

Stonesfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Stonesfield Primary School on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7pm

Meeting starts at 7pm

Attendees: Cllr Phil McArdell, Cllr Simon Powell, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Simon Warr, Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr Jim O'Brien

Other present: the clerk

23/659 To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr Eleanor Bailey, Cllr Tim Sumner, Cllr Andy Graham

23/660 Declarations of interest: None

23/661 Public Participation: None

23/662 To approve the minutes of the meeting on 4th October 2023. It was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes of the meeting on 4th October 2023.

23/663 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 4th October 2023.

Matter arising:

- Regarding signage in Highways, Cllr Andy Graham took the issue of signage back to Highways as an action. The SAFER group asked that any concerns regarding signage should be taken back via them rather than direct to OCC. The council apologises for the lack of communication. Councillors had a good discussion with the SAFER team. On the basis of the conversation the council needs to review the working group approvals flow chart and seek clarifications on accountability to the parish from OCC. Many councillors were not familiar with the flow chart.
- SAFER has some items that they would like approving in the parish:
It should be noted that the resident's group has objected to this signage in a letter to the parish council.
2 signs in William Buckland way – 1 x children playing sign (as warning) and a 20mph sign.
The parish council have concerns about where liability lies and really OCC should define this. The clerk will check.
- The parish council discussed replacing the post on the corner of Greenfield / Woodstock Road to enable SID placement. The council *RESOLVED* to approve this post replacement. Proposed. Cllr P McArdell, Seconded. Cllr S Powell. There was no concern with this.
- The parish council discussed upgrading white lines around Pond Hill and around the shop area. The parish council *in theory supports* the white line repainting. However, the council wants to check this decision sits with the parish and not OCC so the clerk will check.
- The parish council discussed adding two directional signs to Witney Lane (as leaving the village and coming into the village) stating Local Access Only / Stonesfield all traffic instead of the 'not suitable for vehicles' sign. The parish council has concerns about where liability lies and really OCC should define this. The clerk will check.
- The council asks Cllr Heduan to hold signage communications until we have clarity from OCC to confirm they support as liability sits with OCC as does the cost. The clerk will come back in due course.

23/664 To receive reports from District, Parish, County Councillors and clerks report.

a) **To receive reports from District & County Councillors.**

None

b) **Questions arising from the clerk's report.**

The common. The clerk, Cllr O'Brien, Ollie Stobo and representative from the common group met on the common to discuss the fence. We need to provide some hardcore to shore up the fence and also replace some posts.

Scouts. The steps near the scout hut are damaged. The clerk will speak to the scouts. A resident has reported this.

c) **To receive reports from Parish Councillors.**

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Warr shared the Neighbourhood Plan report and advised that the landscape assessment first draft is due in November. FAQs are now on village website.

Field on Combe Road: towards Combe has been purchased by a local resident. The plan is for it to be left for conservation.

Stonesfield Players storage: The Village Hall are reluctant to store the Stonesfield Players storage on the basis that legally the VH cannot store anything in loft spaces. The clerk will investigate whether insurance is viable from the parish council insurers as this is a commercial building (not a residential building). We will then revert to discuss how we can help with the storage issue.

Local plan (Cllr D Brown) – Cllr Brown has gone through the local plan and put together detail which has been submitted.

Stonesfield dark sky village: It has been noted there are lots of resident lights in the village. We will periodically remind residents, but this is why we have no street lights. The village is in the AONB.

23/665 Financial Matters

a) To receive and acknowledge acceptance of the finance report.

The council **RESOLVED** to approve the finance report circulated by the clerk.

b) To consider and approve the payment list.

The council **RESOLVED** to approve the payment list detailed below: * Confidential relates to PAYE – councillors see these figures.

£confidential	Clerk salary	Clerk
£confidential	HMRC PAYE	HMRC
£confidential	Pension	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund
£200.00	Grass cutting churchyard contribution	Stonesfield pcc church
£43.50	War memorial planting	Stonesfield Gardening Club
£confidential	Clive Parsons PAYE	Clive Parsons
£2.99	Clive Parsons expenses (bin bags)	Clive Parsons

£830.47	west oxfordshire landscaping	West Oxfordshire DC
£462.42	citrix annual fee	Microshade email
£107.25	Venue hire	St James Centre
£42.60	Clerk expenses	Clerk

£50.00	Royal British Legion	Wreath
£20.00	Cllr Simon Powell	Expense – maintenance of planter for council

- c) To receive an update on the banking mandate / additional signatories.
The banking mandate update is still in progress with Barclays Bank.

23/666 Planning Applications To consider all recent planning applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

There were no planning applications.
The council has submitted a response to the local plan.

23/667 Playing Fields Association: To consider whether the council would take on the children's play area from the PFA.

The council has been advised that the football club has offered to pay the playing fields committee 5k per year for use of the MUGA. The council would like to seek clarity on this as this may provide implication to the accounts that have been presented from the Playing Fields Association.

The parish council feels this play area and outdoor gym is a village amenity. This will be deferred to the next meeting while we seek further clarity. It is a large expense to the parish so it does need discussion and planning.

Meeting closes 9.05pm