

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2023

Present:

Matthew Judson	(MJ)	Chair
Rachel Arnold	(RA)	Vice Chair
Gill Sellars	(GS)	Councillor
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Keith Hickson	(KH)	Councillor
Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk

In Attendance:

5 Members of the public

Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor
 Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor
 Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
23/001	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Tony Pentland (TP) Councillor
23/002	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	No declaration made.
23/003	APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 5th DECEMBER 2022
	Minutes had been circulated for comment and were approved for publication. 22/154 - Hayfield Homes – some trees had been planted and turf laid on the site. 22/159 - A gift had been given to the retiring editor.
23/004	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
	See Annex.
23/005	REPORT FROM DC/CC COUNCILLORS
	<p>County Council: Botley Road closure date is still unknown First and Last Mile celebrating their 1st Anniversary – an appeal was made for volunteer drivers. DL provided a report - see annex.</p> <p>District Council: CM and LN attended and raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TW taking up much time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ validation checklist for developers ○ planning team have a condition in place to increase the capacity at developments ○ TW installing flow meters to measure infiltration ○ TW publishing sewage maps, showing level of release • Solar Farm at Blenheim is very large, the decision to grant planning was made at Whitehall • The Tar Lane Solar Farm has been delayed for at least 2 years. • Photo ID will ne be required to vote – it is possible to register online for Free ID. • A plan to improve the Old Airfield site landscaping has been agreed between Hayfield Homes Limited and WODC. A representative of Hayfield Homes will inspect the site with planning and residents.

MIN REF	ITEM
23/006	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Following objections from the PC, the following application will be heard by the Lowlands Planning Committee.</p> <p>Reference 22/03058/FUL Address Land At (E) 441112 (N) 205508 Stanton Harcourt Industrial Estate Stanton Harcourt Oxfordshire Proposal Erection of two industrial units together with associated landscaping works and car parking.</p> <p>The PC had no objections to the following applications:</p> <p>Reference 22/03056/FUL Address Friars Farm Stanton Harcourt Witney Oxfordshire OX29 5AE Proposal Construction of replacement dwelling together with associated works.</p> <p>APPLICATION NO: 22/03413/HHD PROPOSAL: Demolition of single storey side extension and erection of a two storey side extension Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: 2 Linch Hill Cottages Linch Hill Stanton Harcourt</p> <p>APPLICATION NO: 22/03435/HHD PROPOSAL: Single storey rear extension Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: The Lodge Cogges Lane Stanton Harcourt</p> <p>The PC and DC to continue to monitor for application on field opposite Flexney's Paddock</p>
23/007	<p>VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>Car Park Refurbishment Project: A test hole has been dug to identify the nature of the surface and layers below. Glanville have suggested 3 possible finishes; basic drainage works needed, awaiting an indication of costs before proceeding any further. GS to progress the S106 aimed at solving the drainage issue once we have some costs to work.</p> <p>Solar Panels: In January 2023 we received the batteries and inverter and JoJU Solar managed to locate them up in the loft next to the other inverter so they are out of the way and not presenting a risk to users. The initial plan was to locate them in the Holland Room but that would have resulted in lost storage.</p> <p>As explained in the Insurance report, the replacement cost of the panels and batteries has been added to the Village Hall Insurance. When notified of this change to the policy the Insurers requested that a 'kill switch' be installed in the fire panel in the lobby of the Village Hall. This switch enables the production of energy to be instantly suppressed in the case of a fire activation. The Village Hall Management Committee considered this a sensible safety feature. The electrician still needs to complete the connection and also connect the fire safety switch to the fire panel. There will be a manual override switch there too so the panels can be turned off if necessary.</p> <p>Any excess electricity generated by the system will feed into the grid at no financial benefit to the Village Hall but contributes to lower 'UK Ltd' overall CO2 production. The Village Hall is on a fixed term low price electrical tariff, negotiated prior to the solar installation, which has until 28th Feb 2026 to run. This tariff does not offer any smart export guarantee (SEG) payments (e.g., payment for electricity fed back to the grid), many of the lower cost tariffs don't.</p>

MIN REF	ITEM
	<p>Once the batteries are connected any electricity generated and not used immediately can be stored in them for use at a later date/time and excess returned to the grid as before. The type of battery chosen enables the system to be utilised when there is a power cut; some systems only work when power from the grid is available. This should result in significant energy cost savings as many bookings are in the evening when the panels are not generating energy especially during the winter months.</p> <p>The system provides usage information about the panels and their efficiency and once we understand the system better on handover, we hope to share more on this in future months. It did show the total amount generated since installation as 4.76MWh. As yet there has been little impact on the electricity bills, the main benefits will show now we have batteries installed and in particular during longer days with sunnier skies.</p> <p>In addition, a request for a SMART Meter was made but unfortunately there is insufficient phone signal at the hall so it was not possible to install one.</p> <p>This Village Hall Project was delivered with Zero Net cost to Stanton Harcourt Parish Council and significant benefits to the ongoing funding of the Village Hall. Thanks to The Village Hall Committee and particularly the Project Manager Lucy Heath.</p>
23/008	<p>GUARDROOM</p> <p>Hirer Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhead lights • Cold floor • 'Non hall users' parking in this car park regularly • Facilities Maintenance Issues to be addressed • Under sink water heater not working • Main Door needs replacing or varnishing (better but still sticking) • Overhead lighting (Dimmer needed too bright) <p>On-going Running Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring there is someone available to open up and close facilities for casual bookings (before accepting booking) • Weekly clean (toilets, emptying bins, refreshing consumables, checking facility, cleaning windows etc) <p>Guardroom Notice Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire Charge notice (circulated) • Guidance for use of notice board (circulated) <p>Costs and Income update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire charge for Casual booking increased Jan 1st in line with the Holland Room as agreed • Income since August 2022 £750 (circulated) <p>Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar System Update – Joe Deane • Fencing in the garden • Roadside sign pointing to the Guardroom • Curtains/Blinds • Heating (longer term solution)
23/009	<p>COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>JD – new editor now working on Village Voice. Currently looking at alternative printing – JD had suggested the Editor write to the PC.</p> <p>KH – Nothing to report</p> <p>MJ – obtaining quotes for play equipment, will look to renew mowing contract in near</p>

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	future RA – nothing to report TP – although not present, had confirmed that a 3 rd member had been recruited to Speedwatch, it was hoped that the scheme would be operational very soon.																																				
23/010	2023/24 BUDGET The final budget had been circulated. A precept request of £35k had been submitted.																																				
23/011	FINANCE Payments Made: <table><tr><td>E Judson</td><td>Guardroom refund</td><td>£20.00</td></tr><tr><td>T Gasser (Tree)</td><td>Misc</td><td>£270.83</td></tr><tr><td>T Gasser (VV Gift)</td><td>Village Voice</td><td>£40.00</td></tr><tr><td>T Gasser (Guardroom)</td><td>Guardroom</td><td>£29.00</td></tr><tr><td>Nicholsons</td><td>Goods (Trees)</td><td>£2,003.92</td></tr><tr><td>WODC</td><td>Bin Empty</td><td>£297.26</td></tr><tr><td>John Woodward</td><td>Maintenance</td><td>£147.00</td></tr><tr><td>M Judson</td><td>Maintenance</td><td>£56.58</td></tr><tr><td>Village Hall</td><td>Village Hall insurance</td><td>£1,437.36</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>Clerk</td><td>£223.01</td></tr><tr><td>T Gasser</td><td>Clerk</td><td>£892.03</td></tr><tr><td>D Wilby</td><td>Maintenance</td><td>£625.00</td></tr></table>	E Judson	Guardroom refund	£20.00	T Gasser (Tree)	Misc	£270.83	T Gasser (VV Gift)	Village Voice	£40.00	T Gasser (Guardroom)	Guardroom	£29.00	Nicholsons	Goods (Trees)	£2,003.92	WODC	Bin Empty	£297.26	John Woodward	Maintenance	£147.00	M Judson	Maintenance	£56.58	Village Hall	Village Hall insurance	£1,437.36	HMRC	Clerk	£223.01	T Gasser	Clerk	£892.03	D Wilby	Maintenance	£625.00
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23/012	CORRESPONDENCE <i>Standing with Giants:</i> A request for funding had been received from Standing With Giants, a community project run by residents of the Parish. The PC discussed the request and felt that funding would be not applicable, as much of their work was not in the Parish. <i>Church Bell Restoration:</i> A request for funding towards the cost of the Church Bell Restoration had been received. MJ confirmed that the PC would hope to provide some funding via S106 -the applicant would keep in touch with the PC and update them regarding further quotes. <i>Stanton Harcourt Summer Festival:</i> A request had been received from the Festival Committee for the PC to provide insurance for the Festival Fete. The PC agreed on the condition that a risk assessment was submitted to the PC one month prior to the day of the Fete to enable the clerk to ensure cover can be put in place.																																				
23/013	ANY OTHER BUSINESS Nothing to report.																																				
23/014	NEXT MEETING: Monday 6 th February 2023 – in The Guardroom																																				

Signed

Date

Questions from Members of the Public

Church Clock Repairs:

It was asked whether the PC would make a donation towards the repair of the Church Clock, the required work is estimated to be £1700.

MJ suggested that S106 could be used to fund the required work, JD would put together an application.

Sutton Lane Notice Board:

It was requested that the PC relocate the notice board, recently installed at the end of the footpath from the Leys to Sutton Lane, due to safety – it was suggested the board be moved further into the path from the road.

MJ confirmed that the PC would consider moving the board.

Planning on Field opposite Foxburrow Close:

It was questioned whether the PC had received a planning application for a development.

The PC had not received an application to date.

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Council Update – Dan Levy

2 Feb 2023 Stanton Harcourt

Budget

The County Council budget for 2023-24 is being finalised, and will go for approval to the next full meeting of Oxfordshire County Council. There are huge pressures in key areas, caused by inflation and by increasing demand. The County Council is responsible for adult social care (in which HM Govt has suspended its reform of financing), children's services including supporting Special Educational Needs, and highways.

The settlement from central government was reasonably generous, but there is still far less money than we would need to be able to do all the things that residents ask for.

The County Council (like all other councils) is permitted to increase council tax by only 2.99% (or £5 if that is higher) and in addition has been told by HM Government to charge a precept of 2% for adult social care.

Highways.

I am sure anyone who walks, cycles or drives will have noticed the huge number of potholes, following the rain and frost. They are being fixed as fast as is possible with the limited number of people available to do the work. Please do keep reporting issues on Fix my Street.

Work is going on to revise the A40 plans, to ensure that they can be fitted within the pot made available by central government. The original plans, drawn up several years ago, exceeded this limit because of the recent inflation pressures.

The Access to Witney scheme, to make the junction at Shores Green better, with access to and from the A40 heading west, will be going to the planning committee within the next few months. Assuming it is approved, it may have an effect on the quantity of traffic coming through Sutton - South Leigh PC (and I) are keen that this be restricted as much as possible, via 20 mph speed limits and through the introduction of a weight limit in South Leigh. I am continuing to press for restrictions to HGVs in Sutton.

Botley Road closure at the station.

There is still no news from Network Rail about when the bridge under the station will be shut, even though they have been going ahead with the work to demolish the buildings which to be removed to permit the building of the new station.

The closure of Botley Road to cars and buses will have huge impact on residents, and has a knock on effect on all the other roads, and on plans to make bus journeys quicker.

Buses.

First and Last Mile, who run the service from Standlake and Stanton Harcourt to Eynsham and from Eynsham to Freeland and Hanborough, have just had their first anniversary of being in service. It is an invaluable service, not least for the large number of pupils who use it to get to Bartholomew School.

They are always in need of more drivers to go on their roster, and would be delighted to hear from any volunteers.

Meanwhile, the government gave money to the County Council, on the back of its commitments to improve bus travel times, to provide electric buses to be used in Oxfordshire by Stagecoach and

Oxford Bus Company. The first of the 159 electric buses should be in service in September.

As ever, please get in touch with any queries, issues or comments.

Dan Levy

ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER MEETINGS:

	ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD	
Pre-June	GS – B4449 Reducing the noise and vibration BT OpenReach replaced the wrong manhole cover. The one by 10 Beaumont Green has been recorded as Urgent by both OCC Highways and BT OpenReach	Cfw
CFW from June mtg	21/064 TG to create and circulate a list of current policies (a PC Policy Register) ready for review.	Cfw
CFW from July mtg	21/092 All/PC to continue logging TW complaints with DL/OCC None received – Notice to be put on Village Voice (Hardcopy & Facebook) asking all issues to be sent to Parish Clerk with the Title 'Water Issues' PC will then progress with Thames Water. Action MJ TG to report on issue type statistics at future meetings (standard agenda point)	Cfw
	21/097 S106 MJ to obtain quotes for additional Play Equipment	Cfw
CFW from Nov mtg	JD to look at sensors for electric lights once transferred to the PC	Cfw
	21/122 Public Session Archive in the Guard Room? GS to see if we can install sufficient storage	Cfw
CFW From Feb Mtg	22/008 Guard Room Update TG to investigate a separate bank account for Guard Room Accounts.	Cfw
	22/009 Village Hall GS to circulate the original Car Park refurbish plan to the VHC for review for completeness GS to return to Parish Council with quotations for Car Park refurb	Cfw
	22/010 RECREATION AREAS GS to identify whether the VHC would like the equipment moved from the Bury Mead play park to the Leys to provide additional options for the Village Hall long term strategy	Cfw
CFW from June Meeting	22/0269 Welcome Pack JD currently drafting a document	