

Stoneleigh & Ashow Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 14th March 2024
At Stoneleigh Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr R Hancox (Chair)
Cllr J Astle
Cllr D Jack
Cllr L Rolli
Cllr P Redford
Cllr W Redford

There were four members of the public present.

149. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Mathews.

150. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

151. Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 8th February 2024 were reviewed and approved. It was agreed to sign these at the April meeting.

152. Public Session

Standing orders were suspended at 7.20pm.

Sue Crofts, trustee for the Stoneleigh Almshouses, reported to the council that David Franklin, who represented the Parish Council on the board of trustees, had resigned due to ill health, and asked if the Parish Council would nominate someone to replace him.

Sue explained that the trustees met four times per annum, often on a Tuesday afternoon in the small room at the village hall.

Cllr Hancox agreed to represent the Parish Council.

A resident raised an issue regarding the 20mph speed limit and asked if there was any news on the application yet?

Cllr Hancox reported that with the clerk being absent the council could not confirm if the forms had been received, he apologies and said he would check with the clerk and report back to the next meeting in April.

A resident asked what the latest was with the removal of the traffic lights at the crossroads with the B4115, as cars had started to park again on the rough ground on the left as you turn out of the village onto the Ashow Road, whilst this wasn't perhaps obscuring visibility for motorists it was making using the controlled crossing very dangerous.

Cllr Hancox will contact Warwickshire Police and see if they can assist or suggest what measures we can take.

Cllr W Redford reported that HS2 were permitted to keep the temporary traffic lights in place until December 2024 and reminded residents that until the lights had been removed the County Council were unable to progress the closure of the Birmingham Road.

A resident reported that they were pleased to see that the speed advisory sign had finally been replaced outside the village hall.

153. Finance and Administration

Income / Expenditure

Balance brought forward from 29th February 2024 **£ 58,462.86**

NEST	£68.02
Clerk Salary HDS (February)	£738.68
Clerk Expenses (January)	£41.40
Your Locale	£1800.00
Zoom	£15.59

Income:

Balance **£ 56,469.00**

Funds at Unity Bank

Current Account T1	£ 35,856.86
Instant Access account	£ 20,612.97

£ 56,469.00

Online payments to be authorised:

Clerk Expenses (February)	£ 108.99
NEST	£ 68.02
Clerk Expenses (Zoom)	£ 15.59

- a) Invoices and payments received were noted.
- b) All payments were authorised.
- c) The finance report was noted.

- d) Co-option of Councillor, nothing new to report, hoping for more news in April.
- e) Play area inspection – having reviewed the inspection report, the chair reported that the defects identified that were the responsibility of the Village Hall Trustees had been passed to them, the clerk has been asked to obtain a quote for rectifying the defects that are the Parish Councils responsibility.

154. Planning

New Planning Applications

Application No: W/24/0165 HS2

Description: Plans and Specifications submission under Schedule 17 to the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 for works comprising:

- Construction of the A46 Kenilworth Bypass Overbridge, a triple span integral structure approximately 50m long and 40m wide.
- Earthworks: Highways embankment with a maximum height of 7.8m.
- Highways: Reinstatement of the A46 highways including provision for one extra lane on each direction for potential future usage.
- Fencing: Vehicle restraint system (VRS).

Address: Land at the A46 Kenilworth Bypass, Park Hill, Kenilworth CV8 2UA

Applicant: High Speed Two (HS2)

The council agreed a neutral response to this application.

Application No: W/24/0106

Description: Proposed installation of ramped access to the rear of The Almshouses.

Address: 1-10 Almshouses, The Green, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3DP

Applicant: The Trustees of The Dame Alice Leigh Almshouses

Whilst the parish council had agreed to support this application it was noted that the highway authority had put in an objection. It appeared they are not happy with the proposed new gate opening onto the footway that runs past the rear entrance to the Almshouses. The Chair agreed to speak to both the Almshouses trustees and the highway authority and see if a way forward could be identified.

Progress of planning applications

Nothing new to report.

Progress of planning applications (No outcome yet)

Appl. No: W/24/0107/LB –

Address. The Forge, The Green, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3DP

Description. The installation of a plaque to commemorate the legacy of Edward Langley Fardon who once occupied this building.

Applicant: Messrs, Whitehouse & Rice

Application No: W/23/1605 Received: 07/11/2023 07:31:07App. Type: Outline Planning Permission
Address The Orchard, Coventry Road, Stoneleigh
Outline planning application (all matters reserved apart from access) for the erection of 2no. dwellings.
Applicant Mr Innocent
Planning Officer Jack Lynch Jack.lynch@warwickdc.gov.uk

Application No: W/23/0974
Description: Erection of two storey rear extension and demolition of existing outbuilding.
Address: The Conifers, 12 Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh, CV8 3DD
Applicant: Mrs T Mashood
Closing date: 15th September 2023
Planning Officer: Theo Collum

Application No: W/23/1243
Description: Installation of solar photovoltaic panels to the roof of the UKBIC building and the provision of associated infrastructure.
Address: UKBIC, Rowley Road, Baginton, Coventry, CV8 3AL.
Applicant: Oxalis planning Ltd
Closing date: 29th September 2023
Planning Officer: Lucy Hammond

Application No: W/23/0830 HS2
Description: Schedule 17 Plans and Specifications Application for the following:
Construction of a viaduct structure carrying the HS2 line.
Noise barrier attached to the viaduct parapets.
Earthworks for watercourse diversion.
Address: Canley Brook Viaduct, NW of A429 Kenilworth Road and Stoneleigh, Kenilworth CV8 2FE
Applicant: HS2 Limited
Closing date: 18th July 2023
Planning Officer: Mike Blissett

Application No: W/23/0878 HS2
Description: Plans and Specifications submission under Schedule 17 to the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 for works comprising: a new single span, integral overbridge with handrails on top of abutment pile caps (1.05m in height) minor earthworks (typically less than 1m in height) and installation of a safety barrier (0.75m in height)
Address: Land within the Northeast corner of Stoneleigh Park, Overbridge, Stoneleigh
Applicant: High Speed Two (HS2)
Closing date: 18th July 2023
Planning Officer: Mike Blissett

Application No: W/23/0587
Description: Repairs to roof
Address: 12 Coventry Road, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3BZ.
Applicant: Miss J Mayhew
Closing date: 23rd June 2023
Planning Officer: Lucy Shorthouse

Application No: W/22/1723 HS2

Description: A railway cutting with a length of 750m and maximum depth of 11m and associated landscape earthworks, a pond, maintenance access strips, land and track drainage, noise barrier and security fencing.

Address: Land to the North of the A429 Kenilworth Road, bound by Cryfield Grange Road and Crackley Lane.

Applicant: HS2

Closing date: 25th November 2022

Planning Officer: Erin Weatherstone

155. Stoneleigh Park Events

Councillors discussed recent events at Stoneleigh Park and how noisy some have been. Cllr Astle suggested that we contact Stoneleigh Events and ask them if they would consider sound checking cars before they are allowed to take part in the various events and driving experience days. Checking the noise from exhausts at a set rpm is a well-established practice at sites where organisers are keen to avoid disturbance to nearby residents.

It might be worth offering Stoneleigh Events the opportunity to do this voluntarily before we ask Warwick District Council to consider this option formally.

Cllr Rolli stated she was working with residents and Sam Woods from Warwick District Council to see if we might set up noise monitoring equipment in some of the homes that are on the boundary of Stoneleigh Park, it was noted that sadly this noise equipment had to be situated in doors, many of the residents are complaining they cannot use their gardens when certain events are held.

Cllr P Redford agreed to discuss the situation with both Stoneleigh Events and colleagues in the Environmental Department at Warwick District Council.

Cllr P Redford also suggested that it might be worth asking the new District Wardens to check on noise, signs and traffic management for certain events (these are the recently recruited Community Wardens available via community.wardens@warwickdc.gov.uk)

156. HS2 Updates

It was reported that Martin Smith had attended the recent Jeremy Wright MP HS2 Forum on behalf of the Parish Council. Martin had circulated a report from the meeting.

Cllrs are concerned that we still haven't seen a design for the new bridge to be built across the River Avon/Sowe, also the long-term plans for Stareton Lane, it was agreed these would be questions for Sara Louise Lee when she attends the next Parish Council meeting.

157. South Warwickshire Local Plan

Cllr P Redford reported there had not been much progress on this item, a PowerPoint slide deck had been received from planners which would be circulated.

It was expected there would be more Public Consultations under regulation 19 but perhaps not until late 2025.

158. Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that the plan was progressing well. Mainly due to the hard work and efforts of Cllr's Matthews and Astle.

A letter had been received from Saville's by the clerk, further investigations were needed but it was felt this was merely a consultant putting out feelers as to the status of our Neighbourhood Plan.

159. Stoneleigh Village Hall Noticeboard

The Parish Council had been informed by Warwickshire County Council as the highway authority that the proposed location for the new sign in Hall Close had been approved.

The next stage was for the clerk to obtain quotes for the installation of the sign.

160. Masterplanning Framework for Land to the North and East of Kenilworth/South of Coventry

Cllr P Redford reported that there was not really anything new to discuss. Andrew Cornfort, District Council Planner, has said there will only be another meeting when there is something to discuss. Cllr P Redford will see if there can be a meeting in April.

161. A46 Stoneleigh Road Junction Improvement Scheme

Cllr Hancox reported that there was still no progress on works to complete the new bridge. Warwickshire County Council are still hoping that work can recommence in May 2024 and if it does the roundabout could be open for late August 2024.

There are still other works outstanding, the scheme needs to install some new advanced direction signs on the mainline A46, it is hoped this work will commence mid-April and when it does take around 16 weeks to complete, the A46 will be reduced to two lanes in each direction whilst this work is undertaken.

There is still no progress on the new parapet for the old bridge, again Warwickshire are waiting on answers from National Highways before the new posts can be installed.

162. Birmingham Road Closure Update

Nothing new to report that has not already been included in the minutes above.

163. Stare Bridge and B4113 Footpath Update

Cllr P Redford reported that at Jeremy Wright MP's Forum it was reported that work to the footway could be started as early as June 2024, although no actual dates have been agreed.

Cllrs discussed the erratic nature of the temporary traffic signals outside of Stoneleigh Park that look after the HS2 haul road crossing. It was agreed to raise the issue with Sara Louise Lee and BBV.

164. To discuss options for the future of the Stoneleigh Village website

As the Clerk was not present it was agreed we would request an update on this item at the April meeting.

165. State of Disrepair C32/B4115 Crossroads

Cllr W Redford reminded the PC that Warwickshire Highways would be returning to the B4115 on the 24th of March (Sunday) to complete the resurfacing works between the HS2 compound and the temporary traffic lights at the Stoneleigh Crossroads.

166. Updates from Warwickshire Police, WCC Councillor Redford and WDC Councillors P Redford and J Payne

Nothing new from Warwickshire Police. Cllr Hancox reported that he had attended the latest Warwickshire Police liaison meeting at Leek Wootton Police HQ on Monday the 11th of March. It was hoped to share the slides from the meeting once received from the Police.

Cllr W Redford reported that on Tuesday the 19th of March the County Council would be voting on whether to join the West Midlands Combined Authority Investment Zone, he felt it was likely to be passed.

Cllr W Redford also reported that the leader of the County Council had received a letter from the Minister for Levelling Up, informing the county that, along with Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire was to become a Level 2 Authority. This is likely to go to a consultation and is unlikely to get voted through if all the district councils do not agree with it.

Cllr P Redford reported that the grant covering the cost-of-living rise will be paid automatically to those receiving it.

Cllr P Redford mentioned the Armed Forces Event on the 29th of June 2024 in Leamington, also whether we might consider joining many other parish councils in lighting a beacon to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings on the 6th of June 2024. It was hoped to also host a family event on the following Saturday in St Nicholas Park in Warwick from 11:00 to 16:00.

167. Correspondence

An email was discussed from an Ashow Resident suggesting that action would be taken against anyone straying from the Public Footpath on the outskirts of the village. The resident wanted to understand what the law / regulations state and whether this was permissible.

It was suggested we contact the Warwickshire County Council rights of way officer, Richard Barnard.

A second email was read out from a resident in Stoneleigh Village, it raised concerns with some possible breaches of planning regulations in Birmingham Road. Cllr P Redford suggested we contact the Warwick District Council Head of Enforcement, Will Holloway at will.holloway@warwickdc.gov.uk

168. Questions to Chairman

The Chairman raised an issue around water testing. He reported that this follows on from the work that Cllr Bianco had been involved with shortly before he passed away.

For some time now there has been a lot of concern about the quality and cleanliness of our river water, both the Sowe and the Avon. Many Parish Councils that also have rivers have started to carry out water quality testing every week as part of a university study up and down the country.

Following conversations with the national organisers for the testing it has been agreed we should look to test in three locations, the first is from the river Sowe, from off the footbridge in Stoneleigh Village alongside the bridge carrying the B4113 over the river. The second location would be off the old Stare Bridge from the River Avon. The third would likely be around 100m downstream from where the two rivers meet.

During the debate it was suggested that perhaps someone in Ashow might be interested in assisting and if so, we could move the third location to the footbridge near the village of Ashow over the River Avon.

Cllr Hancox would like the Parish Council to agree to donate some funds towards the testing kits. Each location requires its own testing kit, each kit is between £200 and £250 for the year.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to donate £200 for Stoneleigh Village and £200 for Ashow Village.

Cllr W Redford suggested we might like to make a bid for funds from the Warwickshire Rural East Forum, he also suggested we contact Alistair Rigby in order to do so.

The Chairman stated that he and others were attending a training session on Sunday the 17th of March in Coventry.

169. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 11th April 2024 at 7pm at Ashow Village Club.

170. Closure

The meeting was called to a close at 8.55pm.