

Stonesfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Stonesfield Primary School on Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 7pm

Meeting starts at 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Phi McArdell

Attendees: Cllr Simon Powell, Cllr P McArdell (Chair), Cllr David Brown (Vice Chair), Cllr Simon Warr, Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr Jim O'Brien, Cllr Mick Heduan, Cllr Tim Sumner, Cllr Andy Graham

Other present: the clerk and 15 members of public including representatives from SCT and Mr Soames.

24/701 To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr Eleanor Bailey

24/702 Declarations of interest: Cllr McArdell declared that he is a trustee of the Stonesfield Community Trust. 4 councillors declared an interest in the community pub as they are shareholders.

24/703 Public Participation:

Graham Soames planning inspector has produced a concept plan for the proposed Manor Farm Development. An open exhibition is planned for the proposed development to gain some feedback from the village, this exhibition is likely to be in the next few weeks. It is recommended that a notice should be posted in the Stonesfield slate to let residents know when that is. This is not a Parish Council initiative for note.

24/704 To approve the minutes of the meeting on 7th February 2024. It was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes of the meeting on 7th February 2024.

24/705 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 7th February 2024.

Matter arising:

We can confirm that we do not have an actual planning application from Manor Road, Combe Road proposed development at this stage.

24/706 To receive reports from District, Parish, County Councillors and clerks report.

To receive reports from District & County Councillors.

Cllr Graham – S7 service to Woodstock has been restricted. Residents are reminded to use the bus service S3 which serves the village so that this service is maintained.

Cllr Graham – White Horse Community Pub support is still there from him, informal discussions are continuing to see what is possible in terms of helping support the pub with grants.

Cllr Graham - There have been some Highways issues, the new sign at Witney Lane has been scheduled. It was noted by the clerk and Cllr Heduan that there are some further highways issues that have been shared to OCC Highways because the legal responsibility for the issues sits with them. Issues should also be reported on fixmystreet.

Cllr Sumner looking after state maintenance of sport facilities and swimming pools in the district. Woodstock Pool will be open from last week May through to September.

Cllr Heduan – Within the next month SAFER will be implementing community speedwatch again in the village.

Cllr Heduan – trying to influence what happens at County level with regards to traffic etc, Cllr

Heduan has had meetings with Andrew Gant in OCC about road safety and other road issues.

Cllr Brown – meeting of NP working group / members of Stonesfield Community Trust. Potential rural exception sites were identified by the group. Meetings have since been held with Cottsway following that meeting. A subgroup has been formed with NP steering group and SCT to look at potential viability for building in the future. It is reiterated that the NP is not a decision-making committee, and all items should come through the Parish Council for decision making including anything which has financial implication.

Cllr Brown raised that he felt people were being obstructive in the council and that he had asked for additional items on the agenda which were not included. The clerk confirmed that the agenda had gone out for people to confirm if they wished to add anything before publishing and it had been through the Chair.

24/707 To consider the Neighbourhood Plan working group recommendation regarding the proposed Manor Field development proposal and ask questions to the group for any clarifications.

The Chairman thanked the NP working group for their recommendations.

Cllr Brown felt we need the plan approved in part as it moves forward. These documents will be shown to councillors as they become available. Each document will be presented to council as they are ready. Councillors have been asked to discuss the housing needs assessment (policies which are in draft).

At the point of planning application (if there is one) the parish council would use these NP recommendations to help form a view on how to respond (this informed decision would come from SCT, exhibition feedback as well as member of public comments to help form a picture). The NP recommendation includes Homeseeker plus data provided by District Council.

There was discussion on whether there is a need for housing in the area as there is conflicting evidence coming from NP / SCT and Mr Soames.

The council has invited the SCT / Mr Soames to provide any supporting information that the council can review on housing need as this would be useful.

24/708 To consider and discuss transfer of the playground and outdoor gym to parish council control.

Cllr David Brown raised the plight of the playing fields that they are finding it hard to raise the funds for the maintenance of the playing fields.

The Playing Fields Association have asked if the parish council can take over the children's playground and the outdoor gym.

Cllr Sumner may be able to support with advice for grants and funding from District level.

Cllr Warr raised that we need formal proposal with detail of cost and liabilities before we can consider it. The clerk reminded councillors that they need to do financial planning and have due diligence because the precept may have to be increased to support this. The clerk will ask the playing fields association if they can provide a report detailing costs and projected costs.

24/709 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 figures – the councillors have visibility of these.
The budget has already been approved.*

£confidential	Pension – 1 April	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund
£41.20	Clerk office expenses	Clerk
£confidential	HMRC – 1 Apr	Hmrc paye
£confidential	Clerk Salary – April 1	Clerk salary
£3,720	WH Landscape	Neighbourhood plan – landscape character assessment – to be taken from NP grant pot
£359.53	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils	Annual subscription
£1,044.58	West Oxfordshire District Council	Bin emptying – Oct 2023 to end March 24 – inv 33556821

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

d) To consider grant requests submitted to the council in advance of the meeting.
The White Horse Community Pub submitted a grant request. Councillors would need to request dispensation before giving any grant to this group and as a majority of councillors are shareholders clarification needs to be sought from the monitoring officer to confirm if councillors can consider a grant to the pub group as shareholders. The clerk will seek advice.

24/710 Planning Applications To consider all recent planning applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

24/00356/HHD 5 William Buckland Way, erection of pergola
There is no comment or objection on this application.

We can confirm that we do not have an actual planning application from Manor Road, Combe Road proposed development at this stage.

24/710 Parish Matters

To discuss and consider the Log at the common. The parish council in the past replaced the log on the common and permitted a plaque to be positioned on the log. One member of the public has raised concern. Three members of public wrote to the parish clerk in support of keeping the existing 3 x plaques on the log. The council agreed that the area should not be made into a shrine.

Councillor RESOLVED that the log can remain as is but there are to be no further plaques on the log. Proposed Cllr Jim O'Brien, Seconded Cllr Phil McArdell.

To discuss and consider replacement of the Megalosaurus display board at the village. Trisha Williams attended the meeting with Viv Kendall to discuss replacement of the board. The original board was installed approx. 20 years ago. The council is generally in support of

this board replacement and asks the group to share costs and further detail back to the parish when they have it.

The school could potentially be interested in working on this. Proposed David Brown, Seconded Mick Heduan.

24/711 Items for information or next agenda only

Additional Neighbourhood plan Councillor representative to be appointed at the next meeting.

24/712 Date of next council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 3rd April 2024 – 7pm Stonesfield Primary School

Meeting closes 9.15pm