



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2013 AT 7PM  
IN THE HUNT ROOM OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

**Present:** Mr N Ferguson (Chair), Mr J Hill (JCGH), Mr J Honsinger (JRH), Mr J Ormerod (JMO),

**In attendance:** Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

**Apologies:** Mrs H Smithers (HCS)

**Public Participation:** Mr Paul Fitzgerald and Mr Richard Howson (until 7.40pm)

**1. Apologies for absence**

The Councillors accepted Mrs Smithers' apologies.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Public participation**

Nothing was raised, but Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Howson participated in the discussion about verge cutting and weed spraying.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2013**

It was **RESOLVED** that these be accepted as a true copy and were signed by NF as a true record of proceedings.

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

**a. Walk around the Village**

The Clerk has contacted the owner of the bulging wall on the Stoke Lyne Road and it is now being dealt with. However, it has been noted that a number of other walls were deteriorating. It was **RESOLVED** that when these are noted that the owners would be informed.

**b. Tidy-up Day**

The Councillors thanked the people who came to help with the tidy-up day on Saturday 1 June and also noted that a number of villagers had been out doing things afterwards. The quad bike and trailer were extremely helpful.

The Clerk now has a comprehensive list of things which need doing which she will transcribe and circulate.

It was suggested that a task force be set up with CLP involvement.

**c. Repair of door by noticeboard**

The door would be re-made and painted shortly.

**6. Report from District and County Councillors**

No Councillors attended the meeting,

**7. Finance**

**a. To receive the financial report**

The audit has been completed and sent to the external auditors, BDO. The cheque for the Insurance has been posted and the paperwork has been received. The Clerk has completed the New Homes Bonus questionnaire and hopes to receive the money shortly.

The Clerk has registered with HMRC for the RTI (Real Time Information) scheme and has logged the first payment.

The accounts stand at:

Barclays Account	£4,888.40
Co-op Current Account	£4,010.12
Co-op Savings Account	£2,986.42

There are no outstanding cheques.

The Parish Council is very grateful for the £380 from the 100 Club. The Grass Cutting Grant (of £1,252.92) has been received and posted to the bank, but it is not yet on the bank statement. The account has received £0.74 interest in the last two months.

As all the cheques have now cleared the Barclay's Account, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to close the Barclay's account with a cheque for £4,888.40 to pay into the new Co-op Account.

**b. To consider invoices for payment**

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to JMO and the Clerk attending the OALC Effective Responses to Planning Course on 10 July.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments.

<b>Payment to:</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clive Morton for internal audit	500006	£150.00
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (9 May – 8 June)	500007	£148.11
JMC Olds for general expenses	500008	£68.76
OALC for Planning Course for JMO and Clerk	500009	£84.00
Stratton Audley Parish Council from Barclays Account	100802	£4,888.40

**8. Verge Cutting and Weed Spraying**

This discussion took place at the beginning of the meeting so as not to detain Mr Howson any longer than necessary.

The Councillors invited Mr Fitzgerald and Mr Howson to the meeting to discuss the areas of the village which were currently mown, strimmed and sprayed so that the Council could formalise the arrangements in due course.

Maps were annotated to record the areas.

Mr Howson confirmed that he has all the relevant qualifications for weed spraying and that he logs all uses of the sprayer. He has Public Liability Insurance cover for £10 million. He sprays all the adopted, Council managed, areas within the curtilage of the village, but does not do the footpaths on farm land (as they are the farmers' responsibility), unadopted roads or around areas where water courses or drains are. He usually works on a five to six week cycle and picks days where there is no wind and works early in the morning to avoid the public.

Mr Fitzgerald explained that he mowed and strimmed once a month or sometimes, every three to four weeks, depending on the weather and how much the grass has grown. The problem of brushwood, particularly Elder, around the Playground was discussed. JRH has cut back the Elder outside the playground.

Mr Fitzgerald commented on the hazards involved in maintaining the verges, such as running over discarded bottles and one occasion, syringes and needles. The Councillors asked where OCC's and CDC's responsibilities commenced; Mr Fitzgerald was able to provide the name of a local contractor who may be responsible for cutting the verges outside the curtilage of the village.

He explained that it was not possible for him to mow the verges on Mill Road because it needs a 'hedge cutter' type on the back of a tractor. Unfortunately, the farmer who used to do this, is no longer able to so the Council will need to find another contractor. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to find an alternative contractor.

Mr Fitzgerald also mentioned that Continental Landscapes maintain a piece of land by Glen Close. The Councillors asked the Clerk to find out why.

The Council thanked Mr Howson and Mr Fitzgerald for their hard work. Mr Howson then left the meeting.

## 9. Community Led Plan

The Clerk has invited the eleven volunteers to the next meeting on Tuesday 18 June at 7.30pm and will send the Councillors the names of these volunteers for information. JCGH will draw up an agenda and facilitate the meeting.

Regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to continue with the possibility of a plan which may be able to be run concurrently with the Community Led Plan.

## 10. Speed Check

JMO guided the Councillors through the speed check figures. The figures were originally submitted by OCC with hourly and daily figures but JMO had assimilated them into a more simple form with the totals over the week.

There were four check points: on the Bicester Road outside Rigdgen House; the Stoke Lyne Road outside Glen Close away from the bus stop; Mill Road on the telegraph pole by Elm Farm entrance; and on the Launton Road on the telegraph pole by the white gates.

The striking thing about the figures was that Mill Road had the worst offenders using it with more than 74% of drivers travelling out of the village at more than 36mph (the speed where an offender would be issued with a fixed penalty notice of three points and £60 fine) and 22% of users were travelling at more than 46mph which would have meant a court appearance had they been caught.

The Councillors discussed how to move forward on the issue at length. They **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to investigate temporary speed sensitive signs - whether it is possible to hire them and their efficacy - and discussing the issue with the Police as to whether it would be possible to have a project with the children in the village to encourage the road users to slow down.

#### **11. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising**

##### **a. Village Bike Ride**

JCGH had been approached about a village bike ride. After a discussion, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to wait until the CLP project had started and to involve the CLP volunteers.

##### **b. Communication and Website**

This would be discussed at the next meeting

##### **c. Community Oil Purchase**

JRH asked about a Community Oil Purchase. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to consult with the CLP group in due course.

##### **d. Broadband Champion**

The Councillors thanked John Iball for volunteering.

##### **e. Jazz Concert in Church**

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask NF to start discussions with the Rector, to obtain a date for the concert.

#### **12. Planning Applications - to note recent Applications and Notices of Decision**

The Councillors considered the following application:

- a. 13/00779/HED, Dr Henri Papenfus, The Green, Mill Road, Removal of hedgerow and had no objections

The Councillors noted that the following Notices of Decision had been granted

- b. 13/00111/TCA, Mr Roland Rawicz, The Old Rectory, Launton Road, T1 x Cypress - Fell; T2 x Thuja - Fell; T3 T4 x Thuja - Fell; T5 x Walnut - Crown raise to just above guttering level; T6 x Acacia - Remove lower limb overhanging drive; T7 T8 T9 x Horse Chestnut Trees - Crown raise to 4m over driveway
- c. 13/0458/F and 13/00459/LB, Mr Graham Fish, The Plough House, Mill Road. Replacement of single storey sun room with oak framed structure, single storey rear extension, internal alterations and new wood pellet boiler and flue

**13. Correspondence received**

The Councillors noted the correspondence received.

- a. **OALC AGM** on 1 July; no one was able to attend
- b. **OALC Courses** – Planning (10 July) and Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Data Transparency (24 September). NF expressed an interest in the Data Protection course.
- c. **OALC Members Update** (circulated by email). The Clerk has pre-ordered the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *Local Council Administration* by Charles Arnold-Baker as mentioned in the update.
- d. **Parishes Liaison Meeting** at CDC on 12 June. The Clerk hoped to attend.
- e. **Sam West, Neighbourhood Policing Administrator** who had asked for the dates of future meetings which the Clerk had supplied.
- f. **Dominic White, Bicester Heritage** – arranging a tour date of Tuesday 9 July at 6pm.
- g. **OCC Highways** – regarding the surface dressing of the A4421 at the Stratton Audley Turn in the week beginning 23 June.
- h. **CDC** – regarding the confirmation of the registration of the area for a Neighbourhood Plan

**14. Reports from meetings**

No meetings had been attended

**15. Any other business** – for information or next Agenda only

**16. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 9 July 2013 at 7.30pm after the tour of the Bicester Heritage site which will start at 6pm. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that there would not be a meeting in August.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed .....

Dated .....