



**Minutes of the
Stratton Audley Parish Annual Open Meeting
Wednesday 9 May 2012 at 8pm
The Hunt Room, Red Lion Public House, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire**

Present:

Chairman: Mr Nigel Ferguson

Clerk: Mrs Jane Olds

Cherwell District Council: Cllr Barry Wood

Thames Valley Police: WPC C Brown and PCSO S Cooper

Stratton Audley Residents: Mr J Woodward, Mrs B Papenfus, Mr H Papenfus, Mr J Honsinger, Mrs C Honsinger, Mr J Beaumont, Mrs M Woodward, Mr V Moran, Mr F O'Neill, Jon Hill, Helen Smithers

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Catherine Fulljames

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He expressed hope that during his tenure as Chairman that the Parish Council could work with the Church and the Hunt to bring the village together. He mentioned the particular example of how everyone was working well for the Village Celebration of the Jubilee on Saturday 2 June. He also hoped that villagers would be able to help with the Village Tidy Up day on 12 May at 11am meeting outside the Red Lion.

The aims for the year included continuing to develop the look of the village by improving the bus shelter and the playground surface.

Minutes

The minutes of the prior year Open Meeting held on 17 May 2011, copies of which had been circulated, were signed by the Chair as a true record of proceedings.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Community Police Officer

WPC Caroline Brown: reported the breakdown of crimes for the year. A total of 12 crimes were reported including:

- Arson at the Quarry
- 1 burglary of a significant amount of jewellery
- 1 burglary of a garden shed
- 1 burglary at the Red Lion Pub
- Malicious damage to horse head collars at the Hunt stables
- The attempted theft of lead from the Church
- Car number plates which are used by petrol thieves. WPC Brown asked residents to report this as soon as it is noticed so that a trace may be put on the plates. She also recommended obtaining screws which it is not possible to undo to deter thieves.

The issue of speeding was raised. WPC Brown informed the meeting that the policing priorities had been changed to tackle rural crime and metal theft and that speeding was no longer in the local police's remit. She recommended that the Parish Council ask OCC for Speed Data Recorders and discuss with other parishes including Lower Heyford about how they went about purchasing a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.

Clerk Report

The clerk gave a brief report on the Parish Council's activities over the year.

There had been three resignations from the Council over the past year – Rachel Dewhurst, Lizzie Lewis and Malachy O'Neill; and two further appointments – Jon Hill and Helen Smithers. Following Malachy's resignation at the AGM this year in April, Nigel Ferguson agreed to be elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Five planning applications were considered by the Council over the last year.

This year, the Council's major expenditure was on the monkey bars in the children's playground. Otherwise, most other expenditure has been spent on keeping the village clean and tidy together with administration. The books have been presented for internal audit for the year and the forms for the external audit will be sent off within the next couple of weeks. The Accounts will be available for inspection from 21 May to 19 June and the Clerk asked for residents to contact her directly should they wish to look at them.

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils offers courses to the Council and two of these have been attended. Firstly a 'getting to grips with finance' course was attended by Nigel Ferguson and the Clerk and secondly an 'introduction to new councillors' course was attended by Jon Hill. These have been extremely helpful in guiding the Councillors.

Jon Hill represented the Council at a consultation meeting of the Bicester Masterplan and Nigel attended a presentation about Bomber Command.

Finally, thanks go to Jim and Maz, the itinerant woodworkers on the A4421 who generously presented the new wooden seat outside the pub. This has been recorded in the Parish Council's asset register and is now insured.

Report by District Councillor Barry Wood

Cllr Wood reported that he was pleased to inform the residents that the District Council had not put up Council Tax for the third year running. However, the consequence of this was that there was a shortage of money and that the administration within the District Council had had to make economies. One of these economies was to merge the top level administration with South Northamptonshire which was now saving each council £1 million a year and further savings of £800,000 in due course. However, the Council has tried to make sure that there is little impact on parishes and the services residents use have not been affected.

Cllr Wood outlined the growth of Bicester. The plans are to be submitted for a new NHS Community Hospital in the grounds of the Cottage Hospital. However, planning has also been granted for a hospital/health centre and care home behind the Esso Garage on the new Kingsmere Estate.

There are also plans for Tesco to move from Pingle Drive to the area between the A41 towards Aylesbury and the Wyevale Garden Centre where there will also be a business park. Bicester Village would then be able to improve the access to their site. A public exhibition about this has been arranged for 18 and 19 May.

There are also proposals for land south of the new road, Vendee Drive, on the Kingsmere development, to be used as a 700 space Park and Ride. During the week this would be used for travel to Oxford and at weekends for Bicester Village.

The Bicester Masterplan was also mentioned. This is an important document to make sure that all the planning around Bicester is cohesive and then connected to Cherwell District's local plan. It is hoped that the quarry will be encapsulated in this plan as leisure land.

HS2 is still progressing at present and has gone into Judicial Review stage. However, Cllr Wood is hopeful that the project will be put off as being too expensive.

Finally Cllr Wood outlined the project at RAF Bicester. All the buildings on the site have been listed in the context of its setting, which includes the airfield, so it is not possible to build houses on the site. However, it would be possible to redevelop the

buildings internally. The MOD intends to put the site on the market shortly. So far, there is one body – Bomber Command Heritage, Bicester - which is interested in purchasing the site and CDC welcomes their involvement.

Any other business

The cycle path from the Bicester Road down the A4421 was raised. After much discussion it was suggested that Jon Hill would raise the point at the next Bicester Masterplan consultation on 13 May under the topic of the 'greening of Bicester'.

A number of villagers expressed their sadness at the poor attendance at the meeting and there was discussion on how to encourage a better attendance.

The minutes were taken by Jane Olds, Clerk to the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed..... Date.....