



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2013 AT 6.30PM
IN THE RED ROOM OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

Present: Mr N Ferguson (Chair), Mr J Honsinger (JRH), Mr J Ormerod (JMO), Mrs H Smithers (HCS)

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

Public Participation: Mrs A Reynolds, Chairman of CLP and Mrs S Edwards Treasurer of CLP

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies. The Councillors noted Mr Jon Hill's resignation and thanked him for his contribution to the Parish Council.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation

Mrs Reynolds updated the meeting on the progress of the CLP.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 November 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. Meeting Venue and Dates

The Clerk had written to confirm the dates and times of Parish Council meetings with the Red Lion and had thanked them for their kind support of the Parish Council.

b. Speed check

The Clerk had met with PCSO Sue Cooper who said that a great deal of the speeding through villages is perception and that in her experience very few drivers are doing more than 30. The Clerk had subsequently sent her the data from the speed checks in the spring which indicated that a number of cars speed through the village, particularly down Mill Road. It is hoped that the Parish may be able to work with PCSO Cooper and possibly a Traffic Officer in the spring.

c. Dog Bin

The Clerk has received confirmation that the dog bin will be installed without charge; for which the Parish Council is very grateful.

d. Bulbs

JMO and HCS kindly planted the bulbs. The Parish Council is very grateful for their efforts.

e. Highways Matters

The Clerk had written to inform the owners of the damaged wall on Launton Road that the Parish Council was not able to fund the bollards, but the residents are unhappy with the decision.

A number of the potholes have been repaired. The drain under the trough on the Bicester Road has been investigated and cleared temporarily, but the Area Steward has informed the Clerk that the pipework appears to head towards private land so further investigation work will need to be carried out.

The manhole cover and kerb sets on the corner of Cherry Street and Cavendish Place have been repaired.

The pothole outside the pup doorway has been repaired.

f. Registering the Playground as a Village Green

The Statutory Declaration has been signed and witnessed and the documentation sent to the Assistant Rights of Way Officer at Oxfordshire County Council.

g. Information Commissioner Registration

This has been confirmed.

h. Christmas Tree

The Christmas Tree has been ordered. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to order four 10m strings of new 'warm' lights for the tree.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

No Councillors attended the meeting.

7. Finance

a. To receive the financial report

The accounts stand at:

Co-op Current Account	£1,455.69
Co-op Savings Account	£13,803.61

There is one outstanding cheque of £19.99.

b. To consider the budget and Precept for 2014 / 15

The Clerk presented the Councillors with a draft budget which they agreed to take away and consider for the January meeting.

c. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (9 November – 8 December)	500029	£149.59

8. New Councillor

Following the resignation of Jon Hill, the Clerk had started the procedure for a new Councillor. No formal application for an election had been received by CDC in the required time so the Council is able to co-opt a member. Councillors were asked for suggestions.

9. Community Led Plan

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to bring the discussion forward to the beginning of the meeting.

Mrs Reynolds confirmed that the Committee has been formed and that she was Chairman, Sandra Edwards had taken on Treasurer and Julia Manley was Secretary.

The group is currently applying for funding from ORCC.

The plans for next year include an Air Cadets assault course in February half term to engage the teenagers in the project and a picnic at the end of June.

The CLP will work closely with the Parish Council regarding the Playground refurbishment and the Clerk agreed to attend a meeting with the parents and grandparents of the children who use the playground at the beginning of January.

10. Walk around the village

Due to further issues, the Councillors were unable to make the walk last month. This will be rearranged.

11. Verge Cutting and Weed Spraying

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to postpone the discussion about the verge cutting until they had undertaken their survey.

12. Policies

Following discussion, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Reserves Policy with the following reserves:

3 months' running costs (Precept / 12 x 3 approximately)	£1,500.00
Election expenses (currently £800 with a further £800 to add next year)	£800.00
General Fund	£500.00
Playground Refurbishment	£5,000.00
Playground Equipment	£400.00
Playground Maintenance	£200.00
Bus shelter	£250.00
100 Club	£498.36
A total of	£9,148.36

The Councillors also **RESOLVED** to transfer any money unspent in the current year's budget to the Community Led Plan Reserve for expenditure in the following year.

13. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Abandoned Car

The abandoned and untaxed blue Corsa on Cherry Street had been reported.

14. Planning Applications - to note recent Applications and Notices of Decision

The Councillors noted the following notice of decision

- a. Application 13/01559/F and 13/01560/LB, Mr Graham Fish, The Plough House, Mill Road, OX27 9BJ; Variation of Condition 2 of 13/00459/LB - Amendment to change proposed single pitch roof to double pitch and minor amendments to layout and rear elevations. Application granted.

15. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received.

- a. **CDC re members' allowances.** I confirmed that the PC does not give an allowance to the Chairman but has agreed mileage expenses.
- b. **Charlotte Harris re children's centres in Oxfordshire.** Circulated by email.
- c. **ORCC Bulletin.** Circulated by email.
- d. **rCOH Ltd.** Re Neighbourhood Plan discussion on 13 January and this company's support services.
- e. **Email from villagers** – regarding the PC's decision not to fund the bollards following my email to them.

16. Reports from meetings

a. Parish Liaison Meeting – 13 November

The Clerk attended this meeting and provided a written report to the Councillors.

A number of items were covered by Cllr Barry Wood in his introduction including CDC Finance, joint working with other district councils, the new homes bonus, Eco-Bicester, HS2 and judicial reviews.

The following topics were then covered: Rural Broadband; progress on the Local Plan; a presentation by a representative of Age UK and further information on Assets of Community Value and the Right to Bid.

The Clerk circulated the leaflets collected about the Age UK project for the Councillors to read. This is a new project which will have implications for the wider community and how to help the elderly and vulnerable in the community.

Assets of Community Value and the Right to Bid has been widely accepted, but Mr Larner from CDC wished the meeting to know that it was costly to CDC to register an asset and that it was wise to consider the following points prior to registration:

- does the building have an important function within the village?
- is it likely to get sold 'from under our noses'?
- would the parish be able to buy it?
- would the parish want to buy it?
- would the parish be able to run it?

- would the parish be able to keep it up?

If the answer to all these questions is 'yes' then it is worth applying.

The Councillors considered the Assets of Community Value and Right to Bid part of the report and **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to look into how to register the Quarry and the field opposite the Red Lion.

b. ORCC / OCC Talking Oxfordshire meeting – 21 November

JRH and the Clerk attended this. There was an introduction and question and answer session with the Chief Executive, Joanna Simons and the Leader, Ian Hudspeth and then the attendees were allocated tables so that small groups could answer a series of questions / help give solutions with the aid of a facilitator. It was an extremely useful exercise. A full account was published in the recently circulated ORCC bulletin.

c. SLCC Meeting – 26 November

The Clerk attended the SLCC meeting which focussed on Highways issues. It was a useful day with a number of representatives from OCC Highways giving presentations.

The Clerk reported that the Local Transport Plan will be updated next year and OCC will be starting consultation on this shortly. The Clerk noted that it will be worth keeping the request for a cycle path from the village to Bicester in mind for this.

Highways check the roads regularly, but more than 12% of them are marked as 'red' which means that they are very poor and are likely to remain that way. It would require £167m to repair the network within Oxfordshire at today's prices, but the budget is just £10m. Road resurfacing should take place every 20 years, but at current funding levels are looking at a resurface every 150 to 200 years.

Last year there were 24,000 defects or potholes in the roads, this year it is estimated there will be more than 40,000. However, the contractors' guarantee on potholes is two years, so if they disintegrate before this they can be repaired at the contractors' expense. The Clerk asked that if any villagers noticed damaged potholes to either report them to her or direct to Highways.

During the winter, the team of gritters salt the main arterial routes around the county at a cost of £22,000 – 25,000 per run. Information about the areas to be gritted can be found <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/winter-maintenance>. With the winter team's help, Banbury have recently trained up a number of members of the public as Snow Wardens and OCC are happy to help with training for other villages and providing equipment for a smallish charge which includes knapsacks for spraying a brine solution onto pavements.

A number of useful links were provided including an interactive Countryside access map www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/countrysidemap and a definitive map of all sorts of countryside issues www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/definitivemaponline.

There was also a representative from Oxford Footpaths Society who explained about TOE2 (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) and the funding they can help with which includes things such as replacing stiles with kissing gates.

17. Any other business – for information or next Agenda only

Following the previous month's report on the Emergency Planning meeting JMO volunteered to assist the Clerk in the writing of an Emergency Plan for the village. He reminded the meeting that it would be good to keep the Plan in mind when on the inspection walk around the village and to identify potential risks including fire round gas canisters, sewerage coming up from the ground / drains, access for and damage by large vehicles and the potential for an aircraft landing in the village. Locations for emergency refuges would be sought.

18. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 14 January 2014 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed

Dated