shelter works	Maintenance	£ 380.00
St James Centre - 3 Hires (NP & PC)	Venue Hire	£ 54.00

£Confidential relates to payroll figures – these figures are shared with councillors.

(22/481.02) Two grant requests were received.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to donate £250 to West Oxfordshire Citizens Advice - Proposed Cllr D Brown, Seconded Cllr S Powell. All councillors supported.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to grant £1,000 to scouts. Cllr W Gould proposed, Cllr D Brown seconded. All Councillors supported.

(22/481.03) Ring fencing of funds

Councillors **RESOLVED** to ring fence £2,500 Empire Homes money for Old Jail repairs should that be possible and legal costs. Prior to spending the parish council would like to get it registered as a Parish Council asset. It was **RESOLVED** to register the old lock up as a parish council asset. Cllr Powell proposed and Cllr Gould seconded. The clerk will speak to solicitors.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to ring fence £7,500 for the Neighbourhood Plan – however we hope to reclaim as much as possible through grants and the neighbourhood plan group with the clerk should work to obtain grants as much as possible so that the money can be reinvested to other grants.

Cllr Powell proposed and Cllr Gould seconded.

## 22/482 Planning Applications

(21/482.01) There was no objection to:

22/00765/HHD – Cotswold Cottage, Peaks Lane, Stonesfield

## 22/483 Questions arising from the Neighbourhood plan update

(21/483.01) Report circulated in advance. 21 volunteers so far, very good meeting. Next meeting for the NP group is on Monday 11th April. NP group will give an update at the Annual Parish Meeting.

## 22/484 SAFER updates

Report circulated in advance. The village is now 20mph. Some residents have not received this well but we feel traffic will slow down in due time.

## 22/484 Parish Matters not already covered

Jubilee – it was **RESOLVED** to approve to cover the costs to frame the drone photo. The photo will be size A3. Councillors need to choose the image. Cllr Gould is happy to arrange the framing.

Footpath that approaches Evenlode Bridge is crumbly – Cllr Wendy Gould has been chased up to get this sorted. This is Highways responsibility.

Pollarding of Willow trees – planned to be done in next month or two, likely June. Top Leaf tree services are carrying out the work quoted previously.

**22/485 Items for information of next Agenda only**

The clerk advised that preparation for the annual audit starts in April.

The clerk advised that the Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> May – Standard Parish Meeting – 6.30pm followed by APM 7pm at St James Centre. It is held later in the month of May due to District & County elections.

**21/486 Date of the next full council meeting**

(21/486/01) The date of the next full council meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> May – Standard Parish Meeting – 6.30pm followed by APM 7pm

*Meeting ends 20.40*