



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON THURSDAY 8 MARCH 2012 AT 7PM
AT THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

Present: Mr N Ferguson, Mr J Hill, Mrs M. Woodward (Chair of Meeting),

In attendance: Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames (District & County Councillor, Mrs Helen Smithers, Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Mr M O'Neill.

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 Wednesday 8 February 2012

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 Clerk is still to investigate Jubilee Noticeboards.
6. M O'N is still to request the materials for the Map Board from Harriet West.
7. The Clerk has written to Roger Cross to request removal of the unsightly barrier at the bus stop. The refurbishment of the bus shelter will be discussed once this has taken place.
8. The value of the seat still needs to be obtained for the Parish's Asset Register.
9. MW has given the Clerk the details of those who need to be written to regarding the Councillor vacancy. Clerk to write letters.
10. NF has written to the Clerk's referees and obtained employment references so the Fidelity Guarantee is now valid.
11. MW has given Paul Fitzgerald the Playground report and asked him to carry out the necessary work.

12. Report from District and County Councillor

Cllr Fulljames reported that following the County Boundary changes that her area of the District will be losing four villages but gaining four or five different villages.

Finance

13. The Clerk presented the Balance Sheet together with the Budget Sheet printout to the Councillors.
14. The Community Account Balance as at 17 February stood at £11,182.44
15. The Clerk requested that instead of being paid hourly, that she be paid a monthly agreed amount; worked out on the number of contracted hours per week (4) multiplied by 52 weeks of the year, divided by 12 and multiplied by the current salary scale which amounted to £142.79 per month. The Councillors **AGREED** unanimously.
16. Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments (Proposed by JH, Seconded by NF).

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
OALC for Annual Subscription	100752	133.07
Shelswell Group of Parishes for Shelswell News for Clerk	100753	15.20
R B Howson for Christmas Tree (£86.40) and Weed Spraying (£720)	100754	806.40
Jane Olds for Clerking Duties	100755	142.79

17. In order to receive further training, OALC recommend that clerks belong to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The cost of membership would be split between the two Councils the Clerk works for and would therefore be a lower cost. She suggested splitting the cost proportionally based on hours worked for each Council. The Councillors **AGREED** to the Clerk looking into membership.
18. The Clerk has now registered the Council as an employer with HMRC and has set up the relevant paperwork.

19. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications.

Parish Matters

20. **Elm Farm.** The Clerk has asked Highways about the signage at Elm Farm and a Highways representative has met with the owner at the farm. He proposes putting a Tractor Warning Sign on the current 30 Sign Post and an Arrow Post signing the entrance to Elm Farm, but was unable to help with a mirror or a Concealed Entrance sign as the mirror can only be organised through the Department of Transport and the Concealed Entrance sign is not a recognised Highways sign.

JH will investigate who owns the land opposite the farm and discuss the proposed signage with the owners. The Councillors asked the Clerk to find out how driver education could be implemented in the village with WPC Caroline Brown.

21. **Village Hall Account.** MW has asked John Beaumont for help to draft a letter to the Charity Commission regarding the position of the Village Hall Account; it will be despatched once she has comments from other interested parties but hopes this will clarify matters.

22. **Village Tidy-up Day.** Saturday 12 May is set for the Village Tidy-up Day. The Council **AGREED** that MW and HS would compile the list of jobs as they walk round the village. Others are welcome to contribute.
23. **Newsletter.** It was suggested that a newsletter be written advertising the Open Meeting, the Village Tidy-up Day and the Jubilee event, including asking parents if they would like their children to receive a commemorative mug. NF to co-ordinate, but to give to the Clerk for checking before despatch.
24. **Playground Surface Refurbishment.** There was an article in March's edition of Shelswell News about Viridor Credits, the Waste Management Organisation, and it has been suggested that the Council look into this source of funding for replacing the surface of the Playground. The Council **AGREED** to ask the Clerk to look into the funding process and to obtain three quotations for the work.

25. **Jubilee Committee**

The Jubilee Committee has asked the Parish Council for a £300 grant towards the costs of putting on the Children's Street Party and the Cream Teas. The Councillors **AGREED** to this grant being made under S137.

The Council would like to alert the Jubilee Committee to the fact that separate insurance will need to be obtained for the celebrations.

The Council **AGREED** that the road would need to be closed for both Saturday 2 June and possibly Sunday 3 June and asked the Clerk to look into the arrangements for this.

The Council **AGREED** to the purchase of 72 Commemorative Jubilee mugs, under Section 137, to be given to children under the age of 16 which will be personalised with the wording 'Presented by Stratton Audley parish Council to Commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1952 – 2012'. The price of the mug will be £3.10 + 42p for a box + VAT. Clerk to arrange order.

Reports from Meetings

26. **Bicester Masterplan Meeting 16 February**

JH attended the Bicester Masterplan meeting and gave the Council a summary of the presentation he was shown. It was a positive meeting which WYG, the producers of the report, have put in a great deal of thought and planning. However, it does not have to be adopted by Bicester Town Council. If they do not, the town will not have a strategy for dealing with the town's future plans. The plan would limit the growth of the town and would aid routes to employment and expansion for business rather than just the Bicester Village Outlet. Concerns were raised about the lack of green space and the production of quality leisure facilities.

27. **Bomber Command Meeting 24 February**

NF attended the Bomber Command meeting with 20 or 30 others. The group would like to take the disused and unique buildings, which are as they were when Bomber Command left just after the Second World War, and turn them into a visitor and educational centre with a focus on living history. The view to the north of the site has not changed since 1945 which is an important historical fact and Bomber Command will strive to ensure that future planning consents do not alter this; however this is becoming

more difficult. Unfortunately the MOD seem to be blocking attempts by the group to negotiate access and future purchase of the site which is preventing progress and is frustrating. Bomber Command do have indicative costs for the refurbishment of the site, but until negotiations with the MOD commence they cannot say whether they will actually be able to buy or lease the site; they do however feel that the attitude of the MOD would change if they had physical funds to offer.

28. OALC Roles and Responsibilities for New Councillors Course 27 February

JH attended the OALC course and reminded Councillors about the use of email with regard to the Freedom of Information Act; that decisions about finances have to be taken in a public meeting and that Councillors should not reply on behalf of the Council, but must go through the Clerk.

29. Co-option of New Councillor

Helen Smithers from Cherry Street attended the meeting with a view to becoming a Parish Councillor. The appointment was **AGREED** by the Councillors.

30. AOB

It has been brought to the attention of the Council that the school buses which are run by Heyfordian are coming through the village too fast and are cutting up the verges, as is the public Stagecoach bus. The children who wait for the buses are also disturbing villagers as they are not waiting at a bus stop. The Council **AGREED** to ask the Clerk to look into possible solutions.

Date of Next Meeting - AGM

Wednesday 18 April at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm

Signed

Dated