

Stonesfield Parish Council

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

Meeting starts at 7pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr David Brown

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

Other present: the clerk and 66 members of public

24/691 To receive and accept apologies for absence: Cllr Andy Graham, Cllr Phil McArdell, Cllr Eleanor Bailey

24/692 Declarations of interest: None

24/693 Public Participation:

Mark Hatton of SCT demanded a parish poll with 14 members of public supporting this. This is a result of matters arising from the last meeting regarding the suggested proposed Combe Road development (for which there is currently no planning application). The clerk will revert this information back to WODC as to whether this can proceed from this meeting. A member of public raised concern that this vote should not happen and cited some legislation stating the council / people who enacted it could be legally responsible in the High Court should it proceed.

Note added post meeting after clarification sought: There has been much discussion with WODC who have been extremely pro-active in supporting the council with getting to where we need to be with clarifications regarding a parish poll demand in the meeting on 7 February 2024. As advised at the meeting we needed to check further with WODC whether the request for the poll last night could be upheld. It has now been confirmed that it cannot be upheld from this particular parish council meeting. The council minutes will state that following checks with WODC the poll demand is noted but not granted at this particular meeting.

Graham Soames shared an updated on his planned proposal for the Combe Road Development as a matter arising from the last meeting.

A member of public raised objection on the planned proposal for Combe Road and addressed members of the public.

Cllr David Brown responded to ask Graham Soames for further housing analysis, statistical information.

24/694 To approve the minutes of the meeting on 10th January 2024. It was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes of the meeting on 10th January 2024.

24/695 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 10th January 2024.

Matter arising:

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

24/696 To receive reports from District, Parish, County Councillors and clerks report.

To receive reports from District & County Councillors.

Cllr Sumner (DC) – CFO has funds available for councils at this stage with links to affordable housing. Cllr Sumner will share this information with the clerk.

Looking at green heating solutions for leisure centres.

Improving West Oxfordshire pitch facilities – looking at putting in an all-weather pitch in the District.

District Council – council chambers renovation has been completed. This can be used as a community asset.

Local nature recovery scheme workshops being held, Cllr Sumner to share information regarding this with the clerk.

Cllr S Powell / Cllr S Warr – Neighbourhood planning group. The clerk will apply for further grants for the NP group. It is noted the view of the NP group is different to that of the Stonesfield Community Trust.

Questions arising from the clerk's report.

SAFER report shared with us – this will be placed on the website. In this report it shared information that there is an opportunity to create safer cycle routes on the back of the Botley West solar farm. The council would like to discuss this another time.

Children's play area remains an open discussion for the council and is ongoing.

Stonesfield Bus report. The council supports the bus and sees it as a requirement for the village. The council asked Cllr Sumner to seek more information on whether the bus service (S3) through Stonesfield will receive further funding.

24/697 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.

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

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

24/698 Planning Applications To consider all recent planning applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council.

There were no applications received.

24/699 Parish Matters

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. Councillors will decide on what to do with the plaques at the next meeting.

24/700 Items for information or next agenda only

Combe Road – potential planning application.

24/701 Date of next council meeting

The date of the next meeting is 6th March 2024

Meeting closes 8.30pm

Additional notes to support these minutes – relevant to public participation.

In all parishes extraordinary parish meetings can be convened throughout the year, **by the parish chairman, by two parish councillors or, importantly for the calling of parish polls, by six or more local (Stonesfield) government electors.** This will be a different meeting than our Parish Council meeting. Although the naming is similar, a Parish Council meeting and a Parish meeting are different. We will share details on the website soon to explain the differences.

To clarify as there seems to be some confusion– **What is a parish poll?**

A parish poll is a democratic tool which allows for a ballot of local government electors in the parish (Stonesfield) to be called on any question arising at a parish meeting. Although non-binding, meaning that the results of the poll do not have to be followed, they provide an indication of support for, or opposition to, specific parish matters which helps to guide parish council decision-making.

Summarised below are the highlights of the next steps and below some brief detail:

- In all parishes extraordinary parish meetings can be convened throughout the year, **by the parish chairman, by two parish councillors or, importantly for the calling of parish polls, by six or more local government electors.** This will be a different meeting than our Parish Council meetings.
- Not less than seven clear days, before a parish meeting, public notice of the meeting shall be given (*this is very different to a regular parish council meeting which is 3 days*), specifying the time and place of the intended meeting and the business to be transacted at the meeting, and signed by the person or persons convening the meeting.
- The meeting must not begin before 6pm.
This meeting is an opportunity for parishioners to question people and organisations on any issues relating to the village. As the Parish Meeting is not a parish council meeting it is not conducted in the same way or governed by the same rules as a parish council meeting. Members of the public are permitted to make statements on relevant matters during the meeting. Any resolutions passed do not bind the Parish Council.
- At the Parish Meeting the poll can be demanded (we **DO NOT** need advance notice of this). More than one question can be requested.
 - (a) With the consent of the person presiding at the meeting or
 - (b) At the request of either 10 electors or one third of electors present and voting **whichever is less**
- The **request for a Poll cannot be subject to a vote at the meeting.** It is only the wording of the question that can be voted upon.