

## STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at Stonesfield Primary School on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm

*Meeting starts at 7pm*

**Attendees:** Cllr Ursula Rice (Chair), Cllr Claire Renshaw (Vice Chair), Cllr Simon Powell, Cllr Simon Warr, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Jessica Huband, Cllr Laura Bate, Cllr Philippa Lowe.

**Other present:** The Clerk, CCllr Andy Graham (OCC), DCllr Tim Sumners (WODC) and 5 members of the public

**24/838: Public Participation:** None

**24/839: To receive and accept apologies for absence:** DCllr Genny Early (WODC), were accepted.

**24/840: Declarations of interest:** Cllr Claire Renshaw and Cllr Laura Bate as they are Village Hall Committee Members. Note: There is no item on the agenda relating to this. Cllr Simon Warr is a Governor at the Primary School. There is no item on the agenda relating to this.

**24/841: To approve the minutes of the meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.** It was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes.

**Proposer :** Cllr Ursula Rice **Seconder :** Cllr Phillipa Lowe – all in favour.

**24/842: Actions Register:** Was noted with no further questions.

**24/843: To consider and receive reports from District Councillors:** DCllr Tim Sumner updated the following:

- Leisure portfolio: all leisure centres within West Oxfordshire are being invited to focus on health, welfare and inclusivity.
- Attended meeting chaired by CCllr Andy Graham, focusing on low-income families and individuals and the help that can be given to them. He urged everyone to share the information with anyone who needs help, or it is not clear on what they can claim to contact the phone number on benefits section of WODC website, all about getting help to people.
- Cllr Jess Huband asked why Woodstock pool cold swimming had stopped, DCllr advised that April is reopening date.

**24/844: To consider and receive reports from the County Councillor:** CCllr Andy Graham updated the following:

- Devolution – the elections are going ahead in May, the government is asking for bids for Mayoral combined authorities, it is likely that Oxfordshire and Berkshire will merge. All leaders across the two areas will have to agree to the same principles. Local Government Reform will follow, options of unitary authorities are undecided, West Oxfordshire looking at working potentially with Cherwell as they are our neighbouring authority. However, this does not reach the upper of scale limit of 500,000, CDC and WODC only reach approx. 300,000.
  - Issues regarding the school, meeting with James Wright of OCC and school representative David Lydiatt next week to see what can be done and improved.

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- Callum Miller (MP) and Cllr Andy Graham are working on the Woodstock Surgery, with the doctors and ICB. They are working on a new footprint for the surgery, so all agree before it goes ahead. This will be available in March 2025; with the outcome going to a meeting of WODC / OCC / MP & Blenheim estates and doctors for next steps. Happening within the next 3 years.

#### 24/845: To consider and receive reports from Parish Councillors.

- i. **Recruitment of New Clerk:** Cllr Claire Renshaw confirmed interviews are taking place before the end of Feb.

#### 24/846: To receive reports from Stonesfield PC working groups:

- i. **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:** the following items were discussed:

- a. Update on Section 11, Building Design Guidelines:

Cllr Jess Huband has an action to put the document in Dropbox – remind Councillor's to look at these design guidelines and comment if necessary.

- b. Minutes/feedback from NPSG meetings on 20/01/25 and 27/01/25

Most word changes suggested by Parish Councillors were addressed, incorporated or explained. It was agreed that moving forwards, a viable plan is needed to capture aspirational ideas, fed back via the Reg 14 consultation, that cannot be included in the plan, as they are not relative to planning.

Richard Morris put forward the possibility of having a conclusion at end of plan which essentially states, you have read the plan and seen the policies, you may wonder why some of the things you have commented on are not in the plan, they are not there because they are not a planning issue. The establish a community action group to pick up on the aspirations that do not appear the plan. Pop this in the executive summary/ forward.

- c. Discussion/approval of Draft for progression to Regulation 14 consultation:

All feedback was responded to by Cllr Philipa Lowe.

Cllr David Brown proposed the approval of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, Seconded by Cllr Simon Warr - all in favour.

Regulation 14 start date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March, min 6 weeks, closing 4pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May. There will be two in person drop in exhibitions, first opening day of the 15<sup>th</sup> March in the village hall, the second at the St James Centre 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 2pm

- d. Reg 14 timeframe and practicalities (promotion of, exhibitions, feedback mechanisms, who is doing what?)

Village Hall is booked for 15<sup>th</sup> March 10-4pm, exhibition with display panels. Centre spread in colour for the Slate for March 2025, 4 page leaflets to be dropped on

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website and social media, cost coming in at approx. £1500, plus officer time and hall hire.

The feedback form can be completed by hand or online, the form was approved in principle subject to a few agreed amendments: Proposer Cllr Ursula Rice, Seconded Cllr David Brown.

It was agreed that Survey Monkey would be used to facilitate the online forms. Proposer Cllr Ursula Rice, Seconded Cllr Claire Renshaw.

It was agreed that the allocation of tasks would be delegated within the steering group, and representatives of the Parish Council. Proposed costs and additional hours for printing, postage and administration support, if necessary were approved, and that the Clerk, should be the main point of contact.

Proposer Cllr Ursula Rice, Seconded Cllr David Brown – all in favour.

e. Reg 14 consultation with six statutory consultees and informing our neighbouring Parish Councils

It was agreed that the Clerk will send the consultation letter to the Statutory Consultees. Along with any additional consultees, agreed by the Pc and Steering Group

A brief discussion regarding Reg 15 followed: The Draft Plan is submitted to WODC, an Environmental Impact Assessment and Consultation Statement must be included in this. Clarification is needed on who is responsible for doing the impact assessments, WODC or the PC?

f. Local Green Spaces:

The Clerk is to log who was written to, who has responded, what was their responses.

The Members thanked the Steering Group.

ii. **SAFER:** circulated the following update:

**1. Drains on Laughton Hill**

CCllr Andy Graham confirmed that some more drain descaling works will take place on 23/24 April 2025. It is SAFER's understanding that Paul Wilson, Highways Operations Manager hopes this will cure the longstanding 'water overflow' problem.

**2. Repainting white lines outside shop**

Highways have finally identified this as part of 'Scheme Ref - 1716568' for resurfacing the road outside the shop. The person who 'commissioned it' has now retired. Gordon Kelman, Senior Officer (Highway Schemes) has now passed it to the retiree's successor so hopefully he will get round to finishing it off by repainting the lines.

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#### 3. Pedestrian walkway on Pond Hill

James Wright of Highways confirmed 'I am hoping to be able to look into having the road resurfaced from Peaks to St James Close so we can put down some coloured or textured surfacing on Pond Hill to denote a footpath. BUT early days yet and don't want to get your hopes up too much'

4. **Mirror at Laughton Road:** it was agreed to ask James Wright of OCC Highways to confirm province of the mirror, before taking any action.

#### 24/847: To consider matters of finance and policies.

- i. **Ratification of Payments** – all are paid via bank transfer: The council *RESOLVED* to approve the payments. Proposer: Cllr Ursula Rice, Seconder: Cllr Claire Renshaw

Gross Amount (£)	VAT Value (£)	Payee	Details	Power
1350.00		Locum Clerk & RFO	Jan 2025	LGA 1972 S112
1231.20	205.20	Ubico Ltd	Field Close Hedge Works	Open Spaces Act
24.00	4.00	Vision ICT	2 new Cllr Email accounts	LGA 1972 S112
146.06		C Parsons	Village Maintenance	LGA 1972 S111
1,125.00		Stonesfield Scouts	Grant for hut	LGA 1972 S137

- ii. **Discuss and approve the increase in Scouts Grant request:** It was AGREED to extend the Scouts grant with the remaining budget of the community grants of £1,125. A vote was taken with all 8 Councillors voting in support of approving the £1,125.00.

#### 24/848: Items for the next agenda:

- Mirror at Laughton Road – March agenda
- ACV Shop – postpone to April agenda
- Biodiversity policy – postpone to March agenda
- Defib training – postpone to April agenda
- Lease for library at Village Hall – March agenda

**24/849: Date of the next Full Council Meeting:** 5th March 2025 at 7pm (Stonesfield Primary School)

Meeting closes 8:46pm