



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014 AT 7.00PM
IN THE HUNT ROOM OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

Public Participation: Three members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation

Three members of the public attended; two to watch the meeting and one to further discuss Planning Application 14/00008/F, Ms P McSteen, Lime Cottage, 12 Cherry Street.

Whilst the Planning Application has received approval, the applicant wished to emphasise that they took the objections to the plans seriously and had decided to reduce the height of the extension. The applicant would be seeking advice in due course as to whether they needed to submit an additional application or an amendment.

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

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

The Clerk is still waiting for the Contractor to install the bin. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that if it was not completed in the next two weeks that they would do it themselves.

JMO reported that the bins hadn't been emptied for some time. The Clerk would contact CDC.

b. Debris round the Pond

The Clerk has been in touch with the owner of the pond who knew who had left the vegetation debris and would ask them to clear it up. The Clerk also asked about dredging the pond which was last done in the late 1960s, but there are no plans to do it currently.

c. Elections

The Clerk had received a briefing about the elections at CDC in February and had subsequently written a paper about the process for all Councillors and villagers interested in putting themselves forward for election.

The Clerk will receive nomination packs in early April which will include the nomination form, consent form, a request for the Electoral Register (only to be used for election purposes) and an expenses form. These packs will also be available directly from CDC.

The Notice of Election will be posted on Monday 14 April and all nominations for Councillor must be submitted to CDC by hand no later than 4pm on Thursday 24 April. By noon on 28 April CDC will publish a 'Statement of Persons Nominated' notice which will be followed by a 24 hour 'cooling off' period which gives anyone with second thoughts the opportunity to withdraw. On 14 May CDC will announce either a 'Result of Uncontested Election' or a 'Notice of Poll'.

If there is a poll, CDC will liaise with the candidates prior to the election on 22 May.

After the election (whether contested or uncontested) all Councillors come into office on the fourth day after ordinary date of election – Monday 26 May. Once they are elected, all must complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the first meeting and within 28 days must complete Registration of Interests forms which are sent to CDC's Monitoring Officer.

Whether or not the current Chairman has been elected, they remain as Chairman until a successor has been elected at the Annual Council meeting which will be held on 3 June

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	£934.18
Co-op Savings Account	£12,903.61

There were no outstanding cheques.

The Clerk presented the meeting with printouts of the current status of the accounts.

The transfer of £900 from the Savings Account to the Current Account has cleared.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to transfer the Election Expenses £800, the Community Led Plan remainder of £292 and the Playground Refurbishment budget of £5,000 into the Reserves.

b. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
ORCC Annual Subscription	500036	£50.00
OALC Annual Subscription	500037	£133.07
CDC for Dog Bin Emptying	500038	£87.17
SLCC Annual Subscription	500039	£41.85
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (9 February – 8 March)	500040	£149.59
JMC Olds for expenses from 3 October 13 – 12 March 14 (printing £34.45, stationery £14.95, postage £7.94, mileage £58.50)	500041	£115.84

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to the Clerk increasing the cost of printing from April to take account in the increased cost of toner to 7p per single side and 12p per double sided copy. The Clerk informed the Councillors that postage would be increasing on 1 April to 62p for a first class letter and 53p for a second class letter.

8. New Councillor

No progress had been made on this, but NF would follow up some suggestions.

9. Community Led Plan

The group has received confirmation that they will receive a £1,000 grant from ORCC, which will be paid to the Parish Council, to help with supporting the activities of the group.

They have produced a plan of events which includes a Pub Quiz on Sunday 23 March; an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Competition / Parade with hot cross bun tea on Easter Monday; a visit to The Garrison to experience the real Army assault course for the 11-18 year olds of the village on the evening of Thursday 8 May; a 'Vintage Tea Party for All' on Saturday 17 May; a Village Picnic Day on Sunday 29 June; a Boules Evening on Friday 18 July and a seaside trip to Bournemouth on Sunday 17 August at £10 per seat.

10. Verge Cutting and Weed Spraying

The Clerk was still waiting to hear from the current contractor about his quotation for the year. The Clerk had heard from OCC regarding the grass cutting grant and had been warned that this grant may be cut by 50% in 2015 / 16; OCC base their calculations on five cuts a year.

11. OCC Minerals and Waste Strategy Consultation

JMO had read through the report and highlighted a couple of areas which might affect the village, including the potential extraction of gravel from a seam on the Shelswell Estate in Newton Purcell, but if this seam were to be opened it would be likely that this would be used in the construction of HS2 (should it go ahead). Fracking was raised, but JMO understands that the area has the wrong geology for this so it should not be a concern for the area. The Councillors **RESOLVED** that there was no need to respond to the consultation.

12. Village Tidy Up Day

The Councillors set the date of Saturday 17 May from 10am. The Councillors agreed to discuss the day with the CLP Group to encourage as many people as possible to help and would arrange a programme of things which need doing at the next meeting.

The Clerk has ordered a roll of 50 black bags and a roll of 50 recycling bags from CDC to be delivered to her on 28 March.

13. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Playground

The Clerk has received two quotations and is waiting for the plans for one of these quotations. NF and the Clerk took one set of plans to discuss them with parents who visited the Playbus. The comments so far were that:

- the new equipment be wooden rather than metal because it is more forgiving;
- would it be possible to put a hop scotch and noughts and crosses into the ground;
- an idea that a small mound be incorporated into either the path or the ground somewhere as it makes interesting cycling / running over;
- the possibility of having the main path colour wider for scooters / bicycles (although as the surface will be the same level and just different colours this might not be necessary);
- the suggestion for some sort of balance steps with graduated heights.

The Clerk would obtain an additional quotation from an alternative supplier.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to investigate the funding opportunities.

b. Cherry Street Parking

Following a discussion the Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the residents of Cherry Street, Cherry Close and Cherry Cottage to the next Parish Council meeting to hear their views and to try to resolve the issue.

c. Sewerage on Launton Road

NF reported that Thames Water had indicated that they are unable to do anything about the issue until it happens again as it cannot be replicated. However, it was understood that they believed that the issue in February was as a result of too much rain.

14. Planning Applications - to discuss recent Applications and note Notices of Decision

a. Current Applications

No applications had been received

b. Notices of Decision

- i. 14/00008/F, Mrs P McSteen, Lime Cottage, 12 Cherry Street, OX27 9AA; First floor part two storey rear extension with associated internal and external works. Permission granted.

15. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received and discussed where necessary.

a. OALC – February update (circulated by email)

- b. OALC – **re repeal of s.150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972**. About the requirement for two Councillor signatories on cheques. The repeal was approved on 17 February; the 'Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners' Guide was updated at the same time and published the day after. Every Council which wishes to take advantage of the change must formally put in place effective systems and arrangements compliant with the proper practices before it seeks to abandon the two signature rule which means that new Financial Regulations will need to be adopted.

The Clerk informed the meeting that there was no urgency to change the Financial Regulations as long as the current agreed procedures are followed, but she recommended that the Parish consider changing the Financial Regulations in due course so that the Parish is able to take advantage of the banking changes. The Clerk had subsequently received further guidance and would report to the April meeting.

- c. **OCC** – re playground registration as a Village Green.
- d. **Boundary Commission briefing on warding patterns for CDC** – 6pm 31 March
- e. **CDC** – re Spring Clean rubbish sacks
- f. **Clerks and Councils Direct**
- g. **Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue** – the Clerk had been contacted regarding the repainting of the fire hydrant covers. The Fire Service had surveyed all the fire hydrants in the village, marked the covers and kerbs and cleared the marker posts of vegetation / debris in order that they are clearly visible to fire fighters in the event of an incident. The Fire Service requests that cars do not park over the hydrants in the road as it may impede their ability to put out a fire. All hydrants, whether on public or private land are public property and as such the fire service has a duty to maintain them for the benefit of all.
- h. **Ian Kemp** - re Inspection of CDC Local Plan. The Local Plan hearing will be for two weeks from 3 June starting at 9.45am in the Council Chamber of Bodicote House. Thursday 19th will be the day when the villages and rural areas will be discussed.
- i. **OCC** – re Grass Cutting Grant. The Clerk has been informed that this is the last year the Parish is likely to receive an increase in the grant. Due to ‘efficiency savings’ by OCC this is likely to be reduced by 50% next year which will need to be taken into account when the budget is calculated.

16. Reports from meetings

No meetings had been attended.

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

a. **Road Sweeping the village**

The issue of the road sweepers not being able to do a good job because of the number of cars parked, particularly in Cherry Street, and the time they visited the village, was raised. The Clerk would look into whether she could be informed of the road sweeper’s programme so that she could pass on the information to the village.

There was no further business.

18. Date of next meeting – the Councillors **RESOLVED** to confirm the next meeting as Tuesday 8 April 2014 at 7.00pm and to agree to move the June Parish Council meeting to Tuesday 3 June in order to be within the legal time frame for electing the Chairman after the election, but to keep the Annual Parish Meeting on 10 June.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed

Dated