

Stonesfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Stonesfield Primary School on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7pm

Meeting starts at 7pm

Attendees: Cllr Phil McArdell, Cllr Simon Powell, Cllr Simon Warr, Cllr Jim O'Brien

Cllr Eleanor Bailey joined remotely.

Other present: the clerk

23/668 To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Tim Sumner, Cllr Andy Graham

23/669 Declarations of interest: None

23/670 Public Participation: None

23/671 To approve the minutes of the meeting on 1st November 2023. It was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes of the meeting on 1st November 2023.

23/672 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 1st November 2023.
Matter arising:

- OCC confirmed that they are the decision makers for Highways / traffic within the county (including our parish). The SAFER group should bring any suggestions for the village to the parish council. The parish council should then determine if they would like to put the suggestions to OCC.
- SAFER have provided excellent input for the Neighbourhood plan report which has been well received.
- The parish council would like to continue conversations with the SAFER working group at the next meeting to help map out the strategy for the coming year.

23/673 To receive reports from District, Parish, County Councillors and clerks report.

To receive reports from District & County Councillors.

Cllr Sumner sent a note regarding youth needs assessment:

The 2022 Youth Needs Assessment identified that 75% of young people were worried about Climate Change and 46% of those surveyed felt their voices were not heard.

The District Council is seeking to invite all secondary schools and colleges in the district to nominate 2 or 3 students to attend a youth assembly in the council chamber in 2024. This is to provide an event in the refurbished Council Chamber dedicated to the future of our young people who would tell the council how they would address the climate emergency if they were in charge.

Questions arising from the clerk's report. None

To receive reports from Parish Councillors.

Cllr Powell noted the fly tipping of the slurry at the common. This has been reported to OCC highways team.

Cllr P McArdell – Cllr McArdell and Cllr Warr attended the Stonesfield café. There was a good amount of communication with residents.

Cllr McArdell – General updates needed in the slate; clerk will see if a summary can be added regarding the Botley West.

Cllr McArdell – steps at Scout hut have been repaired, thanks to the scouts.

The council would like to support another session again. Cllr McArdell will reach out to Susan Rudlin to thank her for allowing us to join the café and will arrange for a future attendance. The council would like to attend 4 community events a year to try and engage with residents.

Cllr Warr – neighbourhood plan – draft plan expected around June / July 2024, consultation to follow afterwards.

23/674 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	Clerk salary DEC	Clerk
£confidential	Back pay due to NALC rise	Clerk
£confidential	Pension dec	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund
£confidential	Back pay due to NALC rise	Clive Parsons
£confidential	Clive Parsons PAYE	Clive Parsons
£confidential	HMRC PAYE Dec	HMRC
£410.00	Common maintenance	Henry cox maintenance and fencing **
£187.63	Grass cutting and grounds maintenance	Ubico
£360.00	Venue hire	Stonesfield Primary School
£309.00	SAFER equipment	Cllr Mick Heduan
£412.80	SAFER equipment	Morelock
£confidential	Clerk salary Jan	Clerk
£confidential	Pension Jan	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund
£confidential	HMRC PAYE Jan	HMRC
£39.20	Clerk expenses, home office etc	Clerk

£confidential relates to PAYE figures – the councillors have visibility of these.

January payments are standing order payments to be paid 2nd January 2024. The budget has already been approved.

c) To receive an update on the banking mandate / additional signatories.

The banking mandate update is still in progress with Barclays Bank.

a) To consider and approve the budget for SAFER working group for 2023/24 financial year. SAFER has requested £2,000. Councillors discussed this and based on current expenditure determined £1,000 would be sufficient. Cllr McArdell will discuss this with the SAFER team.

- b) To consider and approve salary scales for employed staff. Due to NALC implementing national rises annually councillors RESOLVED to approve keeping the employees on scales SCP 33 and SCP 10. Budget reflects expected back pay and national annual increase which is anticipated in November 2024.
- c) To consider and approve the precept % for 2023/24 financial year. Councillors resolved to approve the precept at a % of 5% and increased amount of precept to £39,522.
- d) To consider and approve the proposed budget for 2023/24 at a budget of £41,782.
- e) To consider and approve a grant request for the Scouts. £1500 is RESOLVED to be approved. Proposed Cllr McArdell, Seconded Cllr Powell.
- f) The council resolved to approve a quote for common works to excavate the shallow channel to help remove excess water away from the gate. Sum of £425 + VAT. This will be booked in.

23/675 Planning Applications To consider all recent planning applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

23/02845 Erection of a single storey detached outbuilding
Mr and Mrs David Weston, 4 The Cottages, Churchfields, Stonesfield
The council had no comment on this application.

23/676 Playing Fields Association: To consider whether the council would take on the children's play area from the PFA.

The council would like to continue to explore this option further.

23/677 Items for information or next agenda only

Residents are asking for another dog bin by the barns, as you go to Stockey Woods by Witney Lane. The clerk will speak to the bin person at WODC to ascertain costs.

23/678 Date of next council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 10th January 2024

Meeting closes 9.10pm