



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015 AT 7.00PM
IN THE HUNT ROOM OF THE RED LION, STRATTON AUDLEY**

Present: Mr N Ferguson (outgoing Chairman), Mr A Flack, Mr J Honsinger (Chairman), Mrs L Korsak

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

Public Participation: Five members of the public (three of whom left at 7.10pm, one left at 8pm)

At the beginning of the meeting a member of the public declared that the meeting was 'moribund' because one Councillor had resigned. The Clerk explained that in order for the meeting to be quorate three Councillors needed to be present and as there were four, the meeting could proceed. The Clerk also stated that the first item of business had to be the election of the Chairman as stated on the agenda and nothing further could be discussed until the Chairman had been elected. The member of the public was repeatedly vocal and was asked to leave his comments until the appropriate time at Public Participation. The member of the public declined and chose to leave. Two other members of the public left at the same time.

1. To elect the Chairman for the year 2015/16

Mr Ferguson announced that he had decided not to stand as Chairman for a further year. Mr John Honsinger was prepared to stand and the Councillors **RESOLVED** to elect him as Chairman. Mr Ferguson chose to abstain from the election.

2. Resignation of Mrs Smithers

The Councillors noted the resignation of Mrs Smithers and thanked her for her valued contribution to the work of the Parish Council over the last three years.

3. Resignation of the Clerk

Mr Ferguson informed the meeting that he had received a letter from the Clerk that morning informing him of her decision to resign as Clerk.

The meeting thanked the Clerk for all her hard work.

The meeting was reminded that in considering a replacement, it would be advisable to appoint a professional Clerk who had experience of local government work as the recent increase in legislation and duties were far more onerous than previously.

4. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

5. To elect the Vice Chairman for the year 2015/16

The Councillors proposed and elected Mr Anthony Flack as Vice Chairman. Mr Ferguson chose to abstain from the election.

6. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer for the year 2015/16

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs Jane Olds, Parish Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer.

8. Appointment of Internal Auditor for the year 2015/16

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to appoint Mr Clive Morton as Internal Auditor.

9. Public participation

Following the departure of three members of the public at the beginning of the meeting, two remained but had no comments to make. One departed at 8pm.

10. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 April 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

11. Update on progress from the Minutes

a. Litter pick

The Clerk reported that CDC had done the litter pick up the Bicester Road and collected the bags in the quarry entrance.

b. Dog bags

The Clerk reported that the dog bags had arrived and had been collected.

c. Footpath beyond West Cottages

The Clerk had logged the narrow footpath on Fix My Street.

12. Report from District and County Councillors

No reports had been received, but Cllr Fulljames sent her apologies.

13. Finance

a. To receive the financial report for the year end – for information

As at 28 April the Accounts stood at	
Current Account	£1,521.75
Savings Account	£19,725.87

There was one outstanding cheque of £50.

The Current Account had received £640.52 in income from the OCC Grass Cutting Grant.

The Savings Account had received the Precept of £3,648.00 and the CTRS Grant of £192.31, the VAT Reclaim of £509.89 and interest of £7.37.

The Bank had sent a letter about interest on the Current Account. With effect from 25 June 2015, the current account will no longer receive interest unless the minimum balance is over £25,000. The Savings Account will still accrue interest. However, the letter also gave information about their ‘Customer Donation Fund’ where applicants can make a request for a donation ranging from £500 to £1,000 which might be helpful for the playground project.

The Clerk reported that the Accounts were currently with the internal auditor.

b. To consider the Insurance Renewal

The Clerk had received the insurance renewal and it was all in order. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the renewal at £395.82 (a slight reduction on the previous year’s £404.52).

c. To consider invoices for payment

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

Cheque no:	Payee and reason	Budget	Amount
500111	The Red Lion for April Meeting (as agreed in March 2015 Minutes reference 8.)	Room Hire	£20.00
500112	Broker Network Ltd for the Insurance Renewal	Insurance	£395.82
500113	Mike Gore for Marquee relocation (invoice no: MGH14150123)	Community Led Plan Expenses	£30.00
500113	Mike Gore for interim mow / strim (invoice no: MGH14150123)	Grass Cutting	£45.00
500113	Mike Gore for Playground Maintenance (invoice no: MGH15160016)	Playground Maintenance	£30.00
500113	Mike Gore for Village mowing / strimming (invoice no: MGH15160016)	Grass Cutting	£150.00

The standing order to pay the Clerk from 9 March – 8 April £152.88 was debited from the current account on 9 April.

14. Village Website

The Clerk reported that the work is progressing and that the images which the designer has now received are being imported into the site. The Clerk would populate the Parish Council section of the site with all the documents which are required to be made public. The final colours would be agreed at the next meeting.

15. CDC Parish Remuneration Committee

The Councillors considered the report and **RESOLVED** not to accept the Chairman's remuneration but to agree to the mileage allowances and the carers allowance should it be required.

16. Community Led Plan

a. To receive an update

The CLP had considered further the event on 6 September and decided that a beer festival in conjunction with the Red Lion in the centre of the village would be more successful. The church would be used as a parish room following the morning service. Further investigation would need to be made as to the types of side stalls and additional food stands which could be available.

The CLP in conjunction with the Church have considered a major event on Sunday 6th September 2015 and decided the format of the event will be food driven with the support of a Beer Festival courtesy of the Red Lion and be held in Church Street.

The Church will become the Village Hall after morning service and the event will offer lunch in a marquee and be accompanied by musical entertainment, side stalls and an array of entertainment for the children to support the event.

The CLP organisers would contact the owners of West Farm to update them following the previous discussion about an event at the farm.

The Village Picnic would be taking place on 19 July and would be run on the same lines as the previous year. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the marquee would be needed and that it would require a number of people to help with erection. The insurance company would also need to be notified of the date.

A number of people had expressed an interest in helping the CLP during the questionnaire process and it is hoped that these people would be able to help with the future events.

The Georgian Vintage Tea party was suggested for 11 October, the children's Halloween party on 31 October and the children's Christmas Party on either 18 or 19 December (the dates may change) were also in the diary.

Mr Honsinger presented the meeting with a printout of his suggested half hour presentation on the initial results of the Questionnaire for the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 May. Mr Ferguson reminded the meeting that it was important not to get the Parish Council and the Community Led Plan group too intertwined as it can cause confusion; they should, therefore, be kept as separate as possible and as recommended by ORCC only two Councillors should be on the CLP Committee.

17. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Playground - to discuss progress on the Playground

The Clerk reported that she was still waiting to hear from CDC about whether planning permission was required.

The Clerk had applied to the Jewsons 'Building Better Communities' Project for funding, but had not been successful in the application. The projects which had been put to the vote in the area were much larger projects in generally more deprived areas.

The Clerk had managed to speak to a BT employee about the access to the Playground and hoped to be able to meet them shortly to discuss the project. The access arrangements were of primary importance for the project.

b. Playground Inspector

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the appointment of Mr John Hicks as Playground Inspector. The cost of the inspection will be £57 plus VAT.

c. Village Tidy-up Day – Saturday 9 May 10am

The Clerk had circulated the tidy-up day task list. The tasks would be arranged on the day when the number of people helping was known. Mr Ferguson has the equipment.

The CLP would be asked to send round an email asking for help.

18. Planning Applications

a. To consider all recent applications received from Cherwell District Council or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting including:

- i. 15/00562/F from Stratton Audley Estates for the 'Demolition of existing single storey dwelling and outbuildings and erection of replacement single storey 3 bed dwelling' at The Bothy, Stratton Audley Park
- ii. 15/00117/TCA from Mr Andrew Goble for T1 x Pine – Remove lowest large branch with girth at stem +30cm growing away from main stem, remove second lowest branch growing towards house with dog leg growth and remove large secondary leader +30cm girth at top of crown at 8 Cavendish Place

The Councillors considered both applications and had no comments or objections to either.

b. To note Notices of Decision

No notices of decision had been received.

19. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

- a. **Pensions Regulator** re nominating a contact. I've registered and nominated.
- b. **CDC – Parish Liaison Meeting** 10 June. John Honsinger agreed to attend.
- c. **OCC** – re changes to subsidised bus service from 31 May. Just one route affects the village – number 8 – which is currently out to tender with Northamptonshire CC
- d. **Julian Cordy** (Chairman of Wendlebury PC) – re Bicester Garden City and the effect on local villages. The Councillors agreed that the Clerk would let Mr Cordy know that the Parish was interested in joining the group.
- e. **OALC** – April Members' update
- f. **Clerks and Councils Direct**

20. Reports from meetings

No meetings had been attended.

21. Resignation of Mr Nigel Ferguson

Mr Ferguson announced his resignation at the end of the meeting. The Councillors thanked him for all his hard work and Chairmanship over the last three years.

22. Items for information or next Agenda only

- a. The Clerk requested that all items for the agenda should be submitted by Wednesday 20 May but due to her resignation, she will be unable to attend the meeting and would not be able to do the majority of the preparation for it.

23. Date of next meeting – the Councillors **RESOLVED** to confirm that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 2 June at 7pm at the Red Lion

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed

Dated