



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.00PM
IN ST MARY & ST EDBURGA CHURCH, STRATTON AUDLEY**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

Absent: Mrs H Smithers

Public Participation: None

Mrs Korsak signed her Acceptance of Office form and Mr Ferguson welcomed her to the Parish Council.

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2014

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

5. Update on progress from the Minutes

a. Signatories on the Co-op Account

The Clerk had sent off the forms and had received confirmation that Mr Ormerod had been removed from the account and that Mr Honsinger and Mr Flack were included as signatories.

b. Barclays Account

The Clerk had written to Barclays and had received a final closing statement.

c. Good Councillors Guide

The Clerk had received the books and distributed them to the Councillors. New Councillors would receive the Guide in their 'New Councillor Packs' as a matter of course.

d. Grass Cutting Agreement with OCC

The Clerk had sent off the signed agreement to OCC.

e. Christmas Tree

The Clerk had ordered the Christmas Tree.

f. Christmas Lights

The Clerk had ordered the lights on pro-forma invoice and will receive them once Festive Lights receives the cheque.

g. Snow Clearance

The Clerk had written to Mr Wise confirming the details.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

No Councillors attended the meeting.

7. Finance

a. To receive the financial report

As at 2 December the Accounts stood at

Current Account	£1,620.07
Savings Account	£16,951.27

There was one outstanding cheque amounting to £30. No income had been received.

b. To consider the draft budget for 2015/16

The Clerk provided the Councillors with a draft budget and notes for consideration.

The Clerk had worked with the Chairman on reducing the expenditure wherever possible. The Councillors agreed that they would like to continue having the verges cut regularly around the village and that this would need significantly more funding because of OCC's requirement to reduce the grass cutting grant from five cuts a year to two, a reduction in real terms of approximately £1,000.

The Councillors considered the budget and **RESOLVED** to agree the figures.

c. To consider the Precept for 2015/16

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree a Precept of £7,296, an increase of 20% to cover the reduction in grass cutting grant. This would increase the Band D rate by approximately £6.02 over the year, a total of £36.12. However, the Clerk would confirm the final figures once she had received the Tax Base and CTRS Grant funding confirmation from CDC.

d. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to:	Budget	Cheque No	Amount
OALC for Good Councillors Guides x 7	Training	500083	£14.00
Festive Lights Ltd for Christmas Tree lights	Christmas Tree	500084	£49.98
Oxford Marquees for storage bags for marquee	Community Led Plan expenses	500085	£300.00

Payment to:	Budget	Cheque No	Amount
Stratton Audley and Godington PCC for hire of Church for November meeting	Church Hire	500086	£30.00
John Hicks for Playground Access Audit	Playground refurbishment	500087	£135.00
Mike Gore for November grass cutting	Grass cutting	500088	£150.00
Mike Gore for Playground maintenance / grass cutting	Playground maintenance	500088	£30.00
John Woodward for dog bin maintenance	Highways general works	500089	£8.02
OALC for Internal Audit course for Clerk	Training	500090	£42.00
Jane Olds, expenses for No Dog sign for playground	Playground refurbishment	500091	£42.25

The standing order to pay the Clerk £149.59 was debited from the current account on 9 December.

- e. **Confidential – to note the revised salary scales for the Clerk jointly published by NALC / SLCC**

8. New Standing Orders

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that an external adviser be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to assist with the discussion regarding the Standing Orders.

9. Email Communications Policy

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to discuss the policy at the same time as the Standing Orders.

10. Community Led Plan

a. **To Receive an update**

Mr Honsinger reported that Mrs Sandra Edwards had agreed to take on the position of Chairman as an interim measure, but that a Treasurer was now needed.

The planning for the children’s Christmas Party was well under way.

b. **Village Questionnaire**

The Councillors considered the questionnaire at the meeting. Following a long discussion, Mr Honsinger agreed to make further amendments and bring it back to the January meeting. He would also ask for advice from other villages who had already carried out a questionnaire. Costs for printing the questionnaire would be in the region of £110.

c. **Information Leaflet**

The Councillors considered the information leaflet and agreed that it was a good idea, but that trades should not be included in it as this could be seen as the Parish Council endorsing some trades, but not others. Trades are able to advertise in Shelswell News. The Councillors agreed that it should be a Parish Council publication and that the Clerk would bring the amended version the next meeting.

11. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Playground

i. To discuss progress on the Playground

The Clerk reported that she had taken the latest plans to the Wednesday morning toddler group, but hoped to be able to take them again and to consult with other parents and older children in due course.

The Clerk reported that the Parish was in the catchment for both WREN and Viridor, but that she was not certain that Viridor would be accepting further applications because the Ardley Incinerator would negate the necessity for the landfill tax at Ardley.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to apply to WREN for funding and if possible to Viridor.

ii. To receive the Access Audit

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree the access audit.

iii. To consider the refurbishment timetable

The Clerk reported that applications to WREN had to be submitted by 18 March for a board meeting on 29 July, but that there were currently no dates for Viridor.

b. Dog bin fixing

The Councillors thanked Mr Woodward for fixing the dog bin and agreed to reimburse him for the fixings which he had to purchase.

c. Village Hall Fund

No further progress had been made.

d. Heritage Assets

The Clerk presented the Councillors with a list, which had been compiled by members of the Historical Society, of objects and buildings which are of importance to the village and might be registered as Heritage Assets with CDC. The Clerk would consult with CDC about the list.

e. Mill Road sign post

The Clerk reported that she had received costings from Highways for a new sign post which came to £1,602.40 including VAT. The Clerk had asked Cllr Catherine Fulljames whether her Localities budget could fund the sign post and was awaiting a reply.

f. Fundraising activities of other village groups

Mr Flack advised the Council that other groups within the village had requested to work together on one or two larger events next year where facilities and expertise could be combined. The Councillors agreed with the suggestion.

g. Village Carol Service

The Councillors noted that the village Carol Service would take place on 14 December at 5pm and **RESOLVED** that Mr Flack would represent the Parish Council.

12. OALC Training Courses

The Clerk presented the meeting with a list of training courses which OALC had recently published.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to Mrs Korsak attending the Roles and Responsibilities course on 4 March and to the Clerk and Mr Ferguson attending the Internal Audit course on 10 March.

13. Planning Applications

a. To consider all recent applications received

No applications had been received.

b. To note Notices of Decision

Permission for development was granted to the following applications

- i. 14/0154/F, The Garden House, Cherry Street, Single storey rear extension
- ii. 14/01620/F, Chase House, Bicester Road, Single storey rear carport with additional rooflights
- iii. 14/01693/F, Spectrum, 5 Willows Gate, Stoke Lyne Road, Change of use from B1(a) to D1.

14. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

- a. Between Mr John Honsinger and a villager regarding the wooden bus shelter
- b. High Sheriff – regarding the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire’s Annual Awards. The deadline for nominations is 16 January.
- c. CDC re information from the Parishes Liaison Meeting (circulated by email)
- d. NFU Research Project on Rural Flooding, Land Use Change and Climate in the Upper Thames x 2 (circulated by email)
- e. OALC November Members’ Update
- f. OALC re announcement of NALC / SLCC pay award

15. Reports from meetings

The Clerk and Mr Honsinger attended the meeting.

Barry Wood spoke on a number of topics:

- the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) project where CDC works with a number of other organisations including the Police, OALC, businesses, charities and many others to work out the priorities for the area;
- finance where he highlighted the fact that the DC had managed to maintain frontline services by making large savings on staffing, particularly with the merger of South Northamptonshire and Cherwell and moving forward, anticipating that there will be more of a squeeze from central government after the next election, the potential closer relationship with Stratford DC;
- the issue of planning because of the recently changed rules and in relation to the Local Plan;
- Eco Bicester which is now commencing and highlighting that the £30m which the government awarded Cherwell for the project will be put into projects on the site such as ‘seed funding’ for the school as OCC has very little money available;
- HS2 which will impact on not just the villages with the line going through them, but on the surrounding area, as, for two years the construction traffic will be blocking up the

roundabouts at Baynards Green and Barley Mow together with the motorway junction. The suggestion had, yet again, been requested for a ‘mid point’ station in the area, otherwise it was felt that the line is of no economic benefit to the area.

David Peckford, the Senior Planning Policy Officer outlined the progress on the Local Plan which has now been re-submitted to the Planning Inspector for the continuation of the Inspection in December. One thing which has just been noticed is that Fringford has been re-categorised as a Category A ‘Service Village’ because of the school and pub (Category B villages are now classed as ‘satellite villages’); the type of development allowed has added minor development to infilling and conversions. However, Stratton Audley is still a Category C village which will allow just infilling and conversions. It is unlikely that development outside the village envelope will be encouraged.

Bob Duxbury outlined the planning procedure and what PCs can and can’t make comments on.

A representative of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire team made a presentation on the progress of the scheme. Cherwell has agreed to put in a further £500,000 with a further £500,000 match funded from central government to raise the coverage from 90% to 95% in some of the hard to reach areas. There is still the 5% of areas which will need a great deal more assistance.

Two further very short presentations were made about the Register of Local Heritage Assets and the Cherwell Community Bank.

16. Items for information or next Agenda only

- a. The Clerk requested that all items for the next agenda should be submitted by Friday 2 January.

17. Date of next meeting – the Councillors **RESOLVED** to confirm the next meeting as Tuesday 13 January at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed

Dated