



Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 7th March 2018

Present: Mr J Honsinger (Chairman), Mr A Flack Mr S Hopkins (part) Mr G Nicholson (part) and Mr M Hedgecox.

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Cllr B Wood (CDC) Cllr I Corkin (CDC councillor and also our Oxfordshire County Councillor)

Also in Attendance : Charles Hurst Stakeholder Manager Eastern section East/West Rail

Members of the public: 10

184. Declarations of interest

None.

185. East West Rail (EWR) proposals

The Chairman invited Mr Hurst to update the Parish Council and local residents on EWR current proposals and timeline.

Mr Hurst advised the meeting that the current stage of the EWR project is the connection between Bicester to Bletchley, and there is a separate project to connect Milton Keynes with Aylesbury. Authority for the works will be contained in an order under the Transport and Works Act 1992, and it is likely that the application for permission will be submitted by the end of May 2018. Any decision will be made by the Secretary of State on the advice of an inspector appointed to hold an Inquiry into the proposals, where it is likely members of the public will have a further opportunity to present their views.

EWR are assuming that it is probable that the powers to build the scheme will be in place to enable construction work to start at the beginning of 2020. However EWR are currently carrying out some preliminary enabling works (work that they are entitled to do under “permitted development” rights such as de-vegetation, under bridge works, surveys and environmental mitigations sites. Current environmental mitigation sites are at Launton (compound no.2), Marsh Gibbon and Charndon, where the aim is to establish wild life habitation areas to the satisfaction of Natural England. They will also be looking for a further 8 or 9 sites where habitats can be created. This work may generate some limited traffic movements, and residents may notice that Network Rail have become stricter about people walking along the railway.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that EWR had already confirmed in writing that HGV’s would not be coming through the village, but the proposal remained in place to route non -HGV traffic (including large LGV up to 7.5 tons) along the unclassified road passing through Stoke Lyne, along the Stoke Lyne Road into Stratton Audley and then out along the Launton Road to the compound no.2. This is of major concern and he queried why EWR could not use the same route as the HGVs – which is now along the Bicester bypass and up the haul road from the Launton compound no.1. Furthermore he presented a map showing how the route could be changed although accepted that staff and suppliers using cars probably could not be prevented from still using the route through the village.

Mr Hurst said that he had visited the village the previous day and toured the roads with the Chairman who had put this idea to him and as a result, he had spoken in some detail with the construction and team. He went on to say that the team were prepared to modify their plan and propose that the majority of LGV’s (which are construction related and therefore under EWR control) will, in fact, be routed up the haul road from compound n0.1, as requested, rather than through the village. Mr Hurst agreed that he would confirm

this in writing to the Clerk. This means that the majority of EWR related traffic passing through the village will be cars.

Questions from the public were as follows:

Q. *The numbers you have quoted in your proposal – 60 LGVs- over a 10 hour working day, means that there could be 1 vehicle every 10 minutes passing through the Village?*

A. *Yes but the revised plan will change this and in any case it is important to emphasise that the numbers published are peak projected traffic flows – probably for a maximum period of 12 weeks, although there will be some additional traffic passing through to the compounds during the entire 3 year construction period. However, if we re route LGV traffic away from the village as described above there will be far less vehicle movements*

Q *Have E/W Rail liaised with HS2 to be able to explain the cumulative effect of both projects on the area?*

A *It has not yet been possible to engage with HS2 because they have only recently appointed their contractors, but we will need to do this before the TWA Inquiry takes place.*

Q *How will you reinforce compliance with HGV's following the designated routes?*

A *The Company checks tachographs, and may also use vehicle tracking devices – it is a bit too early to say. However, everyone working on the site (including sub- contractors will be required to attend an induction course, where the importance of compliance will be stressed. This is a particularly important issue for this project, as there were issues during the construction of Phase 1 (Oxford to Bicester) when muck away HGV lorries did not comply with speed limits and there were numerous public complaints.*

Q *Why was it proposed that LGVs come through Stratton Audley?*

A *The original plans made provision for haul roads to be constructed along the entire route, but these were removed because the Department of Transport required the costs of the scheme to be reduced. However EWR are preparing a revised report in which changes will be made to the previous proposals. While it is the case that the TWA process will grant permission for the development, agreement to traffic routes will be devolved to the Highway Authority (OCC). The Highway Authority is unlikely to accept HGVs and other traffic using the same route, which is why 2 routes splitting HGV from other traffic are proposed.*

Q *Would it be possible to route the LGV traffic round the Bicester bypass, along the A41 and then into and through Marsh Gibbon to get to compound no.2?*

A *We have been asked by the Highway Authority to avoid the area along the A41 out of Bicester.*

Q *Why cannot HGVs and LGVs share the same route?*

A *OCC require E/W Rail to provide 2 routes for traffic accessing the site.*

Q *The rural roads around Bicester are in a terrible state, and Stratton Audley has no footpaths – do you have a solution?*

A *It is still open to residents to respond to the consultation, and I suggest that these points are raised again.*

A number of other points arose as follows:

The proposal to route HGV vehicles off the A4421 passed the Park along the road to Poundon remains in place and the key issue is how to deal with the junction - the current plan under discussions involves creating an extra right-hand turn lane on the A4421. Additionally for the "top road" passing places to allow 2 HGVs to pass would be created, probably every 300 yards, and EWR would commit to removing them after construction has been completed (in order to not create permanent features which could encourage other HGV vehicles to use road in the future), although OCC may have a different view and wish to keep them.

Mr Hurst also said the current plan was that construction would start in 2020 and last until 2023. While the compounds would be used for the full 3 years, there would be an intense initial period of some consecutive 12 weeks when maximum traffic would be observed

He confirmed that a recent meeting with Victoria Prentis MP had raised similar concerns.

He advised that EWR would consider carefully peak time flows in order to mitigate congestion. They are also planning to build a new bridge over the Charbridge Road which is estimated to require Charbridge Road to be closed for 12 months. During this time lorries will be expected to control their speed to 20mph. Finally in response to a question about air pollution from vehicles passing through the village, he explained that, as part of the planning process, EWR were required to submit an environmental assessment, that would contain provisions relating to the maintenance of air quality.

Mr Hurst then suggested that a regular meeting between Stratton Audley, Fringford, Stoke Lyne and the residents living at the Park should be instigated, to enable all parties to be updated regularly and to raised issues that have arisen. This proposal was fully supported by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hurst for coming along to the meeting and said he looked forward to written confirmation of the revised proposal to recommend diverting the majority of LGV vehicles away from the village, and furthermore invited him to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 2nd May 2018.

Cllr Barry Wood addressed the meeting from the floor to congratulate the Parish Council on the exemplary way in which it had alerted all concerned to the construction issues and championed the matter, for him it demonstrated the importance of Parish Councils. There was general endorsement from members of the public.

Following this discussion the Council agreed that they should start a dialogue with OCC Highway officers, which Cllr Corkin agreed to facilitate.

186. Minutes of the meeting of 31st January 2018

The Council agreed that the Minutes of the meeting of the 31st January 2018 were an accurate record of the proceedings.

187. Progress on Parish matters

a) Playground update

Maintenance works on the playground as identified in the playground inspectors report, have started. The Chairman noted that currently the original green railings at the play entrance are in need of repainting. The Parish Council agreed that this should be repainted with silver anti tarnish paint and would ask for a quote.

b) Quarry Site.

This was considered at OCC's Planning Committee, where additional funding for ecological studies was agreed. The County Council is looking for sympathetic restoration, and an "ecologically sensitive Enforcement action is likely to be commenced before December 2018.

c) Lawn Mower for the Church grounds

Delivery to the Church will take place shortly.

d) Cycleway along the A4421

The Chairman reported that he had a preliminary discussions with OCC's Cycling Champion, Susanne Bartington.

e) Bicester Heritage

The Chairman has had a meeting with Bicester Heritage, and agreed that closer contact would be desirable. There are currently 40 commercial operations on site, and the next phase will be to further develop the facility, including a hotel close to the A4421 which is currently in a pre planning phase. They are also repairing the peripheral -track, and discussing traffic flows with OCC. He mentioned the Parish's desire to see a cycleway from the Bicester Road junction, between the A4421 and the airfield perimeter.

f) Overgrown hedges

The Clerk confirmed that she had reported these to OCC. She will copy Cllr Corkin into the correspondence.

165. 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>
500493	Mike Gore	playground	89.25
500494	Mrs A Davies	bollards	49.99
500495	OALC	subscription	135.06
500496	Mrs A Davies	CI salary and expenses	164.65
500497	HMRC	CI tax	38.20
500498	Turney	Mower	454.00
500499	The Red Lion	Room hire	20.00
500500	J Honsinger	Walkie talkie	74.89
500551	OALC	Good Councillor Guide	26.00
500553	cancelled		
500554	SA Parish Church	APM hire	30.00
500555	Westcotec	VAS	3840.00

166. Resilience/First Aid Training

The Parish Council has tested 2 walkie talkie radios, and found them to work satisfactorily. On that basis the Council agreed to purchase a further 2 radio sets to provide extra communication in emergency situations and to have available for future events.

167. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

The Parish Council agreed to order 1 mobile Vehicle Activated Speed sign, with data download from Westcotec at a cost of £3200 + VAT. The sign will initially be erected on the Bicester Road, but could be moved around the village.

168. Road Maintenance

There are still large potholes around the village that require attention.

169. Unmetalled footpaths and bridleway

Ongoing.

170. Parish Council elections.

The Clerk will be collecting election papers from CDC on 9th March.

171. HS2/Oxford – Cambridge Expressway

No further information.

172. Rural Resilience group

The Council expressed their grateful thanks to Mr Edwards who attended this on behalf of the Village.

173. Spring Clean

A Village Spring clean is due to take place on 14th March.

174. Mobile Connectivity

The Clerk has made contact with the Oxford Diocese but has had no response. It was suggested that she should contact the Vicar.

175. Bus through the Village

It was agreed that Cllr Nicholson would contact the bus company to to thank them and ensure that they are not experiencing any problems running the service through the Village.

176. COMET Bus service

The Parish Council agreed that the service that runs through the village is currently sufficient for its needs.

177. Street Parking of Commercial vehicles

It was agreed the current parking on the street of a commercial vehicle would be monitored.


178. CLP update

Planning for the event is going well with regular monthly all well attended.

179. Planning

Before addressing the specific applications, it had been noted that a tree at no 9. Cavendish Place had been cut down without any referral of the matter to the Parish Council. While the Council notes that permission has been granted by CDC an explanation is required as to why this happened. The Clerk has registered the Council's concerns and requested a comprehensive answer.

Applications

- **Erection of detached dwelling house including demolition of existing single garage** 
- Land Adj To West Cottages Bicester Road Stratton Audley Ref. No: 18/00278/F
- The Parish Council had concerns that the proposed development would be overlarge for a small plot. Should permission be granted it would expect the development to be sympathetic to neighbouring properties in terms of design and materials.
- **T1 x Black Pine - Tidy up branch stubs from snap out caused by snow damage. Thinning of canopy to reduce surface area - reducing risk of snow damage in the future. T2 x Black Pine - Tidy up branch stubs from snap out caused by snow damage. Thinning of canopy to reduce surface area - reducing risk of snow damage in the future. T3 x Black Pine - Thinning of canopy to reduce surface area - reducing risk of snow damage in the future. T4 x Black Pine - Removal of 2 major limbs, and other smaller surrounding branches to reduce significant weight currently towards the house. Thinning of remaining canopy to reduce surface area - reducing risk of snow damage in the future**
- 8 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BN Ref. No: 18/00033/TCA
- No Objection
- **Erection of two storey extension to the rear to provide sun room and en-suite bathroom above, plus erection of single storey extension to the side to provide garden store. Demolition comprises removal of three existing windows and replacement in two cases with smaller windows**
- 1 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BN Ref. No: 18/00146/F - Objection on the basis of lack of information, intended use, a design which projects beyond the building line and design and appearance in a conservation area.

180. Correspondence received - *to note any correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.*

OCC overweight lorries prosecutions

OCC Highway Maintenance

CPRE re Oxford – Cambridge expressway

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

None

182. Items for information or next Agenda

By 21st March 2018 please.

183. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd April 2018 at 7pm in the Red Lion PH.

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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www.strattonaudley.org. See also Facebook - [strattonaudleyparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/strattonaudleyparishcouncil)

Stratton Audley Parish Council			Monthly Financial Report	
			Parish Council Meeting	07 March 2018
Payments processed since last meeting				£1,999.95
31-Jan-18		the Red Lion	500483	£20.00
31-Jan-18		Mrs A Davies	500484	£317.65
31-Jan-18		Drewett signs	500485	£101.34
31-Jan-18		HMRC	500486	£76.80
31-Jan-18		getmapping	500487	£60.00
31-Jan-18		R Howson	500488	£806.40
31-Jan-18		CDC	500489	£21.00
31-Jan-18		technix	500490	£86.40
31-Jan-18		J Honsinger	500491	£206.80
31-Jan-18		S Hopkins	500492	£151.78
				£151.78
Receipts processed since previous report				£950.00
15-Feb-18		OCC		£915.00
15-Feb-18		sponsorship		£35.00
Bank Reconciliation			Statement dated	28 February 2018
			Savings Account	£14,972.15
			Current account	£5,257.54
Items not yet cleared:				
Receipts	None			
Payments		Community First Oxon		£35.00
		CDC		£21.00
			Net Total	£20,173.69