



Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 31st January 2018

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

Apologies: , Mr G Nicholson, and Cllr B Wood (CDC) and

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

Members of the public: 25 to express concern at proposals by East/West Rail to route traffic to their construction compounds at Launton and Charndon through the Village and Parish.

The meeting opened with the Chairman of the Parish Council explaining to members of the public the current consultation by East West Rail to construct a railway line from Bicester to Milton Keynes, Bedford and (ultimately) Cambridge. Residents were concerned at additional traffic passing through the Village, and urged the Parish Council a) to object strongly and b) to request mitigation measures to ameliorate the effect of this traffic increase. Currently the proposals as drafted state that HGVs would pass along the A4421 to the junction with the road to Poundon, then along to the cross roads and down Mill Road into the village and in and out of Launton Road (estimated daily movements is 500-700 HGV vehicles). Over an 8 hour day this represents more than one every minute. Additionally non HGV construction traffic (including LGVs entering the village via the Stoke Lyne Road and Church Street (estimated daily vehicle movements around 200) and travelling along the Launton road to the Launton compound. At the consultation event representatives from the Village were advised that the company had proposed the route following a "desk top exercise" and, having now inspected the route on site realised that the route for HGV's through the village was totally along the railway accessed from the Bicester bypass was proposed. However this change has not been confirmed in writing with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had prepared a note of major impacts on the Village such as:

- 90 degree bend in Launton Road within the village insufficient for two vehicles to pass – measure and provide photos
- Narrow stretch on Launton Road (next to Geoff & Alison Howson's) - insufficient space for two large vehicles to pass.
- No footpath along Launton Road - all pedestrians have to walk along the road from the Barn right up to the Mill Road junction, including the stretch involving the above two points.
- Narrow stretch by Elm Farm - again no footpath here either so high risk of accident on the chicane
- No car parking in Stratton Audley except private driveways. So, all visitors to the church, playbus, pub etc have to park in road, narrowing the roads and obstructing access.
- Ancient properties fronting mill Road including Manor House (built 1545) and Grade 1 listed Church
- remains of medieval castle adjacent to Launton Road
- HGV route passes through designated Conservation area
- Retail outlet directly off Launton Road (Stratton Audley Barn)
- Presence of stables along the route - with no bridleways in the village all horses are ridden along the local roads when taken out of their yards. With one major accident last year on Launton Road involving a heavy agricultural vehicle and a horse and rider, an increase in HGVs and other heavy traffic presents a high risk of further serious horse/rider accidents.
- Present of the hunt - regular exercising of pack of hounds on village roads is incompatible with HGV movements.

- Dangerous brow-of-hill junction turning off the A4421
- Church Street outside the Red Lion is too narrow and often blocked by parked cars preventing large vehicles getting passed and resulting in some re-routing down the minor residential road of Cherry Street and along Cavendish Road
- Cherry Street has a Children's Playground fronting straight onto the road with no pavement

Additionally, residents attending the Parish Council meeting asked the Council to add concerns that the Mill Road area was popular with many cycling clubs, there is no street lighting in the village, and the fronts of many properties are immediately on the road. Furthermore there was concern that the road surfaces were not up to an acceptable standard to support a significant increase in traffic.

Furthermore a major issue remains with the proposal to route a substantial number of HGV's as well as LGV's and other staff vehicles to the Charndon Compound off the A4421 along the road to Poundon. This junction is located at the top of a hill at an accident black spot, and proposals to make it safe, both for turning traffic and other road users will need to be a priority. These will need to include works to the junction, traffic light control of the junction and /or a 30mph speed limit reduction on the A4421 leading up to the turn and along the road to Poundon.

Cllr Ian Corkin explained to the meeting that CDC had not been consulted prior to the consultation, and he commended the Parish Council for their quick actions. CDC were now preparing a full response, including an assessment of the effects of this additional traffic on the Bicester bye pass. He would ask the member of staff at CDC to liaise with the Parish Council to gain local input into the CDC response.

The meeting reinforced that the Parish Council should ask for traffic calming measures, and it was agreed that the Parish response to the consultation would take on board comments raised by the members of the public, be circulated to all Councillors and then published on the Parish Council's web site and notice board.

Neither the Parish Council nor Cllr Corkin were able to answer the question about the cumulative effects on the area of the HS2 proposals, but he was endeavouring to arrange a liaison meeting with HS2 to the Parish Council would be invited. The PC undertook to make any information it obtained publically available on the Council's web site.

Finally Cllr Corkin updated the meeting on the current position with regard to the Oxford to Cambridge expressway proposals.

148. Declarations of interest

None.

149. Minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2017

The Council agreed that the Minutes of the meeting of the 6th December 2017 were an accurate record of the proceedings.

150. Progress on Parish matters

a) Playground update

The Chairman has arranged for the small number of items highlighted in the Playground safety report to be undertaken, and more surface chippings will be supplied by the Contractor when he carries out remediation works in the Spring. Plant growth had now been cut back.

b) Community Grant towards a VAS

The Parish Council thanked Cllr Corkin for the £915 allocated from his Community Grant towards a VAS in the Village.

c) HS2 Liaison Meeting

Cllr Corkin is still trying to arrange this.

d) Lawn Mower for the Church grounds

This has been ordered, to take delivery at the beginning of April

e) Expression of thanks for Xmas tree installation

Thanks were expressed to Mr Howson, Mr Pappenfus and Mr Adams

f) Mobile Phone Signals in the Village

The Chairman expressed an interest in investigation how signals in the village could be improved through new technology and additional masts. As a first step the Clerk had responded to a survey request from CDC who are also looking at this matter

g) Bicester Heritage

There had been considerable concern in the Village that a former crash gate giving entrance to the Bicester heritage site off the Bicester Road had been significantly cleared back, with no understandable reason given to the Parish Council when enquiries were made. Cllr Corkin suggested that the Clerk should contact the Duty Planning Officer with a request that the Parish Council be supplied with a copy of the Masterplan for the area

It was suggested that the PC might wish to hold a meeting with Bicester Heritage for a general discussion and update on developments.

151. Councillor's Corkin's Report

Cllr Corkin confirmed again that he would ask CDC to liaise with the Parish on their response to the E/W Rail consultation.

He had noted, during the public session considerable concerns expressed about the condition of the roads around the Village, and he agreed to arrange for the OCC Highway officer with overall responsibility for the area to visit and, walk/drive the areas of concern with Councillors. There was particular concern expressed that the repair work carried out in 2017 in Mill Road by the Dragon patcher was already showing signs of cracking.

He noted that a resident was currently investigating unregistered bridleways and byways in the area, which would be reported to the OCC Footpaths Officer in due course.

He asked if Stratton Audley had the Friday bus service that goes through other villages and said he would investigate further.

He confirmed that CDC would not be raising the amount of Council tax it collects from residents, but OCC were expected to agree an increase of 5.99%.

He asked Councillors to publicise the Job fair to be held in Bicester on 10th February 2018.

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>
500481	Richard Wise	Snow clearance	180.00
500482	Parish Council web sites	support	40.00
500483	The Red Lion	Room hire	20.00
500484	Mrs A Davies	CI salary and expenses	317.65
500485	Drewett signs	Playground notice	101.34
500486	HMRC	CI tax	76.80
500487	Get mapping	Maps software	60.00
500488	R Howson	Xmas tree/spraying	806.40
500489	CDC	TENS Notice	21.00
500490	Technix	Rubber skirt for horse	86.40
500491	J Honsinger	Resilience purchases	206.80
500492	S Hopkins	Resilience purchases	151.

The Parish Council agreed to set a precept of £10562 for the financial year 2018/19 – an increase of £2.44 per calendar year for a band D property.

166. Resilience/First Aid Training

The Parish Council had had an opportunity to test its resilience during the snow on 10th December, and it had become apparent that communication could be challenging as mobile phones did not work in a power cut. As an immediate response the Council had bought hot water bottles, torches, lanterns, bottled gas fires and a store for resilience items, and had also carried out research into “walkie talkies”. It agreed to order a pack of 6 “walkie talkies” and consider whether some form of personal alarm would be useful for residents who currently do not have these with priority needs.

167. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs

The Parish Council agreed to order 1 Vehicle Activated Speed sign , solar powered with data download, to be erected at the 30mph point on the Bicester Road. This would then be monitored for effectiveness prior to further purchases.

168. Road Maintenance

There was concern that large potholes (particularly outside Elm farm) were not being mended by OCC as they were not considered substantial enough to meet OCC’s criteria. It was agreed that recipients of this response should send them on to Cllr Corkin, who would take up the matter with OCC. The Clerk was asked to report (again) the overgrown hedge on the Stoke Lyne Road to OCC.

169. Un-metalled footpaths and bridleways

The Council agreed to ask a resident to work with Cllr Hopkins to review the status of footpaths in the Parish.

170. Grants

The Clerk was asked to circulate details of the Garfield Weston Anniversary Grant, which may be of interest to the Church. The PC has also recently been made aware of funding available from HS2.

171. Churchyard

Churchyard clearance work will take place on 24th March 2018.

172. CLP update

Planning for the event is going well with regular monthly meetings attended by a team of 20 people. More sponsors are being canvassed as well prizes for the Super Draw and for the Tombola. Publicity for the Festival is to be inserted in the Shelswell News, with a particular emphasis on attracting stall holders/exhibitors.

Details of proposed expenditure was circulated, and the Parish Council agreed to underwrite the costs to the sum of £1500. It was noted that, even if unforeseen circumstances caused the event to be cancelled, raffle tickets would still be sold to offset against this amount.

The group are considering which charities to propose to receive a donation from any profits. The church will be a beneficiary as will a local homeless charity and a number of amenities for the village are under consideration.

173. Planning Applications

T1 x Laburnum - Fell 9 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BN Ref. No: 18/00010/TCA

Discharge of condition 3 (arboricultural survey) of 17/01959/F 7 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BN Ref. No: 17/00593/DISC

- Decisions

Repair & rebuild defective turret structure Stratton Audley Manor Mill Road Stratton Audley Ref. No: 17/02308/LB

Approved

Leylandii (multi-stemmed) Poor specimen (Tree 23 on the Churchyard Tree Plan attached) - Fell as too close to a Grade 1 listed building and roots are causing blockage of the surface water drainage system. We are reluctant to replant so close to the building.

St Mary And St Edburgas Church Stoke Lyne Road Stratton Audley OX27 9AQ Ref. No: 17/00403/TCA

Approved

- Removal of double garage and erection of dwelling with access and parking

2 Garden Cottages Bicester Road Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BT

Ref. No: 17/02185/F

Refused

The proposed development by virtue of its scale, design, siting and relationship with the surrounding buildings would fail to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of Stratton Audley Conservation Area and would appear cramped and awkward in the locality

G1 x Line of Conifers - Reduce by approx 2-3 meters T1 x Walnut - Reduce by 2 - 2.5 meters T2 x Rowan - Fell T3 x Conifer - Reduce by approx 2 meters T4 x Willow - Fell

2 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9BN Ref. No: 17/00389/TCA

Approved.

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

OCC update

Emergency Weather update following the snow on 10th December 2017 and request for suggestions for the CDC Scrutiny Committee work programme.

- 175. Reports from meetings** - **to receive any reports; for information.** None

- 176. Items for information or next Agenda**

By 18th February 2018 please.

- 177. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday 6th March 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

Stratton Audley Parish Council			Monthly Financial Report	
			Parish Council Meeting	31 January 2018
Payments processed since last meeting				£808.90
06-Dec-17		Information Commissioner	500474	£35.00
06-Dec-17		Play Inspection Company	500475	£78.00
06-Dec-17		Mike Gore	500476	£230.00
06-Dec-17		Mrs A Davies	500477	£175.90
06-Dec-17		HMRC	500478	£38.20
06-Dec-17		S Hopkins	500479	£11.80
06-Dec-17		the Red Lion	500480	£20.00
29-Dec-17		Richard Wise	500481	£180.00
29-Dec-17		Parish Council websites	500482	£40.00
Receipts processed since previous report				£227.75
19-Jan-18		HMRC		£193.05
18-Dec-17		sales		£34.70
Bank Reconciliation			Statement dated	27 January 2018
			Savings Account	£14,972.15
			Current account	£6,134.71
Items not yet cleared:				
Receipts	None			
Payments		Community First Oxon		£35.00
			Net Total	£21,071.86