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**Minutes of the Stratton Audley Parish Council on Wednesday 6th January 2021**

**Present:**  Mr J Honsinger (Chairman) Mr A Flack (Vice Chairman), Mr M Hedgecox, Mrs K Walker, Ms M Ling and Mr M Gore.

**Apologies:** Cllr I Corkin (CDC and OCC)

**Also present:**

**Members of the public:** One

# Declarations of Interest

Cllr Honsinger declared a personal interest in the Green Barn planning application as the owner of a neighbouring property.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as circulated.

# Progress on Parish matters

**Flooding**

Recent heavy rain meant that the Bicester road was partially flooded for a week and it was noted that Thames Water had a pumping tanker on site everyday at the pumping station on the Launton Road from 22nd December until 4th January 2021. Thames Water are continuing with their survey of the village and have already found ingress points where rain water is getting into the foul water so solutions are being investigated. Mill Road has been flooded due to a possible blockage in a channel under the road. The clerk was asked to check how the Parish could obtain sandbags.

**E/W Rail**

Work on passing points by Stratton Audley Park has now been completed. OCC are carrying out an audit to assess the safety of the junction onto the A4421 on 11 January, as there are concerns about signage and a tree that is blocking the sight line for vehicles turning right. There were also concerns that the work had caused drain/ditch blockages at the Stratton Audley cross roads, where flooding has been observed.

**Church Clock**

This has now been repaired. The Parish Council wishes to thank Cllr Ian Corkin for supporting the costs of repair through his Community Leaders Fund. It appears to be working, although it is not yet keeping accurate time.

**COVID update/Village newsletter**

The Parish Council noted that the Chairman was sending out weekly updates on Covid-19 information and local matters, which has been well received by residents. A discussion was held as to the balance of information supplied particularly with regard to Coronavirus and it was agreed that links to Government websites and other guidance should continue to be included in preference to detailed synopsis’, as residents should be able to check out the information for themselves. The Parish Council unanimously endorsed the continuation of the newsletters in order to keep in touch with and support the community through providing useful relevant information including that of local services in these difficult times.

**Tree planting**

A resident had asked the Parish Council to consider planting trees in the Parish in accordance with the Prince of Wales’ current initiative. Noting that this was on the Agenda, another resident attended to discuss how such an initiative could be developed. The Parish Council owns little land itself so this would need to be supported by local land owners. The council agreed that options should be explored further.

# Finance

The Council noted the statement of account shown at appendix a, and authorised the following payments:-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Payee* | *Reason* | *Amount* |
| Moore Stephens  | audit | 240.00 |
| Play inspection co | Playground inspection | 81.00 |
| Mrs A Davies | Salary and expenses | 332.66 |
| HMRC | Cl tax | 83.20 |
| J Honsinger | Expenses | 37.88 |
| Information Commissioner | Registration fee | 40.00 |

The council agreed that its precept for 2021/2022 would remain at the current level of £11,683, although, due to a small decrease in the number of properties this will result in a rise of 91p per annum for a Band D house.

**Parish Matters not otherwise mentioned under section 5 above:**

1. **Playground inspection report**

The Parish Council noted that a recent safety inspection of the playground had indicated some minor work needing attention. It agreed that the required work should be carried out and in particular the three buddleias in the playground should be cut back.

**Village bus service**

The Parish Council has been made aware of proposals to end the current service through the village. In discussions with OCC the best option would appear to be to provide a service with its COMET operation which will be available again once the current lock down is lifted. The Parish Council will investigate financial support options and in the meantime the Comet “Dial a Ride” service for individual journeys is available and has been advertised to the village.

**Great Wolf Application Chesterton**

The Parish Council agreed to support Chesterton in its opposition to this development, on the basis that it was not in accordance with CDC’s Development Plan.

**Village Activities 2021**

The Parish Council agreed to consider options for a village community event in the late summer/early autumn 2021, In the meantime to support an Easter trail on similar lines to the much appreciated Halloween and Christmas Elves trails.

1. **Planning**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. [**20/03498/F**](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/20/03498/F)
 | 8 Willows Gate Stoke Lyne Road Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9AU | Change of use for first & second floor areas forming Unit 8 from B1 to A1 (hairdressers and beauty salon) |
| [**20/03426/F**](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/20/03426/F) | 3 The Green Barn Stoke Lyne Road Stratton Audley Bicester OX27 9AT | RETROSPECTIVE - Erection of new detached dwelling house - this application seeks to amend the original dwelling design from 16/00366/REM and Appeal APP/C3105/W/16/3154107 |
| [**20/03234/TCA**](https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/Planning/Display/20/03234/TCA) | Timbertop 14 Cavendish Place Stratton Audley OX27 9BN | T1 x Norway Spruce- Remove and grind. Tree was planted in 2000,roots are now disturbing the driveway.Now approved by CDC |

The Parish council confirmed it had no objection to the development at 8 Willows gate, but would expect CDC to add a condition that use of the premises should to be limited to that of a hairdresser.

After discussion the Parish Council confirmed its objection to the retrospective application for plot 3 at the Green Barn site. The developer has commenced building and marketing a house (plot 3) to an unapproved specification, in particular increasing the number and size of windows and introducing dormer windows. The proposed plan for side windows in the property (already being built) would mean that the existing adjacent building of Mattingley Barn would have their properties directly overlooked. The council also had concern over the creation of a passage way that has already been created between the garages of plot tow and plot three which  leads directly onto the road as this breaks the continuity of the wall and additionally is a highway danger.

Additionally the Parish Council expressed concern with the way this matter has been handled by the planning department with several mistakes being made with regard to monitoring and overseeing this development, in particular to initially making it a delegated matter when referral to committee had been agreed and also failing to inform immediate neighbours of the application. Only when these matters were pointed out to them did they take necessary action.

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

OCC/OALC updates

# Reports from meetings - to receive any reports for information.

None.

# Items for information or next Agenda

A planning application from Bicester Motion is expected shortly.

# Date of next meeting

3rd March 2021 at 7.00pm . Most likely another virtual meeting where members of the public will be able to request joining it by contacting the Clerk.

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[www.strattonaudley.org](http://www.strattonaudley.org). See also Facebook – strattonaudleyparishcouncil

