

STADHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM Tuesday 3rd May, 2016 at the Village Hall at St. John's

Clerk: Paul Isaacs, 11 Thame Road, Great Milton, Oxon., OX44 7HY

Attendees	Cllr. Alaric Smith (Chair) (AS), Cllr. Sarah Madry (SM), Cllr. Colin Keyser (CK), Cllr. Mike Stevenson-Smith (MSS), Paul Isaacs (Clerk), Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (LLG) (OCC) and eleven members of the public.
Apologies	Cllr. Ann Stead (AES), Cllr. Tony Brandon (AB), Cllr. Stephen Harrod (SH) (SODC).

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
036/16	Welcome and minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM, 12/5/15	<p>The Chair, Alaric Smith, welcomed the attended audience and introduced the AGM.</p> <p>Note - the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, AGM and Ordinary meeting held on 12/5/15 were confirmed, approved and signed by the Chair at the meeting held on 7/7/15. Matters arising were also dealt with at the 7/7/15 meeting.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>For info.</p>
037/16	Annual Report by the Chair	<p>The Chair, Alaric Smith, stated that 2015/16 had been an interesting and somewhat challenging year. Particular note was made of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the change of meeting venue to the Village Hall at St. John's; • village improvements including works and repairs to the play area, village hall and village green; • the pavilion project which will bring new life to an important community facility; • the continued threat of gravel extraction in the area; • the dispute with the owners of Newington Garden Centre, who accused the PC of making defamatory remarks about the business. SPC strongly resisted these allegations and took legal advice to ensure that its position was robust. Nothing further has been heard from the lawyers acting for the owners since the last letter sent on behalf of the PC rejecting their claims; • the growing impact of the ongoing County Council financial cuts that continue to erode local services. One consequence is that OCC will cease all bus subsidies in July 2016 and SPC will investigate what can be done to provide support in the future; • involvement in one or two 'difficult' planning matters including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Planning Enquiry that took place into the enforcement notices served on the owner of the Crazy Bear relating to the shooting activities and unauthorised buildings constructed to support them at Crazy Bear Farm, formerly Newells Farm. This found against the owner and confirmed the Enforcement Notices. Under threat of further action from SODC, shooting ceased and most but not all of the structures have been removed. SPC will continue to liaise with SODC Planning department to ensure that this work is completed. b) the application to build 80 houses on land on Newington Road which was initially rejected by SODC and subsequently appealed by the developer, Catesbys Estates Ltd. The appeal was heard by public inquiry in April and a decision is awaited. <p>Finally, Alaric thanked all of his fellow parish councillors for their ongoing support and thanked the Clerk for keeping everything in excellent order.</p>	<p>AS</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>

038/16	Report from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)	<p>Cllr. Lindsay-Gale presented the annual OCC report. LLG noted that OCC had been preparing for up to £51m of additional savings to 2020 (on top of the £292m cuts made for the period 2010 to 2018) but now has to make a further £20m of cuts bringing the total to £71m over the next 4 years. The list of proposed savings for £51 million was already controversial and, to achieve the additional £20 million savings, only areas of statutory provision (eg, education and services for the most vulnerable) will be exempt. Therefore other areas will suffer disproportionately and will involve difficult decisions.</p> <p>The rest of the annual report commented on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations including Children’s Centres / Early Intervention hubs, Supported Transport Services, Household Waste Recycling Centres, Adult Social Care, the Minerals & Waste Plan, Oxfordshire Together; • Efficiency savings - new fire control centre, property, back office and reserves; • Roadworks across the County and proposals for a new Thames river crossing, Didcot to Culham / Clifton Hampden; • Additional funding for ‘Better Broadband’; • Devolution and Unitary status proposals. 	<p>LLG For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>								
039/16	2015/16 Financial Report	<p>The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer for SPC, presented a summary of the accounts for 2015/16 as follows:-</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Balance @ 1/4/15</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">£28,143.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£16,290.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22,350.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance @ 1/4/16</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£22,083.08</td> </tr> </table> <p>It was reported that SPC has not increased the annual precept for the past six years due to good financial management and strong governance. During 2015/16 SPC received income totalling £16,290.29 which includes the annual precept to cover the day-to-day activities and responsibilities of the Council. SPC once again kept within this budget with revenue expenditure for the year totalling £14,148.30. The PC continued to support the local community with grants totalling £1,559.40 to fund hall hire for the Youth Club, a contribution towards the T1 bus service provided by Go-Ride and a contribution towards the ongoing PAGE campaign. In addition, SPC approved expenditure totalling £2,172.19 to fund community improvement projects that included repairs to the play area and dredging and ditch clearance near the allotments and play area. Finally, by deliberately subsidising the annual allotments rents (maintaining them at a ‘minimal’ level), the PC’s policy is to encourage allotment holders to maintain the plots to a high standard.</p> <p>The carried forward balance remains and in line with best practice (that reserves are at double the annual precept). £2,500 is ring-fenced for the Pavilion Project. It was noted that the main reason for the end of year balance being £6,060.61 lower is the expenditure from reserves on legal fees which was necessary but unexpected.</p> <p>The 2015/16 summary accounts were approved and adopted. Proposed by AS and seconded by CK.</p> <p>It was noted that no changes were required to be made to the Parish Council's financial regulations, standing orders or risk assessment and that the accounts will now go to internal audit prior to submission to BDO LLP, the external auditors, by 20/6/16.</p> <p>The budget setting meeting for 2017/18 will be held in December 2016 so that an early decision can be made regarding the precept.</p>	Balance @ 1/4/15	£28,143.69	Income	£16,290.29	Expenditure	£22,350.90	Balance @ 1/4/16	£22,083.08	<p>For info.</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>For info.</p> <p>For info.</p>
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040/16	Report from South Oxford District Council (SODC)	<p>Cllr. Stephen Harrod (SH) was unable to be present but had forwarded an annual report which highlighted the following areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Tax freeze - SODC has kept its element of the Council Tax frozen (achieving this without cuts to any services); • Corporate Services Agreement - a new contract to provide HR and IT back office services will save in the region of £50 million across a 9 year contract; • Oxfordshire Vision - the District Council's proposals for Unitary Status as an alternative to the County Council proposals; • Best place to live - the excellent news that South Oxfordshire has topped a list of the best places to live in the UK with the highest percentage of happy residents, high levels of satisfaction and low levels of anxiety. 97% of adults replied that they were in good health and 81% in employment. • Revised Local Plan - that a submission will be made in early 2017 with a final decision expected at the end of 2017; • Land Supply - SODC no longer has a five-year land supply for housing which leaves us vulnerable to developers appealing against non-approval of their plans which do not accord with the current Local Plan; • Waste Management & Recycling - SODC is still the top recycling local authority in the UK; • Didcot Garden Town - SODC will apply for Garden Town status for Didcot and, if successful, this will bring large amounts of Government investment. 	SH For info.
041/16	Report from Village Hall at St. Johns	<p>Ann Stead was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded a written report noting that the hall is being used regularly by villagers and that it is wonderful to see that a number of new groups have started up. The hall continues to attract hirers from outside of the area which helps boost income levels and keep the costs down for villagers. AES reported that the management committee is beginning to get a handle on utility costs and that current booking levels should provide enough income to cover the annual running costs. The Committee aims to hold one year's running costs (£6,000) in reserve and to save £1,000 per year to go towards replacing equipment. All outstanding items on the initial wish list have now been completed but there is a problem with the draughts that blow through the fragile window frames, the tower and some of the doors. This significantly impedes the buildings energy efficiency so work will take place to help the PCC secure funding to rectify these maintenance issues.</p> <p>On behalf of the Parish Council, AS congratulated the Village Hall committee for their excellent work and achievements to date.</p>	AES For info. AS
042/16	Report from the Fireworks Committee	<p>Sue White presented a written report from the Fireworks Committee and reported another successful event despite lots of rain all afternoon prior to the November 5th evening event. Unfortunately this deterred the usual crowds attending the bonfire and fireworks which drastically affected takings on the day. On a positive note we had a fantastic bonfire built on the day, there was no fly-tipping, the firework display was excellent and, with the very mild weather conditions, we were able to re-seed the bonfire site successfully. A lower attendance meant that food sales were down but we were able to donate some of our left over hot dogs to the Youth Club for their Christmas Party.</p> <p>In 2016 Guy Fawkes Night falls on a Saturday so there will be lots of celebrations on that night but, after consideration, we have decided to follow our tradition and stick with a November 5th event.</p>	SW For info.

043/16	Report from the Pavilion Project	<p>It was reported that a £12,445 grant from SODC representing 50% of the estimated project costs (£24,859) has been formally approved and progress has been made as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the area around the pavilion has been cleared; • the car-park area will be levelled; • the storage container has been installed. 	For Info.
044/16	Parish Plan Report	<p>It was reported that the Community Plan Steering Group will present the finished Plan at the July meeting and request that the PC formally adopt it. Finance remains in the budget to spend on the final printing and publication. AS welcomed the news and thanked the Community Plan Steering Group for their work to date.</p>	For info. AS
045/16	Primary School Report	<p>SM reported that the Governing Body of Stadhampston Primary School are currently considering the issue of Academy status. As with all state schools in England (primary and secondary), Stadhampston Primary has to become an Academy by 2020 or be committed to converting by 2022. To date the Governing Body's decision has been not to convert and to regularly assess the situation. A quick decision will not be rushed into and the Governing Body will now investigate what multi-academy trusts exist and who else may be in the early stages of forming such a trust.</p> <p><i>Background information on Academy Status:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There are two types of Academies - single and multi-trusts;</i> • <i>Academies are independent schools receiving funding directly from Government rather than through local authorities;</i> • <i>day to day running of the school is with the Headteacher who is overseen by the Academy Trust Board (a charitable body);</i> • <i>the role of the Academy Trust is to provide advice, support, expertise and a strategic overview;</i> • <i>Academies control their own admissions process and have more freedom to innovate;</i> • <i>Schools can opt out of the national curriculum, can dictate the length of the school day and can decide term times;</i> • <i>Schools are still inspected by Ofsted with Regional School Commissioners monitoring standards in academies.</i> 	SM For info.
046/16	Open Forum	<p><u>Speed Operations</u> - following complaints about the speed of cars driving through the village, speed operations are being conducted by the local police with a high number of offences being recorded. The PC is liaising with the County Council regarding possible traffic calming measures and, as a first step, speed awareness signs have been posted at all entries to the village. Because of the high number of offences so far recorded, TVP are to continue with these operations to try to reduce the incidence of speeding in the village.</p>	For info.
047/16	Election of Officers	<p>The Clerk took over for the election of the Chair.</p> <p>Alaric Smith agreed to stand for re-election as Chair. Proposed by CK, seconded by MSS. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Sarah Madry was nominated to stand as Vice-Chair. Proposed by MSS, seconded by CK. Unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Cllrs. Ann Stead, Tony Brandon, Colin Keyser and Mike Stevenson-Smith remain in post.</p> <p>Confirmation that the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM for 2017 will be held on Tuesday May 2nd, 2017. The Chair closed the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting and AGM at 9.06pm. The meeting continued with the first Ordinary meeting for 2016/17.</p>	Clerk AS Elected SM Elected For Info. For Info.