



**MINUTES OF THE STRATTON AUDLEY PARISH COUNCIL
ON TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.00PM
IN THE HUNT ROOM OF THE RED LION PUBLIC HOUSE**

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

In attendance: Mrs J Olds (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: None

Public Participation: One member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public participation

One villager attended regarding the garden wall of The Stables on the Launton Road, which had recently been damaged by a passing vehicle. Photographs of the damage were presented. There have been a number of incidents around this area over the last few years. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to contact the Highways Area Steward to discuss the matter and find out how to reduce the possibility of damage to any property.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2013

It was **RESOLVED**, with one correction that the meeting started at 7pm not 7.30pm, 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. Speed check

The Clerk had spoken to PCSO Sue Cooper who is very happy to run a speed awareness session with the school children in the village. The Clerk has also spoken to Mrs Pearson, Headmistress of Fringford School, who is happy to work with PCSO Cooper. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to contact PCSO Cooper to progress the project.

NF reported that a speed check was recently undertaken by the Police on the Bicester Road on a Sunday morning at 10am.

b. Broadband

The Clerk supplied the link - <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/> so that any villager interested could register an interest in the project. The Clerk reported that whilst the website states that Stratton Audley isn't currently in the rollout plans, she

believes that it means that BT, as the provider, is undertaking the implementation planning and surveying at present and hasn't finalised the dates for the next implementation phase, which is a two year, Oxfordshire-wide project starting in January next year.

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to put the information on the village website, send the information to as many people as possible, including the CLP group and to ask the CLP group to put the URL on the CLP Facebook page.

c. Communication and Website

NF reported that he had updated the village website with all the CLP and Parish Council information.

d. Trees and the road at Stratton Audley Park

The Clerk has been in contact with the Arboricultural Team at OCC and it appears that the owners of the trees may have to apply for a retrospective planting licence to maintain the avenue of trees. The Clerk has been in touch with the owners to ask whether the trees were planted before or after OCC's adoption of the road.

Following the damage to the road sign on the A4421, the Clerk has requested a new sign for Godington / Poundon with Godington spelt correctly.

The Clerk has also enquired about the triangle of grass at the turn off from the A4421 to the Park, but has been informed that as it was not dealt with at the time of the roadworks finishing, it is not possible to remedy this now as there is no budget for it. However, Localities Funding it could be applied for.

e. Dog Bin

The Clerk has ordered and received the new dog bin. The Councillors discussed the location and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ask Paul Fitzgerald to give her a quotation for it to be installed by the stile on Mill Road next to Pound House. However, the Councillors **AGREED** that if the smell was too unpleasant, an alternative site would need to be found. The Clerk informed the meeting that the dog bins were emptied twice a week in the summer and once a week in the winter.

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	£1,257.51
Co-op Savings Account	£16,299.72

There are no outstanding cheques.

The Clerk presented the meeting with a forecast of the expenditure to the end of the year together with printouts of the current state of all three bank accounts. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to transfer £2,500 from the Savings Account to the Current Account to cover the next three months' expenditure.

b. To consider invoices for payment

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

Payment to:	Cheque No	Amount
Cherwell District Council for dog bin emptying	500018	£174.35
Royal British Legion for Poppy Appeal	500019	£100.00
Glasdon for new dog bin	500020	£148.77
JMC Olds for Clerking Duties (9 September – 8 October)	500021	£149.59
JMC Olds for expenses (printing £21.05; travel £66.42; postage £4.08)	500022	£91.55

8. Walk around the village

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Councillors were unable to make the walk last month. This has been rearranged for October.

9. Verge Cutting and Weed Spraying

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to postpone the discussion about the verge cutting until they had undertaken their survey. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to prepare a brief for the weed spraying contract and to send it to the current contractor for examination and discussion.

10. Community Led Plan

NF reported that the committee now has a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. An ORCC representative will be attending the next meeting to help the group take the project forward. The Halloween party will take place on 1 November at 5pm at the Red Lion.

11. Policies

The Clerk presented the Councillors with a Financial Reserves Policy and a Social Media Policy. The Councillors **RESOLVED** to take the documents away and to discuss further at the next meeting.

12. Facebook

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council should have a Facebook presence so that the Clerk could post as Stratton Audley Parish Council on the village’s CLP Facebook page. However, this was not to be set up in competition with the CLP page.

13. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising

a. Playground Refurbishment

The Clerk presented further figures for re-turfing the Playground, but following discussions with the CLP group, the Councillors **RESOLVED** to leave further investigations until it was possible to consult widely with the parents, grandparents and children who use the playground, as part of the CLP.

b. Playbus

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to suggest Friday 13 December for the Christmas Grotto Playbus to visit the village.

The regular bus will start visiting the village on Monday 14 October and will stop in the layby outside Plough House. They are yet to confirm the time.

c. Remembrance Service

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that HCS and NF would decide between them who would attend the service and read the Roll of Honour on Sunday 10 November.

d. Bulbs

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to spending £45 on daffodil bulbs for the village verges. JMO would visit Preston Bissett Nursery or ask Mrs Woodward to do so.

e. Rubbish Bins

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that no further bins were needed in the village and to dispose of the two old bins which are currently not in use.

f. Blocked drain under the trough in Bicester Road

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to discuss the matter with the Highways Area Steward.

g. Using the Marquee at West Farm for a Christmas Party

The Councillors **RESOLVED** that it would have been lovely to use the marquee for a Parish Council event, but that due to time constraints to consider the use for next Christmas. However, NF would put the proposal to the CLP group.

h. Public footpath blocked by new fence

It had been reported that a public footpath across a field had been blocked by a new fence. The Clerk requested that she be sent photographs so that she could discuss the issue with the Footpaths representative of OCC who would be able to give a definitive answer.

i. Snow Clearance

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to agree to continue with the arrangement with Richard Wise to clear the snow when and if it is necessary. The Clerk would write to confirm.

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

The Councillors noted the following Notices of Decision

- a. Application 13/01087/F, Mr and Mrs Howson, West Farm, Launton Road; Alterations to and change of use of barn to provide shop
- b. Application 13/01204/LB, Mrs E R Gosling, Willow Farm House, Cherry Street; Replacement windows to house
- c. Application 13/00229/TCA, Mr Jo Rawicz, 10 Cavendish Place; T1 T2 x Yew – fell

15. Correspondence received

The Councillors noted the correspondence received.

- a. **Clerks and Councils Direct** (circulated).
- b. **Email from a resident**, regarding the repair to the wall at Launton Road
- c. **OCC Planning Consultation**. Circulated by email. JMO had read it, didn't have any comments and didn't think there was anything which would impact on the village.
- d. **OCC Finance Planning**. The Clerk and JMO would attend the consultation meeting at Banbury Town Hall on Monday 14 October at 7.30pm.

- e. **Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.** AGM on 17 October at 7.15pm.
- f. **ORCC Annual Review** (circulated)
- g. **Highways** regarding the closure of the A34 for bridge repair work north of Chieveley which had been circulated by email. The Clerk would circulate the information more widely.
- h. **Dogs’ Trust Chipping Campaign.**
- i. **OALC Members’ Update** circulated by email

16. Reports from meetings

- a. **SLCC meeting** 17 September
The Clerk attended the meeting which was about finance and budgets. It had been extremely useful and the Clerk had revised the setup of the finance spreadsheets following the meeting.

- b. **Meeting regarding registering the Playground as a Village Green – 12 September**
The Clerk met Lisa Gray-Wright from OCC about registering the playground as a Village Green. The forms were originally completed in 2009 and needed some amendment before submission.

The Statutory Declaration which must be signed by either an JP, practising solicitor, commissioner for oaths or notary public also needs to be renewed. In order to reduce the costs, the Clerk asked whether any of the Councillors knew of anyone eligible to help. HCS would investigate a contact.

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

- a. **Communications from the Parish Council**
The Clerk reminded all members that all communications regarding Parish Council matters should come from the Clerk as the Proper Officer, unless a Councillor has been specifically asked to do so at a properly convened Parish Council meeting.

She also asked that care be taken when forwarding emails which might have content further down the thread or attached which it isn't necessary for the current recipients to see (a data protection issue) and to be mindful that any communications which are sent, either by letter or email from any account on Parish Council business could be brought up in a Freedom of Information request.

- b. **The Old Post Office Noticeboard**
Enquiries had been received regarding the old Parish Council noticeboard outside the Old Post Office. As the Parish Council no longer has a use for the noticeboard, it had been agreed with the building's owner that they could take over the use of it provided the Parish Council sign was taken down.

18. Date of next meeting – Tuesday 12 November 2013 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm and was followed by a short presentation by Mary Gough from the Ramblers Association.

Signed

Dated