



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2013 AT 7.30PM
IN THE HUNT ROOM OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Mr J Hill (JCGH), Mr J Honsinger (JRH)

Public Participation: None

1. Apologies for absence

The Councillors accepted Mr Hill and Mr Honsinger's apologies

2. Declarations of interest

There was one declaration of interest regarding planning application 13/00918/TPO as JMO lives in the Manor; however, he has no connection with the management of the property.

3. Public participation

Nothing was raised.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 June 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. Verge Cutting

The Clerk had made enquiries with CDC about the area of land by Glen Close maintained by Continental Landscapes. CDC has a contract with Continental Landscapes because of their historical responsibility for the social housing there.

b. Speed check

The Clerk is still working on speed signs. However she has obtained one quotation for speed activated signs and they cost in the region of £2,000 per sign, with the solar power units costing almost £1,000.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to make further enquiries and also to contact the Clerk at Steeple Claydon as the village has recently had a speed initiative with PCSOs and school children.

6. Report from District and County Councillors

No Councillors attended the meeting,

7. Finance

a. To receive the financial report

The accounts stand at:

Barclays Account (awaiting statement for confirmation)	£0.00
Co-op Current Account	£8,447.65
Co-op Savings Account	£7,536.13

There are no outstanding cheques.

Income received into the Savings Account:

New homes bonus	£2,510.00
VAT Refund for 2012 / 13	£786.79

The Grass Cutting Grant has been transferred to the savings account, the Barclays cheque has cleared and is now in the Co-op account.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to transfer £6,000 from the Current Account into the Savings Account.

The Clerk had completed and sent off the VAT Reclaim for the year April 12 – March 13 on 17 June and it has already been paid into the savings account.

b. To receive the report from the External Auditors

The Councillors noted the one issue raised by the External Auditors; that the new noticeboard had not been included on the Asset Register for which the Clerk apologised. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to add the noticeboard to the Asset Register and to remove the old noticeboard in due course.

c. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
P Fitzgerald for painting of the white gates and supply of paint	500010	£300.00
John Hicks for Playground Inspection	500011	61.56
BDO LLP for External Audit fee	500012	120.00
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (9 June – 8 July)	500013	£148.11

8. Verge Cutting and Weed Spraying

The Clerk had prepared a draft contract which the Councillors **RESOLVED** to discuss further at the next meeting. In the meantime they would inspect the village verges and ensure that the map matched what was actually there.

9. Community Led Plan

The Councillors discussed the Parish Council representation and **RESOLVED** that NF to have further discussions, but that JMO and HCS would not be members of the group. The next meeting of the CLP group would be on 16 July.

10. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Communication and Website

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to postpone discussion until more Councillors were present.

b. Playground Inspection and Refurbishment

The Clerk had received the inspection report and a number of things need attention in addition to the surface:

- i. A bracket protruding by the gate which serves no purpose – removal advised
- ii. The step access might be re-thought and the concrete path needs making good (in the programme for the new surface)
- iii. Lilac bushes need cutting back
- iv. The gate didn't close (after many years of complaining that it was too fierce!)
- v. Seats and picnic table – two of the seats are broken and should be repaired
- vi. There is one liner missing in the litter bin
- vii. There is slight chain wear on the swings - lubrication advised and monitoring required
- viii. The spring Camel has increasing movement in the ground when the fixings are under load – monitoring advised and re-fixing when convenient.
- ix. The horse head rocker remains heavy in operation and squeaks in use – lubrication advised. There are also holes in the side which need to be stopped off.
- x. Cotswold Play Multi play unit fails because there remains a risk of crush injury / entrapment in relation to the bridge flexing at both ends – extra sections could resolve this (but it's low / medium risk); there are also finger traps at the top of the slide chute.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to visit the playground as soon as possible to look at what could be easily remedied and what would require further action or professional repair.

The Councillors also discussed the playground surface. The Inspector has recommended that it is not necessary to have an expensive new surface and that grass would be totally adequate. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to look into getting quotations to remove the old worn carpet and to replace with soil and turf. The concrete path would need to be repaired and a maintenance contract arranged for the cutting of the grass.

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

The Councillors considered the following applications:

- a. Application 13/00166/TCA, Mr Adams, St Mary and St Edburga's Church, Stoke Lyne Road; T1 x Laburnum - remove dead sections, T2 x Lime - remove all major deadwood over 800mm in diameter, T2 x Lime - remove all major deadwood over 800mm in diameter and mass of epicormic growth at base, T4 x Yew - prune back from roadside by 2m, T5 x Yew - prune back from roadside by 2m. The Councillors had no objections.

- b. Application 13/00918/TPO, Peerless Properties, Stratton Audley Manor, T3 (Lime) - Lift crown on public and service road and car park area to statutory requirements. T4 (Lime) - Reduce length of limb with cavity in (over garden area) by 3-4 metres to reduce weight and stress on limb. Also remove split hanging branch. T6 (Lime) - Remove deadwood from crown. T10 (Cedar) - Reduce limb directly over roof on south easterly corner to leave a clearing of 1-2 metres from roof to protect structure. T11 (Cedar) - Deadwood crown. T13 (Walnut) - Fell - All subject to TPO 04/1975. The Councillors were generally content with the work but had one concern about the felling of the Walnut.

c. Retention of Planning Applications

The Clerk suggested that due to lack of storage space, she dispose of all non-contentious planning applications once the work has been completed as all planning is now available on CDC's website; in reality this would mean keeping them for slightly over a year. She will, however, keep and file any plans which may need to be referred to in later years. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the Clerk's suggestion.

12. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received.

- a. **Clerks and Councils Direct** – to be circulated
- b. **Playground annual inspection report**
- c. **OCC – Community Emergency Planning Survey** – the Councillors **RESOLVED** to complete the form and asked the Clerk to return it.
- d. **Marsh Gibbon Parish Clerk** – regarding the telephone exchange and getting better broadband for Marsh. The Clerk had updated her on Oxfordshire's status and recommended working together once OCC have announced their contract.
- e. **OCC Winter Service** – regarding community resilience, sat bags and grit bins. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to order the free tonne of salt which would be stored in the Manor garden, but decided against ordering a further grit bin this year.
- f. **OCC** – regarding tree works in Cherry Street which have now been completed.

13. Reports from meetings

a. Parish Liaison Meeting – 12 June

The Clerk reported that there were a number of presentations including by the Chair of the Cherwell Community Land Trust and by Christine Lalley at OALC, together with some five minute presentations about the Community Right to Bid, A Neighbourhood Planning update, a Community Governance Review update, Council Tax and Parish Precepts update and information about the New Homes Bonus.

The Community Right to Bid could be implemented in the village. It concerns buildings, land or both, whose principal use furthers (or has recently furthered) the community's social well-being / social interests and is likely to be able to do so in the future. If registered and CDC agrees, they would put the property on a list of 'Assets of Community Value' (the ACV List). If the property is listed as an ACV the owner must notify CDC if intending to dispose of the ACV, there is then an automatic six week moratorium on disposal to enable the Council / community group to make written request to bid and then an additional 18 week moratorium to allow a bid to be put together.

However, it is recommended that if a property is put on the list that funding options are put together at the time and reviewed regularly so that if at any time the property is put on the market the Council can move speedily. There are some cautionary notes: at the end of the moratorium the owner remains free to dispose of it to whomever he wants, even if it's for a lower price; there are also exemptions which can trump the right including bankruptcy, divorce, sale as a going concern and sale within the family; the owner can also seek compensation from CDC for any losses incurred.

b. SLCC Meeting – 18 June

The Clerk attended the meeting which was primarily about implementation of Skate Parks, although there is nowhere suitable to put one in the village.

c. OALC Meeting – 1 July

The Clerk attended the OALC meeting at Exeter Hall in Kidlington. The main presentation was about Broadband and the OCC project to assist with the funding for the infrastructure needed to expand the broadband network into the rural areas which are not covered by the commercially viable schemes in the towns such as Oxford, Bicester and Banbury.

The National Investment Programme wants to achieve a transformation in broadband access, with everyone in the UK able to access broadband speeds of at least 2 megabits per second and 90% of the UK receiving far greater speeds (at least 24Mbps).

Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) was set up as a team from within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport with the task of the administration of the £530million National Investment Programme fund. All County Councils were able to receive funding from this, but it had to be match funded. OCC has been awarded £4.06m to which they have added a further £9.80m to give a total of £13.86m to spend purely on infrastructure.

This project has to take coverage to 90%. There is now also a further fund set up by DEFRA (called the Rural Community Broadband Fund) which is designed to complement the larger investment and will address that final 10% not covered by the BDUK project.

OCC has been negotiating with providers and is in the final stages of producing a contract with commercial companies to install the infrastructure. The announcement will be made at the end of July or beginning of August. There will then be a six month phase of implementation planning and surveying at the end of which maps and schedules will be produced so that villages know when they are likely to be upgraded – there will be between seven and eight phases of work. Actual work will then commence in January 2014 and take approximately two years to complete.

The Clerk also reported that the OALC Executive Committee has three vacancies for representatives from the Cherwell district.

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

- a. The Clerk informed the meeting that the date of next year's local elections has changed from 1 May to Sunday 22 May in line with the European Elections. This will have implications on the election of the Chairman for the year. More information will be available from CDC in due course.

- b. The lack of a dog bin on the south east side of the village on Launton Road was raised. The Clerk will look into prices of bins and bring the information to the next meeting.

- c. Complaints from residents had been received about the builders parking on the corner of Cherry Street and down Church Lane. The Clerk would investigate.

15. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 10 September 2013 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed

Dated