



**Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016, in the Hunt Room of the Red Lion, Stratton Audley at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Mr J Honsinger (Chairman), Mr A Flack, Ms C Lloyd, Mr G Nicholson and Mr S Hopkins

**Apologies:** Cllr I Corkin (CDC)

**In Attendance:**

**Members of the public:** One

A member of the public attended to discuss the condition of the road surface adjacent to Mill House.

**75. Declarations of interest**

None

**76. Minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016**

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 were an accurate record of the proceedings.

**77. Progress on Parish matters**

**(a) Playground/Playground Access**

The Chairman reported that the new playground was formally opened on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Most of the work had been completed in time ( just!) but there were a few matters that still needed some attention including the spring closure to the gate. About 60 residents and children attended the opening, as did a representative from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and some photographers from local newspapers.

The new playground was inspected for safety on 31<sup>st</sup> August, and the majority of the equipment had been considered satisfactory. There were one or two small items that the Contractor had fixed immediately and the Parish Council needed certificates from suppliers confirming that the equipment and surfacing met British safety standards. The only major outstanding issue was the wood chip surface, which is being investigated by the Contractor.

The next issue for the Parish Council to consider is the completion of the improved access to the playground. The Parish Council, after discussion, agreed to put in a post

and rail fence along the left hand side of the access path (looking from the road) , and Cllr Hopkins agreed to look at availability and costings for new railings.

(b) Parish Council web site.

The revised web site is now up and running. The site is more informative – and updates some regular events automatically including blue/brown bin emptying information.

(c) Bicester Road path.

The Clerk was asked to raise with the Cherwell Area Steward whether any remedial work had been carried out on the Bicester Road path.

(d) Dog Bin

The new dog bin has been installed on the Mill Road end by the pond, and the other dog bin has been repaired and relocated to adjacent to the entrance to the pond from Cherry Street. The spare waste bin had been installed in Launton Road by the bench. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Hopkins for his work installing the facilities.

(e) CLP/the Tempest

The CLP group is concentrating on organising events to bring the village closer together. Posters have been prepared for the modern day performance of The Tempest which will take place in the Parish Church at 7.30pm on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and is being organised with full support from the Parish Church. The group is hoping for attendance of about 70 people – so far 35 tickets have been requested. Refreshments will be sold on behalf of the Village during the interval. There will also be a Halloween Party on 31<sup>st</sup> October at the Red Lion, and a Christmas Party in the church on a date to be arranged. On a date in May 2017 the Village will hold a Funday, and there will be a Scarecrow and Open Garden event in June. There are tentative plans for a second Food Music and Beer festival in 2018.

(f) Bicester Road entrance

The Clerk was asked to chase for a response to her request to the owner to move the concrete blocks at the entrance closer to the road to prevent vehicles from parking.

(g) SSE Resilience Grant/ Emergency Plan

The Council understands that the Church will be granted a Faculty to install the defibrillator in the church porch within the next 28 days. Details of the proposals for an emergency plan will be included in the next “door drop” around the village.

(h) Footpath maintenance

Cllr Hopkins has just taken up a voluntary position as Footpath Warden for the Parish. He has received training and will be walking the paths twice a year, and report back to OCC any major problems that he encounters. He noted that some footpaths may require better surfacing, and will investigate options.

(i) Cyclepath.

The Chairman has been in contact with Cycle planners at OCC with regard to the need for a cycle path on the A4421, and is arranging to discuss the issue with the planner responsibility for North Oxfordshire, with a view to explain the Parish Council’s suggestions.

- (j) Bus stop on the Stoke Lyne Road. OCC have clarified that the Parish Council, as owner of the bus shelter, can use the building as it wishes, but must make a formal application for the bus stop itself to be removed. This had originally been a suggested location for the storage of Parish Council equipment (particularly the marquee). The Chairman explained that, on further consideration, there was a possibility of better, more central dry storage, which he was investigating at present.

## 78. Finance

The Council noted the monthly report contained in Appendix 1 and authorised the following payments:-

<i>Cheque Number</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Amount</i>
500404	John Hicks	Playground inspection	£300.00
500405	Parish Council websites	Web site improvements	£120.00
500406	Mrs A Davies	CI salary and expenses	£162.15
500407	HMRC	CI tax	£38.00
500407	Mike Gore	playground	£122.50
500408	Mike Gore	grass	£210.00
500409	J Honsinger	Printing expenses	£92.95
500510	The Red Lion	Room hire	£20.00

## 79. Playground

The Clerk has received an interim invoice from the Contractor, and has submitted the first request to WREN for grant payment. Discussions with WREN suggest that the instalment is likely to be released by them after 17<sup>th</sup> September. The Council authorised the payment of the Contractor's invoice as soon as the grant money was received in the Parish Council's bank account.

## 80. Community Transport

Cllr Nicholson reported that he had attended a meeting of Transport representatives at County Hall Oxford, which, he believed had failed to address the strategic concerns of the recent removal of transport subsidies (and therefore bus services) serving rural communities. However, while much time was taken up with operational detail, the OCC Comet Scheme was outlined. Leaflets are available and a request has been made for the Parish Council to be given a supply of these to distribute to residents. Once these are received details of the scheme will be advised but briefly individuals can register to use the system which operates between the hours of 10.a.m and 2.00p.m when the 16 seater coaches are not involved in school runs. There are charges and no concessionary fares are available :- £1,50 per mile for exclusive use and £0.75per mile for shared use. The leaflet will explain fully how the two systems differ.

OCC have a fleet of 12 comet vehicles, with 2 stationed in Banbury and 2 stationed in Bicester, and OCC's guiding principle is that the service must cover its costs.

Cllr Nicholson also reported that, following the Parish Council's concern at the loss of bus services he had held discussions with several contractors. One company - Langston and Tasker have confirmed to him that they will apply to get approval from the Traffic Commissioner to run one service a day on their No. 18 route through Stratton Audley to

and from Bicester. As soon as confirmation is released the Parish Council will provide full details, and updates will be available on the Village website. It will be on a six month experimental arrangement so it will be important that the service is used as much as practical on a "use it or lose it" basis because all councils have lost subsidies and can only operate these services where there is proper demand.

## **81. Planning Applications**

None.

### **Decisions**

#### Single storey rear extension

4 The Stables Launton Road Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9AX Ref. No: 16/01128/F

Refused

## **82. Correspondence received – to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.**

The Council has received a request from a resident for assistance in drawing the Highway Authority's attention to the poor state of the road by Mill House. The surface has cracked down the centre of the road, which has already caused a cyclist to have a potentially serious fall. Its current condition is a danger to cyclists and horse riders, and, while there is an urgent need for repairs, it was suggested that a sign indicating the failed road should also be put up as a safety feature.

The Clerk had forwarded the concerns to Maurice Sheehan at OCC.

## **83. Reports from meetings – to receive any reports; for information.**

None

## **84. Items for information or next Agenda –**

## **85. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7pm in the Hunt Room of the Red Lion

Please note the new numbering system for items in the minutes. They now run on sequentially from one month to the next across each statutory year and then begin again from no.1 at the start of the new financial year.

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