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**Minutes of the**

**Stratton Audley Annual Parish Meeting**

**Wednesday 4th August 2021 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 Ms M Ling
   4. **22 Stratton Audley Residents**
   5. **Invited Guest: Cllr Barry Wood (CDC)**
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.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from 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 7th April 2019, 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 years 2019-2021**

The Clerk reported that, due to the Covid pandemic there was no Annual Parish Meeting on 2020, so the report dealt with major issues over the last 2 years.

The Parish Council currently meets on the first Wednesday of every other month and for almost a year, this has taken place virtually via ZOOM. Discussion in those meetings is condensed in the Minutes which are always displayed on the noticeboard and on the Parish Website.

At the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 work to restore the Pound was about to begin, supported by a grant of around £15000 for the DHLG and CDC. In view of the increased importance of outdoor space during the pandemic, she was sure that, having the restored facility – thanks due to the hard work of the Chairman John Honsinger, had been a benefit to all the village.

She took the opportunity to remind the meeting that the PC maintains its verges on behalf of OCC – with great help from Mike Gore who continues to cut the grass. After stalwart work Richard Howson had now decided to stop spraying the verges, so many thanks to him for his support over the years.

Current Councillors are John Honsinger (Chairman) Anthony Flack (Vice Chairman) Kathleen Walker, Maxine Ling and Mike Gore. There are 2 vacancies as Mike Hedgecox and John Edwards stepped down, due to pressure of work. Thanks were given to both of them for their efforts on behalf of the Council and the village. Anyone interested in being co-opted was asked to let the Clerk or the Chairman know.

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.

During the year the Parish Council took a close interest in the developments at Bicester Motion – and was still keeping a close watch on plans, partly to try to ensure that a new cycleway along the A4421 is included.

During the year the Council received 39 Planning Applications. It also received 17 applications for tree work. She reminded everyone that works to trees located within the Conservation area all 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 had been asked to point out that failure to do this means that the person carrying out the work can be prosecuted by the local authority.

The Parish Council ended the year with a total balance of £28226,20 and the full accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 are now on the web site. Please let the Clerk know if, having read them on the web site you have any questions on them. Her contact details are on the web site. Again this year the majority of the expenditure has been spent on keeping the village clean and tidy and on general administration.

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 and she finished by thanking Cllr Corkin for all his help behind the scenes in matters that are important to the village.

1. **Ian Corkin OCC**

Cllr Corkin’s report was read to the meeting by the Chairman.

1. **CDC report**.

Cllr Barry Wood reported that by attending meetings such as the Stratton Audley Annual Parish Meeting, Councillors were able to understand the community’s priorities, and such opportunities were highly valuable.

He reported that, while CDC had maintained a low Council tax rise in the past, the recent pandemic and the support required locally meant that it was not possible to retain the capped level for the current year, and the Council has also needed to look at other options to raise revenue, such as providing a weekly service to remove food waste, but making an annual charge to remove garden waste for householders.

He thought that CDC white collar workers would continue to be expected to work from home for much of the week, as a consequence of this the District Council’s real estate holdings were likely to be too large for future needs.

He was asked about the current planning consultation (the aim of which was to reduce costs), which had suggested that letters about a development to neighbouring occupiers should cease, and consultation locally be carried out by site and newspaper notices.

He urged residents to respond to this consultation, as unpopular suggestions could be “shot down” if there was sufficient response.

Q Why charge extra to collect garden waste?

A Garden waste is disposed of separately and costs the District Council extra to collect.

Q. Will CDC provide compatible bags for the food waste collection?

A. Noted

Q How much will the garden waste collection cost?

A. About £36 pa.

Q. Is this for 1 or 2 bins?

Q. When will Bicester stop growing?

A. Not before 2030.

Q. Is there an update about the Bicester Motion planning application?

A. It is not ready to go to Committee yet. Hopefully an application will include provision for a cycleway between Stratton Audley and Bicester.

1. **Church Matters**

Becky Adams confirmed that the Church had now reopened and it was being well used, with a number of bookings for weddings and baptisms. Volunteers were needed to join the PCC.

1. **Any other business**

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

The Chairman advised the meeting that there were plans to hold a village based street party for this event in 2022. If possible, the Parish Council would also look at options to hold a “post COVD” street party at the end of the summer 2021.

**Stoke Lyne Road junction**

The Parish Council is looking at improvements to this gateway to the village, with a view to enhancing the appearance of the entry and also stopping dumping there. Plans have been prepared, and funding options are now being considered.

**Wildflowers at the Pound**.

The Council is planning to improve the pound by planting wild flowers there, subject to advice about appropriate species and management.

**Allotments**

The Council has been unable to progress the provision of allotments as there is currently no land available.

**Land at the top of the Bicester Road**

It was reported that Bicester Motion have now cut the hedges along the road.

**Speed issues in the Village**

There has been considerable concern at the speed of traffic passing through the village. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council would support residents forming a “Speedwatch” group to monitor this – but for this, volunteers are needed. There was also concern expressed that traffic leaving the village started to speed before leaving the village boundary on the Bicester Road.

Suggestions included a VAS on both the Launton Road and Mill Road and signs indicating the presence of OAPs/children. It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss traffic calming options with OCC including the imposition of 20mph speed area through the village.

**Red telephone box.**

It was agreed by the meeting that the Village would not purchase a red telephone box.

**The Red Lion**

The Chairman reported that this was in the process of being registered with CDC as a Community Asset.

**Any other business**

The Parish Council was asked if a footpath along the Bicester Road would be possible. The Council confirmed that, while the construction of a footpath would need to be requested of OCC, the Council would ask for the grass to be cut to delineate a footpath line.

The meeting was advised of concern over dog fouling by dogs in the Bicester Hunt.

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

1. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.
2. Signed……………………………………….….. Date………………………………….