**Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 1st March 2017**

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

**Apologies:** Ms C Lloyd Cllr B Wood (CDC) Cllr I Corkin (CDC)

**In Attendance:** Sunita Burke (CDC Planning Officer)

**Members of the public:** One

# Declarations of interest

None.

# Minutes of the meeting of 1st February 2017

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the 1st February 2017 were an accurate record of the proceedings.

**Neighbourhood Plans**

Sunita Burke attended the Parish Council meeting to explain to the Parish Council the benefits and dis-benefits of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, as the Parish Council had registered interest in preparing a plan with CDC, but had not decided whether to continue with the process. She started by confirming that Stratton Audley, as a Category C village in the Cherwell Local Plan, will not be expected to experience any development other than infilling or conversions, and ,as CDC are currently over exceeding their housing targets there is unlikely to be any pressure on the village to accept any substantial residential development.

If the Parish Council were minded to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan it would be specific to the Parish and form, with CDC’s plan, part of the local Development Framework. It would contain the Village’s vision for the future, ensuring that areas of special interest ( either historically or in landscape terms) were protected or enhanced and any development complied with village specified requirements. Grants of up to £9000 are available to support some of the work required, through the MyComunity website, but the average cost of support in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan is in the region of £15,000 - £20,000.

The procedure is complex, as the plan needs to recognise and reflect the provisions of CDC’s Local Plan, and there is a need for regular consultation with the Village, the final proposals to be agreed in a referendum of the whole village, and then for the plan to be examined by an Inspector to check that it complies with legislation and legal process. Ms Burke confirmed that the Parish Council ‘s options were to:

1. Proceed to prepare a neighbourhood plan
2. Discontinue the process and advise CDC accordingly or
3. Advise Cherwell that we would like to Leave the registration in abeyance in order to possibly take action at some time in the future , should the need arise.

The Parish Council agreed to discuss this further at the next Parish Council meeting. In the meantime the Clerk would advise Jon Hill of the current situation (as someone who had expressed an interest in taking this forward) and invite him to attend the next meeting.

**Playbus**

A resident attended the Parish Council meeting to advise the Council that OCC would be stopping the funding for the Playbus ( which has been running since 1995 and visits the village for 1.5 hours on a Monday) from 1st April 2017,from which time the Playbus will be looking for funding support from both charities and users. Currently there are 22 adults and 20 children from the Parish registered for the service.

The Parish Council noted that a Playgroup operates in the Parish Church on Wednesday mornings, which could be used by the current Playbus users, and this therefore makes any funding application more difficult to justify. However it was suggested that it might be possible to provide funding support from Village events on an occasional ‘ad hoc’ basis going forward, should the service find other support to continue.

# Progress on Parish matters

* + - * 1. Road/path repairs.

The dragon patcher attended at Mill Road, and repaired road surface potholes, but was unable to deal with the crack in the road, which requires more specialised attention. Since the major crack was the key concern, the Clerk confirmed that she will continue to chase OCC to get the repair done as a matter of urgency.

* + - * 1. Quarry Entrance

The Clerk reported that the Planning Agent has visited the site, and she is clarifying with him the problem with the entrance.

c) No 18 Bus

The bus service is continuing to operate through the Village. Cllr Nicholson agreed to contact the service provider to enquire whether they would be continuing with the route after the 6 month trial period is finished.

# Finance

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

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| *Cheque Number* | *Payee* | *Reason* | *Amount* |
| 500358 | The Red Lion | Room hire | 20.00 |
| 500359 | HMRC | Cl tax | £37.80 |
| 500360 | Mrs A Davies | Cl salary and expenses | £163.15 |
| 500361 | S Hopkins | Generator expenses | £47.97 |

# Community Transport

A meeting of the OCC group was held on 28th February, and Cllr Nicholson has asked for the minutes to be sent to him.

# Emergency Plan/Resilience Grant

Cllr Hopkins reported that the defibrillator has now been installed in the Church porch and although work has started on the installation of the generator, it is not operational yet. The Clerk was asked to confirm progress with the electrician.

The defibrillator has been registered with South central Ambulance Services . In view of the use of the Church by the Playgroup, Cllr Hopkins agreed to investigate the costs of paediatric pads for little ones and separately to look at purchasing a cover for the generator.

The parish Council agreed to put details of the defibrillator on its web site.

The Village has recently received a limited supply of leaflets about ‘priority users’ who would receive support from SSE in the event of a flood or power cut. These have been distributed, but it was agreed that more should be requested and councillors would contact those in the community that might need help filling out the forms.

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# Un-metalled footpaths and bridleways

It was reported that the path between the Church and the Hall, running past the Hunt, requires attention. On receipt of the path number the Clerk agreed to request OCC to carry out remedial work to the surface and make good the small wall running alongside the water course. It was noted that the fishing entrance to the quarry has been fly tipped.

# Vehicle Activated Sign

It was noted that at a previous meeting mention had been made of a pledge from a resident to help launch this funding appeal. It was with sadness that the Chairman acknowledged the passing of that long-term resident, Peter Bailey.

# Trees felled

The Clerk was asked to chase CDC for an indication of the action proposed against landowners who have felled trees in the Conservation area.

# Spring Clean

The Spring Clean will take place on Wednesday 22 March commencing 10 am outside the Red Lion. Priority areas are the Bicester Road and the Stoke Lyne Road. CDC do not have hoops for litter bags, but the Parish Council agreed to purchase these as they would be helpful for other events.

# CLP update

The CLP Group is meeting on 2nd March to finalise its fundraising efforts (for charity and village projects) for 2017 and dates. And these will be published immediately.

# Church activities

The Clerk was reminded to make contact with representatives of the Church to arrange the next Church/Parish council joint meeting.

# **Planning**

**Applications**

None

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

The Parish Council has recently been consulted on police priorities for the year 2017/18. The Council agreed it would like to see greater police visibility

# Reports from meetings - to receive any reports; for information.

Cllr Nicholson reported that he had attended a meeting hosted by the Hospital Trust to explain proposals to change hospital provision in Oxfordshire.

# Items for information or next Agenda –

Dates of Annual open meeting of the Parish/meetings in May.

Parking on the pavement in Cavendish Close.

# Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 5th April 2017 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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