

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023

Present:

Matthew Judson (MJ) Chair
 Rachel Arnold (RA) Vice Chair
 Joe Deane (JD) Councillor
 Keith Hickson (KH) Councillor
 Andy Hayden (AH) Councillor
 Trudi Gasser (TG) Parish Clerk

In Attendance:

1 Members of the public (part)
 Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
23/131	<p>01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Gill Sellars (GS) Councillor Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor</p>
23/132	<p>02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No declarations.</p>
23/133	<p>03 APPROVAL of MINUTES Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 6th November were approved for publication subject to amendment of date.</p>
23/134	<p>04 MATTERS ARISING 23/117 – Remembrance Services – thanks were expressed to JD & KH for representing the PC at Remembrance Services in the village.</p> <p>The donation of £60 to the Royal British Legion had been paid.</p> <p>Carried Forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-June GS – B4449 Reducing the noise and vibration BT Openreach, despite letters being sent no action has been taken by BT Openreach. ACTION: GS, DL ask that he is copied in on an email to them so he may assist. • 22/0269 - Welcome Pack ACTION: JD currently drafting a document • 23/061 – Village Stocks, the thatched shelter is leaning. A temporary fix will be carried out by the maintenance team. ACTION: Maintenance Team to carry out a temporary repair with timber • 23/078 - Village Survey Action: GS to draft questions for review at the next meeting. • 23/122 - Village Hall ACTION: GS to confirm whether planning permission is required once a Tec Spec is available ACTION: GS to ask the VHC to obtain quotes based on the Tech Spec supplied by Glanville • 23/123 - Old Guardroom ACTION: RA to purchases dishes when next in IKEA

	<p>ACTION: TG to progress rate relief for a ‘not for profit’ community building ACTION: JD To continue progressing the Guardroom Solar Heating project.</p>
23/135	<p>05 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>County Council: Full report attached</p> <p>District Council: No DC presence, no reports received.</p> <p>In summary: CC currently working on budget for which there is a £9million shortfall.</p> <p>The 20mph project has come in slightly under budget and will proceed.</p>
23/136	<p>06 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>No members of the public were present during this part of the meeting.</p>
23/137	<p>07 PLANNING</p> <p>Other planning: 23/02352/FUL - Erection of nineteen dwellings with associated parking spaces, new access road, public open space on the Land East of Main Road Stanton Harcourt. The planning Application had been withdrawn. It is thought that it will not go away, it will most probably come back with the objections being taken into consideration.</p> <p>Road Closures: Two road closures were reported – both had been published on the PC website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northmoor, Standlake, Standlake Road and road to Northmoor REASON: To facilitate vegetation clearance prior to investigation works DURATION: Starting on 6 December 2023 The anticipated completion date is 8 December 2023 (date included), 09:30 to 15:30 each day. • Witney-Stanton Harcourt Road Prohibition of Through Traffic Date of Order: 22 January 2024 Coming into force: 29 January 2024 This Order is being introduced because of A40 bridge parapet improvement works which are anticipated to be completed on 23 February 2024. The effect of the Order is to temporarily prohibit any vehicle proceeding in that section of Stanton Harcourt Road running over the A40 bridge South of Cogges. <p>Action: RA to publish in VV and Facebook.</p>
23/138	<p>08. VILLAGE VOICE NEWSLETTER</p> <p>A Village Voice Facebook page had been set up.</p>
23/139	<p>09. VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>Car Park No progress reported.</p> <p>Insurance TG had discussed combining the policies with the PC insurers – a number of</p>

	<p>questions had been received which had been forwarded to Lucy for response. The Village Hall will be moved to the PC insurance then the policy would be reviewed prior to renewal on 1st April.</p>
23/140	<p>10. OLD GUARDROOM</p> <p>A quote had been received for a replacement door of £1,900 – MJ proposed the quoted be accepted, RA seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: TG to progress</p>
23/141	<p>11. SAXON WAY WASTE BINS</p> <p>The Deanfield Development is to be known as ‘The Granaries’.</p> <p>It was reported that since the footpath to The Green had opened there is an increasing issue with dog mess. A request was made for a bin to be located on Granary Way. MJ proposed an additional bin be requested, KH seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: AH to provide a ‘what 3 words’ location for the bin to be forwarded to Bill Oddy.</p>
23/142	<p>12. POLICY REVIEW</p> <p>The following policies were identified as being applicable to the PC: Asset Register – reviewed on an annual basis for audit.</p> <p>ACTION: AH to walk around with KH to identify assets</p> <p>Communications /Complaints Fees/Charges/Hall Hire/Cemetery Information/Retention of Records</p> <p>ACTION: RA to review existing policies – TG to forward copies</p> <p>ACTION: Review of cemetery rate to be carried out at next meeting</p>
23/143	<p>FINANCE UPDATE & BUGET PLANNING</p> <p>Remuneration: Clerk: The revised SCP rate had been agreed by NALC. The Clerk’s rate would increase to £17.16/hr, backdated to April 2023.</p> <p>Maintenance: MJ proposed the rate of pay for maintenance work be increased to £16/hr from April 2024, RA seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: GS to issue revised schedule to maintenance contract.</p> <p>Grass Cutting: A proposal had been received with no increase. MJ proposed the proposal be accepted, JD seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>Budget: The budget was discussed, the PC agreed ring-fenced funds.</p> <p>ACTION: TG to circulate amended final budget.</p> <p>Precept: KH proposed the precept be set at £40k for the next financial year, AH seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: TG to progress the request.</p>
23/144	<p>13 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>ACTION: TG to circulate list of councillor responsibilities for revision in light of AH joining the PC.</p> <p>Playground: MJ currently pulling together quotes for playground improvements.</p> <p>ACTION: MJ to report at future meeting</p>

	<p>Pothole Management: KH had walked around the village and identified and marked a couple of potholes, but unable to mark them until drier conditions. ACTION: KH to continue village pothole review.</p> <p>Green Management: Xmas tree on the Green had been treated with Epsom Salts. Further treatment to be applied. ACTION: MJ to continue to review Xmas tree.</p> <p>Jubilee field trees to review: A quote had been received for further trees. ACTION: MJ to progress order.</p>
23/145	<p>CORRESPONDENCE Nothing to report.</p>
23/146	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS Nothing to report</p>
23/147	<p>NEXT MEETING Monday 5th February 2024 at 19:30 in The Old Guardroom</p>

Signed

Date

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council County Councillor Report

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council County Councillor Report December 2023

Please find a report on areas covered by the County Council which may be of interest.

Budget

The budget at County Hall is currently being created. The headline figures are that there are £36m of pressures, caused by underfunding, by demographic changes and by inflation, including a higher than expected rise in the National Living Wage with no additional money from the government that announced it. We spend over half the budget on adult and children's services, including social care. The County Council is making savings, and becoming more efficient. For instance we are building new childrens' homes, including one in Aston, to enable us to look after Oxfordshire children in the county.

The headline gap between expected income and expected spending for 24-25 currently stands at £9m, which we will have to fill to create a balanced budget. Despite this we are in a better position than most other County Councils of all political persuasions.

There is a consultation open, which can be found on the County Council website. We do want to hear from as many residents as possible.

Roads

There is a planned closure of the road between Standlake and Stanton Harcourt/Northmoor between 6 th and 8th December between 9-30 and 3-30 each day. This is for bridge work. There has been some discussion about timings, and how they fit in with school activity, but this is the best we can get and still have the work done. The road will remain open for people on bikes.

There is also a closure planned for Tar Lane, between Stanton Harcourt and Witney, in January, to replace the bridge parapets on the A40 crossing. That will last several weeks.

There was another serious crash at the Barnard Gate junction a few weeks ago. Officers are investigating how to make this crossing safe. It was going to be part of the reworking of the A40 using money from Homes England, but this phase of the project has had to be deferred as the costs of the whole project have exceeded what government made available – this was predictable from the point at which the P&R/A40 scheme was first sketched out. So we do need to do something. This might include shutting the junction to right turns, which will be very inconvenient mainly for people living north of the A40 in places like Freeland, who use the junction to get onto the A40 going westbound. When the Shores Green junction on the A40, making the eastern Witney junction four way, is completed, the issue should disappear.

Botley West Solar Farm

The next phase of consultation is now open. Residents can and should have their say on the scheme proposed by PVDP and mainly using land owned by Blenheim. Councillors like me who sit in cabinets are taking the view that we are best commenting through the councils, which will have an obligation formally to report their concerns to the secretary of state, who will be making the decision. Those councillors who are not so bound are free to stand with those residents who are making their voices heard.

As ever, please contact me with queries, comments or requests.
dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk Dan