



Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 2nd December 2015, in the Hunt Room of the Red Lion, Stratton Audley at 7.00pm

Present: Mr J Honsinger (Chairman) Mr A Flack, Ms C Lloyd, Mr S Hopkins and Mr G Nicholson

Apologies: Cllr C Fulljames (OCC) Cllr B Wood (CDC)

In Attendance:

Members of the public: seven

84. Apologies for absence

None.

85. Declarations of interest

None

86. Public participation

Five members of the public attended to give views on application number 15/01421/ADV. The chairman clarified that, while Members of the Public per se had the right to speak during the Agenda item "Public participation" when the meeting of the Council was adjourned for this purpose, the Council's Standing orders did give the Chairman the authority to invite members of the public to speak during other agenda items if he believed they had information that would be helpful to the Parish Council in its deliberations.

The Chairman also thanked members of the public for taking the time to attend and reminded everyone that the Council should be the first line of contact for any matters relating to the Parish.

87. Minutes of the meeting of 4th November 2015

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the 4th November 2015 were an accurate record of the proceedings.

88. Progress on Parish matters

- SSE Resilience Grant application – The Council has received an offer of £9508 from SSE towards the purchase of equipment to support the Parish in the event of a long power outage or severe weather. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Hopkins would look at options for the village to a) erect a storage shed and b) install a village defibrillator. It was agreed that the Council would need to carry out a survey of residents to ascertain who would volunteer to assist, perhaps on a street by street basis, and who was vulnerable and may need assistance.

- Street Cleaning – The CDC street cleaner had visited on 1st December, as a result of which most leaves had been collected. The manager of the team had also visited and expressed his satisfaction with the parish's actions in ensuring that roads were cleared of vehicles and ready for the visit. He had suggested that the Parish should now contact OCC to arrange for the road drains to be cleared.
- The Clerk reported her visit to the Democratic Services manager at CDC, who had expressed his confidence in the Parish Council going forward. A number of matters were discussed including a desire to increase the number of Parish Councillors from 5 to 7. However he indicated that CDC were unlikely to look at another Community Governance review in the near future as this had been carried out in 2013.

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89. Report from District and County Councillors – none were present.

90. Finance –The Council noted the monthly report contained in Appendix 1 and authorised the following payments:-

<i>Cheque Number</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Amount</i>
500183	Mrs A Davies	Cl salary/Expenses	£161.47
500184	HMRC	Clerk's tax	£37.60
500185	Red Lion PH	Room hire	£20.00
500186	Hole in the Middle	Domain rental	£63.35
500187	Hole in the Middle	Domain transfer	£14.40
500188	FCC Recycling (Uk) Ltd	Donor contribution	£2795.00
500189	R Howson	2 Sprayings+ Xmas tree	£780.00

The Parish Council noted the progress of expenditure against its budget for 2015 and the projected budget for 2016/17 and agreed to discuss this in detail at its next meeting when the position with regard to grants from CDC/OCC are clearer.

91. Parish Council functions of Councillors

The Chairman explained that this item had been discussed at the last meeting of the Parish Council, when councillors had assumed responsibility for areas of Parish Council business, with "highways, footpaths and traffic" remaining outstanding. Cllr Nicholson's name was put forward by another Councillor and after some discussion he agreed to take on 'lead' responsibility for this area. The Clerk was asked to send any available historic information regarding traffic volumes and speeds to Mr Nicholson, who will consider whether the formation of a Community Speedwatch group, the purchase of Led mobile speed signs or other action may be an appropriate way forward, bearing in mind the CLP survey which indicates that the speed of traffic is a concern for many residents of the Parish.

92. Community Led Plan – To receive an update on plan activities

The Community Led Plan group are now meeting regularly. The key fund raising event in 2016 will be the Food and Music Festival on June 4th. There is a committee of some 9 people already involved and a trade stall and sponsorship leaflet is in the process of being produced. A licence to close the road has been sought between the Red Lion and the Parish Church. There will be

other events throughout the year (including the annual free family day just for the community) and others such as ferret racing, scarecrows, bowls and possibly open gardens. Events will raise money for the Church Restoration Fund (which doubles the Village Hall), other parish projects and a local charity such as the Air Ambulance.

Concern was raised at the £2 entry cost of the Children's Xmas Party, but it was noted that the event is selling well and should achieve its target of 40 -50 attendees.

The draft CLP Plan still needs to be worked up into a finished document but during its development, consideration has been given as to whether the village should now produce a Neighbourhood Plan which carries greater legal weight in regard to land and property development. Stratton Audley has already registered interest in producing a plan with CDC and following a recent meeting at CDC attended by Cllr Flack and the Chairman the idea has been resurrected. Whilst the Cherwell Local plan 2011-2031 provides substantial protection for Stratton Audley to remain as it is, there is a significant pressure on local authorities to approve applications for residential development and furthermore there is likely to be a change in legislation in 2016 which could re designate brownfield land as "developed land" which would mean that the process to develop such land further would be eased.

The residents Survey carried out earlier this year provides ample evidence that residents of Stratton Audley like the present village environment, and a Neighbourhood Plan would give the Parish Council powers to control development.

In the light of this discussion the parish council resolved unanimously to commence preparation of a neighbourhood Plan, the work towards which would be led by a resident – Jon Hill. The council wished to record its thanks to Mr Hill for volunteering to help.

93. Parish Council Web site

The Council noted earlier that the web site is "live" and working well but not yet being used on a regular basis by residents. Currently the Chairman is in charge of updating and monitoring the site but in time others will become involved and it was agreed that when necessary external support would be used and options for hosting it would be reviewed.

94. Playground

The Parish Council has received an offer of a grant of £26,000 from WREN towards the cost of refurbishing the playground. The Chairman indicated that a few residents had indicated that the playground project had taken a long time. It was noted that discussions about the project started some years ago, during which period there had delays over concerns relating to access and other matters, but wished it to be known that the grant was only applied for in July 2015, a task which he had personally undertaken and therefore this aspect had taken less than 6 months. The Parish Council now has 8 weeks to respond to the offer, and therefore it is important that the Village firms up on the project, including both play apparatus and surfacing. The Chairman will meet with parents before Christmas, to show them the plans and seek further input and suggestions with the view to appointing a contractor early in the New Year. The Council agreed to make the 10% payment to the WREN Donor organisation to activate the grant.

95. Emergency plan

The Emergency Plan toolkit (from OCC) was circulated, for councillors to consider the needs of their residents.

96. Rural Busses

OCC will be considering the Cabinet's recommendation that subsidies to rural busses cease at their budget meeting in February. It was suggested that there may be a possibility of discussing with Thames Travel the extension of the route No 22 bus from its present terminus in Thompson Drive into the Village – which would be an extra 3 miles and take approximately an extra 5 minutes. The Council noted that a representative of Oxfordshire Community First would be attending its meeting on 6th January, when all possibilities can be explored further. The Parish has been asked to nominate a Transport Representative and Cllr Nicholson agreed for his name to be put forward to OCC .

97. Planning Applications

To consider all recent Applications received from Cherwell District Council or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting including:

15/01421/ADV Pea Green Physio. – erection of one sign indicating location of facility
Members of the public attending the meeting expressed their concern at the proposal – particularly as currently the application was to place a directional sign in the same location as a large white board advertising all the business operating from Willows Gate, and there was general consensus that this would add little to the information already available. They would like assurance that it will not create a precedent and encourage other businesses to make similar applications, and an explanation as to why all residents had not received notification of the proposals. They were also concerned that, despite the planning application for 1 sign, there were still a number of unauthorised signs to be seen on the approach to the Village. In the course of discussions they also queried whether the white board at the entrance had received permission and expressed concern at the change of use to the studio operated by Pea Green, on which they were not aware of any consultations with residents. Furthermore they alleged that the company was not complying with its existing planning conditions – particularly with regard to hours of operation, and visitors were not perceived to be driving along the access track safely. The Parish Council suggested that the residents refer concerns over potential breaches of condition to CDC, possibly via their District Councillor Barry Wood. The Parish Council agreed to express its concerns about the possibility of a precedent being created to CDC and also raise with CDC's planners the concerns expressed by the residents.

15/01937/LB and 15/01935/F New Flue through existing tiled roof 7 Stratton Audley Manor –
The Parish Council agreed to raise its concern that failure to remove the existing flue would potentially damage the roofline in a listed building and a Conservation Area.

98. To note Notices of Decisions –

15/00333/TCA T1x Copper beech - Crown reduction of up to 20% to alleviate strain on potentially weak unions whilst retaining a balanced form and not affect naturally beauty of the tree. Timbertop 14 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BN

Approved.

99. Correspondence received – *to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.*

The Clerk reported that she had received notice of the consultation on the route of the Bicester Perimeter Road – all residents are encouraged to respond via OCC's web site.

100.

Reports from meetings – *to receive any reports; for information.*

The Chairman and Vice Chairman reported their attendance at the Cherwell Parishes Liaison Meeting on 11th November. They had been advised of a new local green space designation which would give land as much protection as being designated green belt.

They also attended a presentation from TOE indicating how they had funds to help parishes enhance or provide additional walkways. All Councillors were asked to consider whether they were aware of any footpaths in the Village that could be extended or needed attention.

The Chairman reported that the grass in the Parish would be given one more cut before the winter break, as soon as the weather was dry.

101.

Date of Meeting in February

The Council agreed to move the February meeting from 3rd to 10th February as three members were not available on 3rd and the meeting would not be quorate.

102.

Items for information or next Agenda only –

Councillors were asked to email the Clerk with items that they would like to see on the agenda for the next meeting.

103.

Date of next meeting – the next meeting will be 6th January 2016 at 7pm in the Hunt Room of the Red Lion.

Please note the new numbering system for items in the minutes. They now run on sequentially from one month to the next across each statutory year and then begin again from no.1 at the start of the new financial year.

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Stratton Audley Parish Council			Monthly Financial Report	
Parish Council Meeting		02 December 2015		
Payments processed since last meeting			£1,258.99	
	04-Nov-15	Royal British Legior	500173	£100.00
	04-Nov-15	V Osborne	500174	£26.50
	04-Nov-15	HMRC	500175	£37.60
	04-Nov-15	A Davies	500176	£161.47
	04-Nov-15	Information Commis	500177	£35.00
	04-Nov-15	Navitas Design	500178	£99.60
	04-Nov-15	The Red Lion	500179	£20.00
	04-Nov-15	PCC	500180	£350.00
	04-Nov-15	Sobell House	500181	£100.00
	04-Nov-15	Mr J Honsinger	500183	£32.00
	02-Dec-15	Mrs A Davies	500184	£161.47
	+ 4 more			£135.35
Receipts processed since last meeting			£0.00	
Bank Reconciliation		Statement dated		30 November 2015
		Savings Account		£14,873.87
		Current account		£5,124.66
	Items not yet cleared:			
Receipts	None			
Payments		PCC		£350.00
		Sobell House		£100.00
		Mrs A Davies		£161.47
		HMRC		£37.60
		The Red Lion		£20.00
		Hole in the middle Ltd		£63.35
		Hole in the middle Ltd		£14.40
Net Total			£19,251.71	