

# STANTON HARCOURT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017, in the Village Hall

<b>Present</b>	6 Parish Council Members:		
	Charles Mathew	(CM)	Chairman
	Matthew Judson	(MJ)	Vice Chairman
	Graham Dixon-Brown	(GDB)	Councillor
	Jose Eaton	(JE)	Councillor
	Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
	Colin Wells	(CW)	Councillor
	Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk
	District Councillor:		
	Steve Good		
	Invited Speakers:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PCSO Syndra Syphas - Community Policing Team</li><li>• Sarah Kerswell - Eynsham Partnership Academy (EPA)</li><li>• Mrs Rachel Crouch – Headteacher, Stanton Harcourt Primary School</li><li>• Jane Eagle – The Village Hall</li><li>• Steve Tuck – The Village Inn &amp; The Drama Group</li><li>• Mike Parker - The Village Festival &amp; The Eynsham Link</li><li>• Cllr Matthew Judson – The Leys and Jubilee Field Play Spaces</li><li>• Lynn Boreham – Chinese Brush Painting</li></ul>		
	22 other parishioners.		
	The meeting was chaired by Cllr Graham Dixon-Brown		
	Apologies for Absence:		
	Hilary Fenton – District Councillor		

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. APPROVAL OF 2016 MINUTES

The minutes were approved for publication – no matter arising.

### 3. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

#### District Councillor – Steve Good

SG explained what his role is in WODC, including:

- Attending Planning Committee Meetings, staying up to speed with Planning Laws and the NPPF
- Flood Emergency planning – looking at reducing the risk of flooding
- Board Member of Cottsway Housing
- Alcohol Licensing
- Taxi Licensing

SG explained there had been significant changes at WODC in the past months:

- Brexit
- Resignation of Local MP, replaced by Robert Courts
- Retirement of Leader of WODC, Barry Norton, replaced by James Mills

SG welcomed all to contact him in the event of questions, queries or any assistance requirements.

*Questions from the Floor:*

*Q. What is your view on Unitary?*

*SG: Much controversy, anything that reduces Council Tax must be looked at seriously. There are a number of points of view, but all are committed to delivering the best possible solution.*

SG congratulated CM on being re-elected as County Councillor.

#### **County Councillor – Charles Mathew**

CM thanks all who voted for him at the County Council Elections, and sympathised with those who didn't.

CM reported that issues of concern repeat themselves and progress is slow. Current issues include:

- Gravel situation remains critical at the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy proceeds. CM provided detailed statistics.
- Local Highway issues – CM gave his concerns regarding the effectiveness of the current A40 proposed improvements and the implications of plans to double to size of Eynsham by 2031.
- CM's views on Unitary had been published in the March edition of Eynsham News and it was conditionally in favour- the condition being to ensure local views experience and concerns were listened to and addressed.

#### **4. ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

I have had the privilege of being the Chairman of SHPC with Sutton for some years and trying to consolidate a Parish Council of different views and attitudes in order to guide and manage the PC's responsibility. While I appreciate that this task does not always meet total approval, I believe that it is not an excuse to lambast on Facebook, twitter or email one's fellow Parish Councillors nor to criticise our faithful Parish Clerk, who has smilingly coped in the very best tradition. I would wish this behaviour to cease now and an apology given to acknowledge the rude untrue and crass accusations it has involved. I will willingly show anyone who is desirous examples of this. We need to work together or you have the alternative to move on; in the meantime I risk repeating myself at least fourfold when I ask that all PC emails must be copied to the Parish Clerk intentionally and should be of a positive nature, in the interests of the residents of the Parish. Threats emanating from misdirected emails are not the behaviour of a gentleman; a sincere apology is.

Turning to the Annual meeting, the agenda is legally set by the Chairman and Parish Clerk – this year Colin Wells has made the arrangements independently and we must all thank him for this.

The precept was 2013/14 - £17578, 2014/15 - £17500, 2015/16 - £19,500 2016/17 - £18,500 and this year was agreed at £18,000 some £500 reduction – cash covers a year's expenditure approximately.

Consultation re planning within the village remains a major importance.

We have had a full quota of Councillors throughout the year and I would like to take the opportunity of thanking them for all the help and commitment they have given, where appropriate.

The following events have taken place:

- Annual Litter Pick – much better numbers attending
- Bulb Planting – poor attendance, despite this the village in my opinion has been splendid this spring
- Audit of village amenities, hedges and monuments
- Commemorative coins to School Children – 90 year celebration for HM Queen
- Village Play grounds – The resident's help committee has done stalwart work but have disappointingly disbanded and we will have to maintain the playgrounds at a cost unless new parties come forward
- We have lost the 18 bus to the shame of OCC but retained one service a week on Tuesday 10:15 out, 13:15 back to Eynsham
- We have a Speedwatch Committee, our own speedgun and this has been very successful in reducing traffic speed during the last 6 months in the village.

The future holds challenges for the village:

- Shop/Post Office
- The potential 106 infrastructure for local development and its use
- Gravel OCC Policy – Core Strategy 2031
- Representing the village at the WODC Local Plan Enquiry 2041 – current and in July
- Stock thatch refurbishment
- Village Hall Car Park refurbishment
- Planting trees in the village
- Protecting the village from over development and ensuring the sites are suitable and have no proposed health risks attached

Your Parish Council looks forward to the coming year with enthusiasm that we can work together for the benefit of all and represent your interests.

*Questions from the Floor:*

*Q. Can Thames Valley Police provide details of the number of offenders who are residents caught speeding?*

*GDB: No, this detail is not available. GDB explained the process and confirmed that there had been a number of repeat offenders who had been contacted by TVP.*

## **5. SPEAKERS**

### **Thames Valley Police – PCSO Syndra Syphas**

PCSO Syphas provided a list of recorded offences, for the period 31/3/16 - 01/04/17:

2 more offences than the previous year.

- 1 theft of cement mixer
- 1 criminal damage to car
- 1 theft of food from honesty table
- 1 arson (shed fire)
- 1 criminal damage (crops driven over)
- 1 theft of fuel (from a parked motorcycle)

4 offences in the same night were:

All burglaries, in one instance the suspects were scared off, in another a shed was broken into but nothing taken.

One of the aggrieved had some musical instruments taken, and finally another shed, where this time they lost a pushbike.

For all of these we have not been able to identify any suspects.

We discussed the criminal damage at the old air field, and the 2 youths responsible for this have been issued with youth restorative disposals. They will also be writing letters of apology to Mr Gascoigne, and doing some tidying up for him at the location.

As for the barn fire, on Mr Gascoigne's land, we have photos of the offenders (different, older youths) and our colleagues at Witney will be dealing with this in due course.

CM thanked the Police for all their efforts on behalf of the parish.

## **Eynsham Partnership Academy - Sarah Kerswell**

What is the Eynsham Partnership Academy?

- Eynsham Partnership Academy (EPA) formed on 1 May 2014, with 1 secondary school, Bartholomew School, and 6 primary schools: Freeland, Hanborough, Cassington, ECPS, Standlake, Stanton Harcourt.
- First of our kind (made up of VC and VA schools) - unique Articles of Association
- Beginning of the EPA: BS as an academy sponsor
- Development and establishment of the wider EPA (existing Partnership)
- Nature & principle underpinning the EPA: earned collaborative autonomy

Eynsham Partnership Academy – who?

- Members and Directing Board
- Strategic Academy Leadership Team (SALT)
- Senior Leadership Group (SLG) of Academy Heads
- Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) running autonomous academy schools
- Funded by the Central Services Arm

What have we achieved so far?

- 'Outstanding' leadership programme/Joint events (Big Sing/Big Write)
- Research bursaries
- Developed middle leadership roles (Lit/Maths leads)
- What does this mean for the children – all EPA schools now self-evaluating at 'good'/'outstanding'.
- Two recent Ofsted inspections

Local development that demands growth:

West Oxfordshire District Council

- Potentially 5,855 homes in Eynsham/Woodstock sub-area including:
- Garden village 2,200 homes
- West Eynsham 1,000 homes
- Eynsham infill 300 homes
- Freeland/Long Hanborough 375 homes (6 sites)
- Woodstock 670 homes (3 sites)

The need for the EPA to grow

- Gain economies of scale for member academies
- Provide longer term financial sustainability of MAT
- Enable efficient secondary school improvement delivery
- Increase wider Trust skill base and capacity for support of others
- Ensure better succession planning for key roles: long term sustainability
- Provide ongoing outward facing support to member academies and other schools/academies
- Central services: funding model demands growth (ESG to service charge]

What next?

- Expansion...
- Continue to support our schools in being 'good'/'outstanding' places of learning
- Build on joint staff development opportunities (eg Rich Text Curriculum)
- Develop the role of the teaching assistants in order to support pupils even more effectively
- Create EPA-wide approaches to policies and other procedures
- Continue to focus on outcomes for the pupils (in its widest sense)

### **Stanton Harcourt Primary School – Rachel Crouch, Headteacher**

Rachel introduced herself and provided some background information, although currently working for two schools, her position would be full time at Stanton Harcourt after half-term. Rachel emphasised that the school would be partaking in the Village Festival, despite rumours that this wasn't the case.

An appeal was made for any residents who could offer help at the school.

CM raised the issue of Road Safety for Children travelling to and from school and parking at drop off and pick up times. Rachel suggested that she meet with CM to discuss further.

## **6. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SPEAKERS**

### **Jane Eagle – The Village Hall**

Jane gave a brief history of the Hall: originally built just after WW1 as a Memorial Hall with support from BL and local landowners; rebuilt in 2000 with grant from WODC Millennium Halls fund and additional finance from PC precept (increased temporarily for the purpose) and Village Hall funds. Village is very lucky to have such a lovely hall for the community to use.

The management committee is purely voluntary: trustees of the hall, which has charitable status. No financial benefit can accrue to trustees. Reps of user groups are encouraged to sit on the committee so they can give a range of perspectives on management issues and new initiatives.

Main sources of income are: hire charges and fundraising. The aim is to keep hire charges as low as possible, with discounts for local societies who make regular bookings and for weddings of residents. Also try to target fundraising to match local needs/interests – e.g. Village Markets, theatre groups.

Regular running costs currently approach £12000 pa, which includes electricity and water bills, insurance and rates, caretaker fees, licences, safety checks etc. In addition, need to provide regular /periodic maintenance: decoration, floor sealing and painting. As well as repairs to e.g. broken windows etc.

Committee does not really have the time or expertise to do tasks for which plumbers, builders or electricians needed. Call out charges tend to be high so are beginning to compile a list of supporters who have some time/expertise and are happy to do odd jobs as needed- the most recent example is the replacement of a large down pipe on the play area side of the hall. There are also some 'unsung heroes' who quietly support us in regular ways: keyholders, treasurer, lawn mowers, cooks and bottle-washers etc. The aim is to build up the list of volunteer supporters who can help from time to time but may not wish to become full committee members.

## **Steve Tuck – The Drama Group & The Village Inn**

### **Stanton Harcourt Drama Group.**

I was appointed Chair, just over a year ago. Since then we have staged two productions:

- The Devils Quoits: Pirates of the Thames in June 2016
- Aladdin the Pantomime in February 2017
- Both productions were well received and I had to write extra parts for the pantomime to accommodate everyone
- More than 40 people were involved in the pantomime from age 7 to 70+
- Financially the drama group is in good shape. Both shows made a profit. Our main costs are rent of the hall and lighting equipment.
- A small team, led by Louisa Swiergon as Director, recently entered the Henley Drama Festival with a one act play. They will also be performing at The Oxfordshire Drama Network Festival in Abingdon on 5th June.
- Another team, led by Mike Moran entered another play under the Northmoor Players banner and we hope to stage the two plays in the village soon.
- We will be back with another pantomime in early 2018.

### **The Village Inn**

- I started it as a one-off event last November, but it proved so popular I brought it back.
- The primary purpose is to provide a social event for the village, but we also pass all profits to good causes.
- To date, more than £2,000 has been raised for causes including the Village Hall, Sunshine Cat Rescue, Movember Foundation and FOSHS.
- The next event is scheduled for 27th May and will raise money for Maggie's Oxford, which provides support to cancer patients and their families.

## **Mike Parker – Village Festival & Eynsham Link,**

### **Village Festival**

Mike Parker, from the Festival committee, reported on arrangements for the forthcoming festival. This year it will last for nine days from the race night in the village hall on Friday June 9th, with proceeds to FOSHS, finishing on Sunday June 18 at the Willows in Duck End lane with cream teas with proceeds to the church. There would be many open gardens and other events during the week. The theme was "a Day at the Races" and on Festival day – June 17 –there will be many activities on the school fields including races for all ages. He urged people to join in all the events and particularly to purchase tickets then for the Race night.

### **Eynsham link**

Mike Parker, from the Eynsham Link group, explained how since the demise of Route 18 in July 2016 the Eynsham link has developed. It now focused just on people living in Stanton Harcourt and Sutton,

providing lifts linking them with the centre of Eynsham where they can link with existing bus services to other destinations particularly Oxford and Witney. He explained how the What's App application worked and urged every driver there who possessed a smartphone to join the group and thereby offer lifts. All he needed was the individual's mobile number and he would add them to the group. He urged those attending to participate and also to advise him of anyone needing lifts whether or not they had a smartphone.

*Questions from the Floor:*

*Q. where is the scheme advertised?*

*MP: It's not currently advertised, although we have distributed flyers in the past and we will have a stand at the Festival. We will probably put an article in Village Voice.*

*Q. Are there particular days when the scheme is busy?*

*MP: Usually between 5 and 6pm*

### **Cllr Matthew Judson – The Leys & Jubilee Field Play Spaces**

MJ explained the current request for naming of the new Blackditch development – numbering is very confusing, MJ welcomed suggestions from all via slip of paper for submission to the PC at the close of the meeting. MJ confirmed that one suggestion had been made, 'Halifax Close' making reference to the Halifax bombers which were based locally.

MJ made an appeal for new committee members to maintain and monitor the 3 playgrounds in the village. Reporting that there are potential 106 funds to improve, develop and expand the playgrounds

### **Lynn Boreham – Chinese Brush Painting**

Lynn Boreham explained that the Chinese Brush Painting Group meet every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. There are also a number of workshops which are held on a Sunday. Examples of the work were made available for all to view at the end of the meeting. Lyn welcomed all to come along and partake, no need to bring anything, all material is supplied. The next meeting of the group will be on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## **7. PUBLIC MATTERS**

CW spoke as an Elector and raised two questions:

1. A well-kept village is worth more than a Pound a week; £52 is a near approximation to a typical household's annual contribution to the Village Budget. Would the residents be prepared to pay more in their Council Tax to improve the village? He requested show of hands. Most were in agreement

*CM commented that the PC cannot have a high level of reserves (due to the Auditor's rules), all expenditure must be budgeted in advance.*

2. The nature of our Community would be better represented if the Parish Council were to adopt the 'Style' of the Village Council. 'Parish' is archaic, misleading, and weighed down with baggage. Local Government Legislation permits alternative styles. CW requested show of hand of all those in favour – no interest shown.

*MJ suggested the possibility of renaming the PC to Stanton Harcourt with Sutton Parish Council.*

**GDB concluded the meeting by thanking all for attending and thanked the speakers for their time.**

Signed .....

Date .....

DRAFT