



Approved minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Tuesday 2 June, in the Hunt Room of the Red Lion, Stratton Audley at 7.00pm

Present: Mr A Flack (AF); Mrs L Korsak (LK) and Mr J Honsinger (JRH) - Chairman

Apologies: None

Public Participation: Seven members of the community attended, two left at 8.30, one at 8.45pm

In Attendance: Mr A Mobley (representing John O'Neill); Lorraine Cheney (from 8pm) web developer.

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming everyone and drawing attention to the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which allows for recording of meetings.

1. **Urgent Business Meeting** – The first item was to report on a council meeting that took place on 22 May in accordance with the Parish Standing Orders in order to discuss Urgent Matters Arising. The Chairman talked the meeting through the draft minutes and the Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes and have them published
2. **Apologies for absence** – to receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence - None
3. **Declarations of interest** – All three councillors were conflicted on item 5/a/i, but as reported in the minutes of the Urgent Business Meeting under item 1, they had been granted dispensation to be involved in all matters during the meeting including that of the planning application for the Green Barn.
4. **Public participation** – No matters were raised other than interest in the Green Barn planning application, and so it was agreed to bring forward discussion on the planning applications.

5. Planning Applications

- a. To consider all recent Applications received from Cherwell District Council or on the District Council website up to the date of the meeting including:
 - i. *15/00640/OUT, Mr J O'Neill, The Green Barn, Stoke Lyne Road; OUTLINE - Demolition of existing Dutch barn and erection of four dwellings and formation of new access.* Mr Andrew Mobley made a presentation on behalf of the applicant and then agreed to take questions. He stressed that they were interested in listening to the views of local people and that the developer was keen to ensure that a detailed design scheme would be submitted for scrutiny with a view to obtaining broad approval from the local community. The development would be of a high quality and reflect current building stock in the village.
One member of the public was absolutely opposed and one was in favour. The remainder raised concerns over the precedent it would create, the overall larger footprint, the increase in dwellings from three to four and how it would look. In particular on the latter point, how would it be possible to ensure that any final design scheme conformed to what might be agreed at this early stage whilst the applicant was still involved.
Several villagers had indicated to the Chairman prior to the meeting that whilst they approved of the development within the framework of the existing building they did not like the idea of knocking it down and replaced with four houses. The Chairman went on to say that the duty of

the Parish Council was to raise any and all concerns regardless of personal views, in order to ensure that such matters are thoroughly considered in the interests of the entire community.

The councillors resolved to agree to send the following comments to Cherwell Council:

“The Parish Council wishes to raise concerns over the outline planning application to build four new dwellings. In so doing, it would like to emphasise that everyone is supportive of the idea of converting the existing barn into an attractive and interesting building for three dwellings. However the proposal is believed to be against the local housing policy relating to residential property within the village as adopted in the current Cherwell Plan 1996 for category two settlements such as Stratton Audley. Whilst we understand every application is assessed on its own merit, members of the public present at our recent Council meeting felt strongly that it will set a precedent which they find unacceptable. Additionally concern was raised over the increase in the square footage from 5000 to 7000 sq.ft. and the number of dwellings from three to four.”

- ii. 15/00847/TPO, Mr Simon Goldsmith, Stratton Audley Manor, Mill Road; 1 x Cedar Tree to reduce back crown over hanging residents property and garages giving clearance of 2-3 metres. Deadwood crown. 9 x Lime Trees restoration re-pollard to original pollard points of approx. 6-7 metres from ground level. - Subject to TPO 4/1975. All Councillors have viewed the proposals and have no objections.
 - iii. 15/00825/F, Mrs Marianne Hodgson, Stratton Audley Hall, Bicester Road; Installation of replacement roof to existing conservatory (from glass to metal coloured white) All Councillors have viewed the proposals and have no objections.
- b. To note Notices of Decision – None had been received

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 May 2015

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman

6. Update on progress from the previous meeting

- Path/verge on Bicester Road. This had been registered by the Clerk on Fix My Street on 28 April. There has been no response from OCC therefore it was agreed that JRH should contact the Highways Department at OCC to see if it is on their radar.
- Fibre-optic broadband update. Currently we are designated as an enabled site. The street cabinet is nearly ready and soon will be able to accept orders from telephone companies.
- Placement of street box for Fibre Optic Broadband. Nigel Richards of Openreach has forwarded an email chain showing that Broadband Oxfordshire, informed the Clerk on 1 April that the County Council had received the application from Harlequin on behalf of Openreach and it had visited the site, decided on the best location and forwarded their plans to Cherwell. The Parish Council were never alerted to this and with no objections received, the box was situated outside the playground wall on the County Council land. JRH reported that whilst the matter was still to be investigated more fully, the placement of the box complies with the rules and regulations designed to speed installations.
- Playground Development. At the previous Parish Council meeting the Clerk advised that she was waiting to hear from Cherwell as to whether planning permission was required to alter the access to the playground. However following a conversation between JRH and the planning office on 29 May, they advised that they had sent through a pre-application planning report (dated 19 March) in which they state that due to insufficient information they could not make a firm decision. However they felt it might be allowable under Permitted Developments and with agreement from OCC. If it did require planning permission they would be prepared to support the proposal. The

Clerk advised that she never received this report. Chairman was authorised to pursue this matter and with the help of others to prepare and submit the grant application to Wren to meet the deadline in July.

- No 8 Brackley to Bicester bus service According to information received this service is under review. JRH has written to Michael Furn who is believed to be heading up an action group for affected villages and will also contact Stage Coach to find out more.
- Clerk Handover. LK and JRH met the out-going clerk on 1 June for a hand-over of all documents past and present for the Parish together with a memory stick containing all electronic communication. She reported that all relevant documents had also been uploaded to the new (unpublished) website and that she would now redirect all incoming emails sent to the Clerk of the Parish to the Chairman until a new Clerk was appointed. Upon appointment she is happy to discuss any aspects from the files with the new Clerk.

7. Report from District and County Councillors — none were present

8. Finance – a. *To receive the financial report, for information:* As at 26 May the accounts stood at:

Co-op Current Account:	£998.05
Co-op Savings Account:	£19,725.87

There are no outstanding cheques

The Current Account has received £350 (£70 in cheques and £280 in cash) from the 100 Club. The out-going Clerk confirmed that she had acknowledged receipt and thanked Maggie Woodward for all her work.

The Accounts have been audited by Clive Morton and the external audit has been completed and sent to BDO in Southampton.

b. No invoices had been received. A cheque for £78 for the Chairman's conference in Sept was raised.

9. Objectives for 2015/2016 – the Chairman set out a number of aims for the next year and the Council RESOLVED to adopt the following:

- a. to communicate more with the community in an open and transparent manner;**
- b. to actively encourage more people to get involved with activities around the village;**
- c. to support the development of a CLP Plan;**
- d. to establish a vibrant new website that all sections of the community can participate in and contribute to;**
- e. to obtain funding to re-furbish the entire playground and commission the work;**
- f. to pursue the issue of the bicycle/footpath on the A4421;**
- g. to investigate the viability of creating a village open space.**

10. Clerk – *to update on recruitment progress and discuss remuneration.* The agreed advertisement was placed in the OALC newsletter distributed 1st June and a list of local Oxfordshire area Clerks had been contacted on 29 May. Depending on the number of responses, it may be necessary to also contact Parish Clerks in Buckingham. In addition LK and JRH had interviewed a potential locum who is available and is considered to be a most suitable candidate. The meeting RESOLVED to agree to appoint the Locum on an hourly rate of £12 but to wait a week or so to see if any suitable permanent candidate becomes available. The Meeting also RESOLVED to agree that all three Councillors should be on the employment sub-committee and at least two members would be tasked with interviewing suitable candidates. It was noted that in terms of remuneration this could be in the region of £10 to £11 per hour depending on experience. A member of the public commented that it was important to get a qualified Clerk as it will make it easier should we progress to developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

- 11. New Council Members** – *to discuss co-opting two new members of the community.* The meeting was informed that we may now officially co-opt two new councillors as no requests for an election had been received. The meeting RESOLVED to agree that the employment sub-committee would seek nominations and interview candidates, so as to be in a position at the next meeting to make a decision on the selection.
- 12. Village Website** – *to receive a progress report.* The web designer Lorraine Cheney attended to discuss her proposals. These were viewed in a general context and members of the public present were also invited to participate. A favourable response was received to both the design and colour specification. The meeting RESOLVED to agree that JRH would help develop the copy and would discuss this with the other councillors with a view to being able to launch the site prior to or at the Village Picnic on 19th July. Suitable publicity surrounding this launch would also need to be considered.
- 13. CDC Parish Remuneration Committee** – *to consider the report.* This report was dealt with in the previous meeting where Councillors resolved not to accept the Chairman's remuneration but to agree to the mileage allowances and the carers allowance should it be required.
- 14. Community Led Plan** – *To receive an update on forthcoming activities.*
 - a. AF provided the meeting with an update on planned events. The first being the free Village Picnic on 19th July from 2-5pm. The second major event is on 6th September with SummerFest from midday to 5pm. Sponsors are urgently required. Monies raised will be used for the village playground, church porch restoration and a donation will be made to either Katherine House Hospice, Sobell House or the Nepalese Earthquake Fund. In October there will be a Victorian Tea Party and at the end of that month a Halloween party for the kids. Finally the plan is to hold a children's Christmas Party. The meeting also discussed setting up a MailChimp account on the website for future CLP e mailings and Lorraine Cheney agreed to help with this.
 - b. *To report on feed-back from the Annual Parish meeting-* This had gone very well with a total of some 30 people in attendance. There was a good debate from the floor following all the presentations. The Survey analysis was presented in full and caused much further conversation. The full minutes of this meeting will in due course be put up on the notice board and on the website. The survey analysis will be published on the website when this is up and running and in the meantime the outline PowerPoint presentation will be sent to all those on the CLP database.
- 15. Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned in Matters Arising.** There were none.
- 16. To consider the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (part 2): development management policies and sites, regulation 18 (1), notification and consultation on scope of local plan.** The letter had been considered and at this stage it was felt there was nothing to comment upon or submit.
- 17. Correspondence received** – *to note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.* A letter had been received from Mr Robinson regarding angling in the Quarry. JRH will respond accordingly, to note and thank him for his views.
- 18. Reports from meetings** – *to receive any reports; for information.* There had been none apart from those already mentioned.
- 19. Items for information or next Agenda only** – all items for the next agenda to be submitted two weeks prior to the next meeting.
- 20. Date of next meeting** – the planned meeting of Tuesday 7 July 2015 cannot take place as the meeting will not have enough members present, so the next scheduled meeting will be 4th August at 7pm in the Hunt Room of the Red Lion.