



Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 6th January 2016, 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: Jonathan Hill (Neighbourhood Plan)
Mr A Mobley (planning consultant for the Green Barn)
Ms E Lewis Edwards (Oxfordshire Community First)

Members of the public: Two

101. Apologies for absence

None.

102. Declarations of interest

None

103. Planning presentation

Andrew Mobley attended the meeting to make a presentation on revised proposals for the residential development at Green Barn Farm, which has planning permission for 3 separate units. He explained that he perceived that the characteristic vernacular style of housing in the village was one with high gables, flat to the road with a “farmyard-like” feel. Taking into account CDC’s current policy of 30 houses per hectare (which would generate 6 houses on the application site) he had developed a plan for 4 houses within a courtyard which would reflect the buildings in the village using natural stone, similar to barns with developed outbuildings. Plots 2, 3 and 4 had been designed to match some existing properties in the Village.

After discussion the Parish Council agreed that the proposal presented looked attractive and would probably not lead to an objection from the Council should a planning application be submitted in accordance with the plans outlined.

104. Community Transport

Ms Emily Lewis Edwards attended the meeting at the request of the Parish Council to provide information about community transport initiatives. She confirmed that it was probable that OCC would withdraw subsidies from all bus services, which would include

the Stagecoach No 8 Bus that passes through the Village on its route between Northampton and Bicester, and which presently receives a subsidy from OCC of £24000 per annum. If this bus service is of importance to the Parish Council one option for it would be to make a subsidy to the company itself under the Council's s 137 powers to do anything which it considers to be in the best interests of its residents. Although the bus is not used by many residents of Stratton Audley it was suggested that it is used to a considerable extent by residents of Fringford. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Fringford to see whether any joint approach would be of interest, as the service is due to be discussed at a meeting hosted by OCC on 20th January 2016. Mr Nicholson agreed to attend this meeting if available and would inform the Clerk accordingly.

Other options for the parish would be to talk with another operator (eg Thames Travel – operator of the No 22 around Bicester) to see whether the existing route could be extended into the Village, to set up a Community bus scheme (although this is expensive), to facilitate a shared taxi scheme or increase the availability of volunteer drivers from the Village who would be part of the Banbury Volunteer Connect Scheme.

105. Minutes of the meeting of 2nd December 2015

The Council agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the 2nd December 2015 were an accurate record of the proceedings.

106. Progress on Parish matters

SSE Resilience Grant application – The Council has received a cheque for £9508 from SSE towards the purchase of equipment to support the Parish in the event of a long power outage or severe weather and to include provision of a defibrillator and a storage shed. After discussion it was agreed that possible locations for the defibrillator would be either on the exterior wall of the Red Lion Public House, or in the porch of the Parish Church. Similarly the storage shed could be located in the church yard, with the consent of the Church or alternatively the Parish Council could make enquiries about the status of the bus shelter on the Stoke Lyne Road at the entrance to Glen Close as buses and residents no longer appear to use this stop. The Clerk was asked to check this with OCC. It was reported that, through advertising on the Parish website, a resident has volunteered to be involved in first aid training, which will now be organised for up to 12 people. Anyone wishing to be involved should contact the Clerk.

It was reported that the Parish had, as usual, purchased a Christmas tree , together with additional Christmas lights, and this had made a much improved display in the run up to Christmas. (The Parish Council's thanks go to Mr Adams for putting up the tree and Mr Papenfus for once again supplying electricity). The location of the tree was discussed as it is not in the centre of the village and the question was asked as to whether a tree could be located in the Church grounds. It was agreed that an additional Christmas tree with lights in the Church grounds would make a major visual impact in the village and that this would be discussed with the Church Wardens.

107. Report from District and County Councillors

None were present.

108. 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>
500190	Mrs A Davies	Festive Lights	£40.95
500191	CDC	election	£46.80
500192	HMRC	Clerk Tax	£37.40
500193	cancelled		
500194	Mrs A Davies	Salary and tax	£183.97
500195	M Gore	Grass/playground	£360.00
500189	The Red Lion	Room hire	£20
500190	resident	Expenses Children's Christmas party	£97.93

The Parish Council noted the progress of expenditure against its budget for 2015 and the projected budget for 2016/17 including grants available from Cherwell District Council and the grass cutting grant from Oxfordshire County Council. As the Parish has plans for a number of major projects in the year 2016/17 it was agreed that it would be prudent to set a precept of £8858 for the year, which is estimated to increase the tax paid to the Parish Council by occupiers of band D properties by £7.20 from £35.83 to £43.03 per annum.

109. Community Led Plan /Neighbourhood Plan *To receive an update on plan activities*

The Community Led Plan group are well advanced with their preparations for the Food and Music festival on the weekend of 4th June 2016. Their target is to achieve 30 stall holders, and there will also be a major raffle, a pig roast, mini beer festival and live music throughout the day. It is hoped that the event will raise money for the restoration of the Parish Church porch and other village works, plus make donations to local charities (probably the Air Ambulance and Sobell House). The Council noted that the Lord Lieutenant had asked Parishes to consider holding a street party the following weekend (the 11th and 12th June) to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, and it was agreed that the Food Festival would recognise this celebration in a low key manner.

Jonathan Hill, who is leading the development of the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan, indicated that he was assembling a group of interested residents to hold discussions with key stakeholder groups within the Parish, including landowners, the hunt, the church, local businesses and householders, with a view to having an outline of a 10 year vision for the whole village to discuss at the Annual Open meeting of the Parish in May.

The Parish Council strongly supported these proposals and agreed that the Clerk should make an application to DCLG for funding to facilitate specialist support going forward.

110. Parish Council Web site

Ongoing.

111. Playground

The Chairman explained, with the help of an illustrated plan, the amended proposals for the new playground , which had been devised following further discussions with parents and grandparents leading up to Christmas . These had been finalised with the assistance of the probable contractor Trevor Stewart, whose playground constructions have been installed in many local villages and are very popular with parents and children alike. The Parish Council noted the design, and after discussion about the cost and extent of the play shelter, agreed that it would proceed with the installation of the new playground in accordance with the plans drawn up. The Clerk was asked to contact WREN to release the funding they are providing. The Chairman presented a brief report , which was endorsed by the council and would be made available on the Village website noticeboard and displayed in the playground.

112. Emergency plan

It was agreed that the Parish Council's Emergency Plan would be completed and first aid training organised for up to 12 residents.

113. Speeding Traffic

The Council has obtained 10 Community Speedwatch signs from Thames Valley Police at no cost. It was agreed that these signs would be erected at suitable locations on the Bicester Road, Mill Road, Stoke Lyne Road and Launton Road, as close as possible to the existing 30mph signs.

114. Rural Buses

As discussed earlier .

115. 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:

16 Glen Close Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BY No: 15/02109/F
Single storey side extension, 2 storey rear extension and loft conversion – no objection.

116. To note Notices of Decisions

5 Willows Gate Stoke Lyne Road Stratton Audley 15/01421/ADV (amendment to earlier application) – 1 fence mounted sign at the entrance to 5 Willows Gate – granted until 11th December 2016.

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

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire asking parishes to consider holding a street party on the 11th and 12th June to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

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

None.

119. Items for information or next Agenda –

- Councillors expressed concern that the Bicester Village temporary car park was still operational at the airfield, when they had understood that it was for a limited, temporary period only. The Clerk agreed to ask Cherwell to clarify the conditions under which it was operating. There was particular concern that signs to the carpark limited visibility for drivers on the A421.
- It was reported that there were problems with sewage in the Launton Road area of the Village. This problem had been observed in 2014 when there was flooding in Mill Road and Launton Road. It was then reported to Thames Water who had responded that they had not been able to trace any issues, and would need to be contacted again when a similar situation occurred. Although at the time Thames Water had observed that there was no issue with the local pumping station, water is running away slowly and there was concern at the meeting that the pumping station was not able to cope with the current volume of water. The Clerk was asked to refer the problem to Thames Water as a matter of urgency.
- It was reported that the Environment Agency had issued a flood alert to include the river that runs through Stratton Audley. It was noted that flooding has occurred from time to time where the river runs under Mill Road and this can present a hazard to road users. Since it is unclear who is responsible for clearing any blockages, the Clerk proposed that she would report the potential problem to the Flood Engineer at Cherwell District Council.

120. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be 29th February 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			06 January 2016	
Payments processed since last meeting			£3,871.82	
	02-Dec-15	Mrs A Davies	500182	£161.47
	02-Dec-15	HMRC	500184	£37.60
	02-Dec-15	The Red Lion	500185	£20.00
	02-Dec-15	Hole in the middle L	500186	£63.35
	02-Dec-15	Hole in the middle L	500187	£14.40
	02-Dec-15	FCC Environment (L	500188	£2,795.00
	02-Dec-15	R Howson	500189	£780.00
Receipts processed since last meeting			£0.00	
Bank Reconciliation			Statement dated	04 January 2016
		Savings Account		£14,873.87
		Current account		£880.59
	Items not yet cleared:			
Receipts	None			
Payments		Hole in the middle Ltd		£63.35
		Hole in the middle Ltd		£14.40
Net Total				£15,676.71