



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
ON TUESDAY 10 JANUARY 2012 AT 7PM  
AT THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

**Present:** Mr N Ferguson, Mr J Hill, Mr M O'Neill (Chair), Mrs M. Woodward

**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames (District & County Councillor) for her report, Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

**Apologies**

1. There were no apologies.

**Declaration of Interest**

2. There were no declarations of interest

**Public Participation**

3. There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2011**

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

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

5. The Accounts were completed by the Clerk, audited by Mr Clive Morton and despatched to the External Auditors, BDO, on 10 December. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work in ensuring that the accounts were completed.
6. The cheque book has been received and the contact address for the bank changed to that of the Clerk.
7. The report from the External Auditors, BDO, was received just before Christmas. The only issue raised was that of the Fidelity Guarantee. The current policy covers the Council for £10,000 and the balance for the year was £10,455. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to keep the status quo and to ensure that, unless saving for something with a large expenditure, to keep the bank balance below £10,000. This was **PROPOSED** by JH and **SECONDED** by NF.

**8. Report from District and County Councillor**

- Cllr Fulljames informed the Council that she was Chairman of the County Jubilee Celebrations. She had been told by Highways that they were looking to be helpful with regard to road closures for the celebrations. The Bishop of Dorchester is promoting the beacons in the Diocese.

- The Parish was warned that the County and District Councils were cutting services to keep to the budget.
- The HS2 decision has been announced and the preferred route would go through Godington, Newton Purcell and Mixbury which will affect a number of residents in the area. Neither the District nor County Councils are in favour of the line and Mrs Fulljames is working with MP Tony Baldry and Cllr Barry Wood. However, the suggested M40 route would be even worse.
- The Ardley Incinerator is going ahead and will be built by two companies. It is the same as the one on the M25. Work has already started on the drainage. There will be major roadworks on the B430 for the access road. The Ardley Recycling Centre will close in 2013 and a new one will be opened in Kidlington.
- Bicester Town Council has produced a Masterplan. Gordon Lewis, a Consultant, will be working on the project until April and intends to hold stakeholder meetings with all the outlying villages over the next couple of months. The Parish should get notification, but the Clerk has details.

## Finance

9. The Community Account Balance as at 19 December stood at £12,096.69

10. The following transactions were noted.

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
P Fitzgerald for hedge and verge cutting	100739	£1,450.00
Alfred Truman Solicitors for storage of deeds	100740	£54.00
Cherwell District Council for emptying of dog bin	100741	£87.17
M Woodward for bulbs	100742	£35.99
OALC for the Getting to Grips with Finance Course for Clerk and Cllr Ferguson (approved by Councillors by email)	100744	£132.00
A Donation was made to the Royal British Legion for the poppy wreath	100743	£100.00

11. Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments (Proposed by NF, Seconded by JH).

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
Clive Morton for auditing the Year 2010 / 11 accounts	100746	£150.00
BDO LLP for External Audit	100745	£162.00
Jane Olds for Clerk's Pay	100747	£199.09
OALC for JH to attend the 'Roles and Responsibilities Working on Your Local Council' course	100748	£48.00

12. It was agreed to pay for the Christmas tree and for JH to attend the OALC 'Roles and Responsibilities' course. This was **PROPOSED** by MW and **SECONDED** by M O'N.

13. The Clerk presented the budget to enable discussion about the Precept. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve keeping the Precept at last year's level. It was **PROPOSED** by M O'N and **SECONDED** by MW. Clerk to inform CDC.

#### 14. Planning Applications

The Council noted the following Planning Decisions: (i) Application no: 11/01417/LB Dr Peter Saxton, Audley Coach House; Retrospective listed consent for patio deck and stairs thereto, 3 rear windows and 1 skylight. Internal replacement Oak staircase and replacement oak strip floor to ground floor (except kitchen and cloakroom) and (ii) Application no: 11/01647/F Mr Trevor Wood, Cosi Cottage; Proposed pitched roofs to existing single storey flat roofed extensions.

MW had been advised by Mr Peter Saxton, the owner of Audley Coach House, that Cherwell District Council has decided to give the house Grade II listing status. Clerk to contact CDC Planning Department for the relevant paperwork.

#### Parish Matters

15. The Playground gate latch needs attention. JH to look at the gate and see how to fix a new latch to ensure the gate stays shut and purchase materials to complete the job. **PROPOSED** MW, **SECONDED** NF
16. The Playground has not had a safety inspection since July / August 2010. It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to look into this and arrange an inspection with a local company.
17. The Noticeboard on Cherry Street is very difficult to open and close and there is only one key for it at present. It was **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to investigate the costs of a bigger noticeboard, with one side locked and the other side for public notices and with the possibility of tying the purchase in with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.
18. The artwork for the Map Board was discussed. It was **RESOLVED** that M O'N would talk to Harriet West to find out the timescale and if it was not possible, to ask for the materials back and to find an alternative artist.
19. Mr and Mrs Goss at Elm farm had raised the issue of speeding traffic past their entrance. Particularly in relation to the Special Needs bus which stops there twice a day; as it is getting increasingly difficult and dangerous to emerge from the farm. The Clerk had been in touch with OCC Highways and was waiting for further information. It was **RESOLVED** that JH would discuss the issue with Mr and Mrs Goss and look at the alternatives.
20. It was **RESOLVED** that the metal bars outside the bus shelter should be removed as they are unsightly and unsafe. Clerk to write to Roger Cross to ask him to remove these bars. The refurbishment of the bus shelter will be discussed further at a future meeting.
21. The Parish is being given a large carved wooden seat by Jim and Maz the itinerant wood carvers on the corner of the A4421 and Stoke Lyne Road. Any resident who has a

suggestion as to where it may go should send them to the Clerk for discussion at the next meeting.

22. A Committee needs to be set up to organise the Jubilee Celebrations. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the Hunt, Church and Pub to ask for volunteers and arrange a meeting for Wednesday 1 February. MW to make a list of the things which will need doing.

It was suggested that a beacon may be put on the Gallops. M O'N to discuss the feasibility.

23. MW to let Clerk have details of the Thank You letters which need to be sent.
24. The Parish Council is not due elections until May 2014 so there is a need for an additional member. There have been a number of people interested in the vacant seat. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to all the interested parties thanking them for their interest and informing them that they would be contacted in due course.

#### **Dates for Future Meetings in 2012**

25. The following dates were suggested for meetings:

Wednesday 8 February at 7pm

Thursday 8 March at 7pm

Wednesday 18 April at 7pm (when the AGM will take place)

Wednesday 9 May at 7pm to be followed by the Open Meeting at 8pm

It was suggested that the Village Tidy Up Day would be on Saturday 12 May, meeting at 11am.

#### **Any Other Business**

26. The Clerk informed the meeting that there was a meeting of the Parish Transport Representatives on Tuesday 24 January at 1 for 1.30pm. NF agreed to attend. Clerk to inform OCC.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm

Signed .....

Dated .....