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**Minutes of the**

**Stratton Audley Annual Parish Meeting**

**Wednesday 6th April 2022 at 7.30pm**

**St Mary & St Edburga Church, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire**

1. **Present:**
	1. **Chairman:** Mr John Honsinger
	2. **Clerk:** Mrs Anne Davies
	3. **Parish Councillors :** Mr A Flack, Mrs K Walker, Mr M Gore and Mr M Arroyo
	4. **11 Stratton Audley Residents**
2. **Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the meeting was the Annual Open meeting of the Parish, which was facilitated by the Chairman of the Parish Council as a duty to the community.

The Chairman confirmed that E/W Rail works and therefore movement of HGV vehicles is due to come to an end by this summer.

Thames Water have over the last year carried out some work in the village, which seems to have reduced the number of flooding incidents that have occurred.

However major power outages have been a serious cause for concern recently.

The Parish Council continues to monitor planning activity at Bicester Motion. CDC have approved another planning application for the site, and there is a need to monitor conditions, particularly noise, access and the proposed new cycle route.

The new Conservation Area document is now available online at CDC.

OCC have indicated that they expect to carry out resurfacing work and pot holes repairs outside the Church and in Launton Road during the course of this year.

The Parish Council is supporting plans for the Jubilee Celebrations in June.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr A Short and Cllr I Corkin (CDC and OCC).

1. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the previous year’s Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 6th August 2021, copies of which had been circulated, were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

1. **Report by the Clerk about the year 2021/22**

The clerk reported that, due to the Covid pandemic the last Annual Parish Meeting was held in August 2021.Over the last year the Parish Council has met regularly, sometimes in a face to face meeting and sometimes over ZOOM. Discussion in those meetings is condensed in the Minutes which are always displayed on the noticeboard and on the Parish Website.

She took the opportunity to remind the meeting that the PC maintains its verges on behalf of OCC – with work contracted to Mike Gore who continues to cut the grass, and, from April 2022 the Parish Council will be using a new weed spraying contractor.

Current Councillors are John Honsinger (Chairman) Anthony Flack (Vice Chairman) Kathleen Walker, Mike Gore, Martin Arroyo, Abbey Short and Elaine Jones although there will be some change after the Parish Election on 5th May.

She reminded the meeting that anyone wanting to comment on a planning application is encouraged to attend the next available Parish Council meeting to explain any concerns or matters of special interest to the Parish Council or if unable to do so, to email or write a letter to the Parish Council outlining their issues, as well as raising them directly with Cherwell District Council via their Planning portal.

As always, the Parish Council is taking a close interest in the developments at Bicester Motion – and continues to keep a close watch on plans, partly to try to ensure that a new cycleway into Bicester is included, and importantly to address concerns over noise and access issues that will affect residents of Stratton Audley.

She reported that, over the past year the Parish Council received 11 Planning Applications. It also received 11 applications for tree work. Everyone that works on trees located within the Conservation area need consent from Cherwell District Council - including lopping and removal altogether of any tree with a base diameter of more than 3 inches. It has been reported that several trees may have been cut down without the necessary consent and, she reminded the meeting that failure to do this means that the person carrying out the work can be prosecuted by the local authority.

She reported that the Parish Council ended the year with a total balance of £31,420.66, and she confirmed that the full accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 will be uploaded on the web site shortly. Residents were asked to let the Clerk know if, having read them on the web site they have any questions on them. Again this year the majority of the expenditure has been spent on keeping the village clean and tidy and on general administration. The Parish Council has reviewed the funds held in reserve and recognises the healthy financial position, hence no increase this year in the Parish council tax. Furthermore it also means that monies will be available during the current year for any items of capital expenditure such as road traffic signs.

She reported that, currently the Parish Council is planning a big celebration for the whole village over the Platinum Jubilee weekend. There will be something for everyone – so everyone is encouraged to come along.

Finally, she reminded the meeting that all residents are entitled to come to Parish Council meetings and speak at the beginning of the meeting or observe the whole meeting. The meetings are advertised on the website and the noticeboard. The minutes are put there as soon as possible after the meeting .

She thanked County and District Cllr Corkin for all his help behind the scenes in matters that are important to the village.

1. **Church Matters**

Sarah Noujaim welcomed visitors to the Church and asked for more residents to be involved in Church activities including the Parochial Church Council, as there was otherwise a risk that the parish church would be subsumed into Bicester. There are three weddings booked over the coming year, and a PCC meeting on 27th April to which all are welcome.

1. **Village Survey**

Cllr Arroyo reported on analysis of the responses to the recent survey of residents, carried out by the Parish Council. Currently there had been a response rate of over 50% and there had been some significant demographic changes in the village since the last survey in 2013. While further responses are awaited, current responses recognised that the village was friendly with a strong community spirit, and was quiet and peaceful, with the lack of street lights being seen as a benefit. Residents also acknowledged the importance to the village of the Red Lion and the Barn. The Parish Council was seen to be pro active.

Major concerns were Bicester Motion, lack of public transport and cycle routes to Bicester & speeding traffic on the Bicester Road. The road surfaces and footpaths required attention and parking – particularly outside the pub, opposite the Bicester Road junction and by the church was an issue, as was dog fouling, dogs off the lead and noise.

Increased traffic and speeding traffic were also concerns and a significant majority of residents supported the Parish Council’s application to OCC for a 20mph speed limit through the village, although they would not like to see a large increase in signage. There was some support for chicanes to be consider at entrances to the village, but generally physical solutions are not liked. However there was overwhelming support for an electronic additional speed awareness sign on both Mill and Launton Road and this will be tabled for discussion at the next PC meeting.

The questionnaire had raised the matter of the road changes made by lorries serving the E/W rail development by Stratton Audley Park on the road leading to Poundon, and the majority of respondents had supported the retention of the new T junction with the A4421 but the removal of most of the passing bays.

1. **Any other business**

**Queen’s Platinum jubilee/Street party**

The Chairman advised the meeting that there will be a village based street party for this event over the weekend of June 5th. Every house will receive an invitation.

**Stoke Lyne Road junction**

A resident asked what was happening with this project to return the site to a wildlife area as previously proposed. The Chairman of the Parish Council advised that it was a funding issue but as an interim measure has met with OCC highways who have agreed to excavate a small mound and ditch to prevent traffic from driving onto the grassed area.

**Funds Available**

A resident asked what had happened to the village improvement fund and the Chairman confirmed that they were incorporated in the reserve funds of the PC. A note of them was kept separately although they had been topped up during the past year. Overall, the Parish Council has funding in excess of what is needed and had built up a health surplus over the last few years. This means that when it comes to considering purchasing two new VAS units for circa £8k, this can be done without seeking grants or raising further monies.

**Power outages**

Residents felt that these have increased recently and enquiries will be made of SSE to understand why they are so frequent compared to other villages.

**Speed issues in the Village**

Cllr Walker confirmed she had discussed a possible “Speedwatch” group with TVP – but volunteers are needed and none have been forthcoming. There was also concern expressed that traffic leaving the village started to speed before leaving the village boundary on the Stoke Lyne and Bicester Road.

No other matters were raised by residents and everyone was thanked for attending.

1. The meeting closed at 9.00pm.
2. Signed……………………………………….….. Date………………………………….