



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2014 AT 7.00PM
IN THE RED ROOM OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Mr J Ormerod (JMO)

Public Participation: None

1. Apologies for absence

The Councillors accepted Mr Ormerod's apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 December 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. Dog Bin

This has not yet been installed. The Councillors asked the Clerk to contact the contractor.

b. Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree was installed and two sets of lights together with a power pack were purchased. The power pack has the capacity for two more strings of lights so Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to arrange to buy a further two sets in time for next Christmas.

The Councillors wished to thank all the volunteers for their time and effort in helping with the Parish Christmas Tree and **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to write a thank you for the Parish Magazine.

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 | £1,286.28 |
| Co-op Savings Account | £13,803.61 |

The Current Account has received £0.17 of interest and 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 full budget proposal for the forthcoming year.

The Councillors reviewed the key areas of the budget, noted the items which would require significant expenditure including the Playground refurbishment project, and the sources of income including using some of the Council’s General Fund which was not already earmarked in Reserves. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree the budget of £13,260.

Following the budget discussions, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to ask Cherwell District Council for a Precept of £6,080 which excludes the Council Tax Reduction Grant of £192.34. The Precept will cost a Band D property approximately £30.10 for the year, an increase of £2.74.

c. To consider invoices for payment

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

| Payment to: | Cheque No | Amount |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| JMC Olds for Christmas tree lights (purchased from Festive Lights) | 500030 | £74.92 |
| Shelswell News for Parish Magazine Subscription | 500031 | £8.00 |
| JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (9 December – 8 January) | 500032 | £149.59 |

d. To consider changing the signatories for the bank account

With the resignation of Jon Hill, the Councillors recognised that a further signatory would be needed for the bank account. With that in mind, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to both JRH and JMO being signatories. The Clerk gave JRH a form to complete and would ask JMO to complete one too. She would then send them to the bank.

8. New Councillor

The Clerk reported that as no election had been requested, the Parish Council was able to co-opt a new Councillor. Various suggestions were made; the Councillors **RESOLVED** to invite these people to the next meeting. The Clerk reminded the meeting that this co-option would only be until the Parish Council elections which take place on 22 May when all Councillors will need to stand for re-election.

9. Community Led Plan

Playground Meeting – 6 January

The Clerk attended a meeting to discuss the Playground which was convened by the CLP group. There were a wide range of views on the equipment and the choice of surface.

The Clerk asked the group to find out what the users / parents / grandparents liked about the Playground, what they didn't like and what / how they thought it could be improved. The Clerk would also like to know the target age range. The Chairman of the CLP agreed to send an email to as many families as possible asking for their opinions.

The Clerk would start to find out from contractors what would be possible and what they would recommend for the space. There was a feeling that the swings must stay and are in a good location, but that other items of equipment may be able to be moved, re-furbished or changed to meet the needs of the children.

The Parish is currently able to put £8,000 towards the project, but further funds will need to be sought from grant giving bodies. However, the Clerk let the meeting know that it would be better to aim higher and then pare down the specification in due course if necessary.

10. Walk around the village

NF had undertaken a walk around the village and had photographed the verges.

11. Verge Cutting and Weed Spraying

Following NF's walk around the village and a discussion, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask NF and the Clerk to discuss the project with a contractor and write a brief whilst in discussions. This would then be provided to other contractors.

12. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Flooding on Mill Road

The Clerk happened to meet the Highways Area Steward as he was inspecting the flooding on Mill Road. A number of the drains had been blocked and he was going to arrange for the drainage team to clear them.

The Area Steward recommended that all flooding should be reported to Highways, either via the Clerk or directly on OCC's Highways portal (<http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>) as they will deal with the report as quickly as possible – even if it is just to put flood warning signs out in the first instance.

The Councillors noted that the flooding may have been exacerbated by the need for the pond to be dredged. The Clerk would investigate.

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

No applications or notifications have been received.

14. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

- a. **OCC Street Lighting Team** - requesting confirmation that the Parish Policy is still for no street lights, but warning the Parish that it is only possible to have traffic calming measures if the policy is changed to agree to street lights. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to confirm that the Parish did not require street lights and noted the warning about traffic calming.
- b. **CDC Finance** – regarding the Council Tax Base and Precept
- c. **CDC Finance** – regarding the allocation of the New Homes Bonus
- d. **OCC Posters** – winter service and home school transport consultation

- e. **OCC Emergency Planning** – regarding severe weather and what to do (circulated by email)
- f. **OCC TTRO Request** – to notify the village of the closure of Launton Road for work outside the Stables on 6 February
- g. **OCC TTRO Requests and updates** – for the flooding issues in and around Oxfordshire
- h. **Clerks and Councils Direct**
- i. **Local Government Boundary Commission** – the first stage of the electoral review of Cherwell to decide on the number of District Councillors; all responses to the LGBC by 17 February.

15. Reports from meetings

- a. **CLP Playground meeting** – 6 January
See point 9 above

16. Any other business – for information or next Agenda only
There was no further business.

17. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 11 February 2014 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed

Dated