

Stoneleigh & Ashow Joint Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023
At Stoneleigh Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr R Hancox (Chair)
 Cllr J Astle
 Cllr Bianco
 Cllr S Matthews
 Cllr L Rolli
 Cllr D Jack
 Cllr P Redford (WDC)
 Cllr T Wright (WDC)
 Police and Crime Commissioner Phillip Seccombe
 Inspector Simon Ryan (Warwick District Safer Neighbourhoods)
 Priya Tek Kalsi (Community Engagement Officer)
 Becky Maoudis (Clerk)

There were four members of the public present.

177. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies from Cllr W Redford (WCC) were accepted.

178. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hancox declared an interest in item number seven, planning application W/23/0126 as his property neighbours the site.

179. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 9th February 2023 were reviewed and approved.

180. Public Session

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.12pm.

The Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Seccombe gave an update. He informed the meeting that Warwickshire has 1100 officers, which is the highest-level Warwickshire has been. Warwickshire Police are also in the process of recruiting more PCSO's and he would like to see some of them on the rural crime teams.

The first phase of the new structure of policing will be introduced next month. This is a consequence of Warwickshire exiting the alliance with West Mercia Police. As a result, the shift pattern of officers will change, there will be three areas to the county and each one will be spearheaded by a Chief Inspector, who will be the direct point of contact for the Parish Council.

The PCC is keen to make sure the rural areas are policed properly and establish good engagement between the police force and Parish Council.

Inspector Simon Ryan introduced himself as the new Safer neighbourhood Inspector for the area. He stated that there have been some gaps in the local police team but that there will be extra staff, including four new PCSO's. Going forward there will be two beat officers per ward, an increase in engagement events and police surgeries.

Inspector Ryan told the meeting he is aware of the lack of engagement from Stoneleigh park Events with the Parish Council. He would like to initiate online remote engagement, as he feels it is important to have a dialogue between the two parties. He is also hoping to create a system that will give the local community a voice at the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings.

Cllr Wright and Cllr P Redford express their concerns that they have also requested a place at the SAG meetings but have been unsuccessful.

Cllr Wright informed the meeting that he has, in partnership with WDC and Cllr P Redford, looked at the licensing of Stoneleigh Park.

Cllr P Redford has had some contact with one of the managers from Stoneleigh Park Events team, who has recognised that some events have been problematic. Cllr P Redford has also involved the environmental officers at WDC for advice and support.

Both Cllr Wright and Cllr P Redford said they would be happy to sit down with the police and discuss the issues that they have been made aware of and what course of action they have taken in an attempt to find a solution.

There was discussion regarding the issues raised by some of the larger events at Stoneleigh Park and how the traffic management is not satisfactory.

Inspector Ryan has asked residents to report all incidents of anti-social behaviour and issues with traffic. He said this can be done via 101 or by using the online forms at www.warwickshire.police.uk.

The other issue that was raised with Inspector Ryan was the HGV's travelling through the village even though there is a weight restriction on the road. The Inspector stated that the closure of the Birmingham Road would help with the issue. The Parish Council pointed out that HS2 are holding up the closure of the road by putting a high price on the redesign and implementation of three-way lights (as opposed to the current four way). The Inspector said that he will take this information to the traffic management team.

It was agreed that the road closure would solve many of the issues experienced by Stoneleigh Village such as the HGV's continuing to travel through the village, the traffic issues as a result of events at Stoneleigh park and the continual through traffic and speeding.

Cllr Bianco noted that the recent crime reports included an increase in violent crimes, and an increase of drug use in the area which is concerning.

The PCC commented that there are two types of violent crime; with injury and without injury alongside domestic violence. He said that there has been increased effort in encouraging victims to report such crimes and supporting them through the process.

The PCC also confirmed that drugs are a big topic around the country at the moment and there is effort in trying to take out organised leaders. He said that the issue of drugs is everybody's business and that the crimes need to be reported. He stated that crime is changing in nature and the rebuilding of Warwickshire Police will adapt to it. There is also a lot of training underway throughout the force.

Inspector Ryan stated that drugs wreck lives and communities. There were significant arrests made last week that saw a large amount of drugs taken off the streets. He said that whilst our parish is a safe part of Warwickshire, there will be patrols and visible officers that will help keep it that way.

Cllr Bianco also raised the issue of the recent acts of vandalism at the old Stare Bridge. There have been reports of dead animals underneath the bridge and lots of discarded needles.

The Police and Crime Commissioner said that CCTV was possible in a rural area. Inspector Ryan will pass Cllr Bianco's details on to the Heritage Crime officers.

A member of the public commented that the local Neighbourhood Watch group used to be contacted by the local PCSO's but they haven't seen them for a while. Inspector Ryan will ask the PCSO and Safer Neighbourhood Team to contact the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 8.18pm

181. Finance and Administration

Income / Expenditure

Balance brought forward from 1st February 2023 **£59,236.18**

Payments to 31st January 2023

Clerk salary & expenses B Maoudis (January) £811.57
NEST (January) £53.89

Income:

Balance **£58,370.72**

Funds at Unity Bank

Current Account T1 £38,246.06
Instant Access account £20,124.66

£58,370.72

Online payments to be authorised:

Clerk salary & expenses B Maoudis (February) £ 801.24
NEST (February) £ 53.88
Your Locale £ 5,400.00
HMRC £4.80
WDC 3 x A0 maps £50.18

- a) Invoices and payments received were noted.
- b) It was agreed that all payments were authorised except the payment to WDC. As one of the maps provided was incorrect councillors would like the clerk to dispute the full charge.
- c) The finance report was noted.
- d) Councillors approved the appointment of Bill Woolliscroft as the Internal Auditor for 2022/23.
- e) The following policies were reviewed and adopted, Code of Conduct, Combined Risk Assessment, Business Continuity Plan and Dignity at Work policy.
- f) The Asset register was reviewed and approved as a true record.

182. Planning

New Planning Applications

Application No: W/23/0284

Description: Application for Prior Approval under Part 11, Class B of the GPDO 2015 (as amended) for the demolition of industrial units and office buildings, no.s 29, 83, 86, 98, 118, 119/120, 122, 123,124, 127 and 161 Stoneleigh Park.

Address: Units 29,83,86,98, 118,119/120,122,123,124,127,161, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

Applicant: Mars Pension Fund

Closing date: 30th March 2023

Planning Officer: Millie Flynn

The Parish Council took a neutral stance on this application.

Application No: W/23/0147

Description: Erection of single storey front extension; to provide additional office space.

Address: Kings Hill Nurseries, Kings Hill Lane, Stoneleigh, CV3 6PS

Applicant: Life Path Trust

Closing date: 10th March 2023

Planning Officer: Millie Flynn

The Parish Council support this application.

Application No: W/23/0126

Description: Outline planning (with all matters reserved apart from access and layout) for two dwellings with associated double garages.

Address: The Orchard, Coventry Road, Stoneleigh

Applicant: Mr Innocent

Closing date: 10th March 2023

Planning Officer: Michael Rowson

The Parish Council object to this application on the grounds of access and traffic issues.

Progress of planning applications

Application No: W/22/0926

Description: Erection of first floor rear extension and replacement rear dormer.

Address: 14 Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3DD

Applicant: Mr Hill

Closing date: 9th September 2022

Planning Officer: Lucy Shorthouse

Planning permission has been granted.

Progress of planning applications (No outcome yet)

Application No: W/23/0035

Description: Single-storey rear extension and first-floor side extension.

Address: 13 Hall Close, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3DG

Applicant: Mr Bal

Closing date: 6th February 2023

Planning Officer: Matthew Godfrey

Application No: W/23/0078/TCA

Description: T1 x Cherry – Up to 3m crown reduction & shape, T2 x Holly - Reduce height by approx. 12ft so it sits about 6ft below the powerline. Trim back faces by up to 1ft to shape all round.

Address: Lewberry Close, Ashow Road, Ashow, CV8 2LE

Applicant: Mr J Lanni

Closing date: Unknown

Planning Officer: Planning enforcement

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

Application No: W/22/1670

Description: Demolition of existing building and erection of a single storey dwelling with associated parking (re-submission of application W/22/0569).

Address: Meadows Hut, Church Lane, Stoneleigh, Coventry, CV8 3DN

Applicant: Mr D Smith

Closing date: 21st November 2022

Planning Officer: Michael Rowson

Application No: W/22/0720

Description: Change of use. New materials to building. Use to include, food workshop & displays, cafe takeaway, cafe, bakery area and craft workshop. Existing use, Cattle Society and associated workshops.

Address: Unit 68, 4th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, CV8 2LG

Applicant: Farmers Fayre

Closing date: 9th September 2022

Planning Officer: George Whitehouse

Application No: W/20/2013

Description: In conjunction with the scheduled Warwickshire County Council alignment of the A46 Link Road Scheme, this application proposal seeks highway improvement works along a section of Stoneleigh Road. The highway works proposed includes the construction

of a 4-arm roundabout to provide two additional access roads. One to access the proposed relocation of the Rugby Farmers' Market; The other to a HS2 46/Ashow Road Main Works Civils Contractors compound.

Address: Stoneleigh Road, Stoneleigh

Applicant: High Speed Two (HS2) Limited

Closing date: 24th March 2021

Planning Officer: Erin Weatherstone

183. Stoneleigh Park Events

Item discussed in minute reference 180.

184. HS2 Update

An email has been received from Sara lee explaining that there has been an act of vandalism to the temporary traffic lights positioned at Crewe Lane.

We have also been advised that due to an overrun on other highway works in the area, the Crewe Lane closure has been delayed. Whilst it is still scheduled to re-open on 27th march as planned, there will be another closure of the road later in the year to complete the works.

There has been lots of speculation in the news about HS2 and the future of the project but nothing has been officially confirmed.

185. South Warwickshire Local Plan

The Issues and Options consultation has now ended. One of the Parish Councillors will champion the South Warwickshire Economic Strategy Consultation which will run until 31st March 2023.

186. Neighbourhood Plan

We recently held our first open event on 4th March. It was considered a success with 39 attendees and several people showing interest in becoming involved.

There is a face-to-face meeting planned at Stoneleigh Village Hall on 27th April 2023.

Anybody with a local interest in the area is welcome to attend.

187. Crewe Lane Report

Nothing to report.

188. Community Speed Watch

There is a lack of momentum in the village with regards to the speed watch. PCSO King has suggested putting the training on hold and relooking at the situation in the summer.

189. Stoneleigh Village Noticeboard

We are waiting for an update on the remaining funding for the noticeboard from BBV. Quotes are being obtained.

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

Several dates have been suggested for the next meeting at the Town Hall. Only two representatives can attend. Councillors have opted for 30th May as the most suitable date.

191. A46 Stoneleigh Road Junction Improvement Scheme

There is a delay concerning the wing walls. The bridges work is progressing, the link with the raised carriageway still needs to be completed.

Traffic problems at the junction were raised. Cllr Hancox will raise them with the appropriate persons.

192. Birmingham Road Closure

No update.

193. Stare Bridge Update

Item covered in minute reference 180.

194. Updates from Warwickshire Police, WCC Cllr Redford, WDC Cllrs P Redford and T Wright

Warwickshire Police

A report from Warwickshire Police listing all the reported crimes in the area since the last report had been submitted and circulated (appendices 1).

Warwick District Council – Cllr T Wright and Cllr P Wright

Cllr P Redford explained that the decks of Covent Garden carpark are now closed but people can still use the surface part for parking. There are plans to make the closed carpark area a medical hub once demolition has taken place.

Alternative parking is available and there is free parking at Riverside House, Monday to Friday.

A reminder that voter ID will be required to vote in this year's elections. There is information Available on WDC and the Stoneleigh and Ashow Parish Council websites.

Cllr T Wright informed the meeting that WDC have not raised the precept this year for the second year running. There is also a scheme for a rebate for vulnerable residents.

Warwickshire County Councillor – Cllr W Redford (written report)

- a. I note the comments regarding the recent accident outside the entrance to Stoneleigh Park which is being looked into. However, could you clarify did the accident occur at the entrance to the park or the HS2 road works before the park entrance?

- b. BEWARE, there is a National Road Safety Eyesight Campaign in operation. Warwickshire Police will be conducting random roadside checks.
- c. National call out for nominations to receive a Coronation Champions Award, Applications/information from the Royal Voluntary Service web site.
- d. WCC successful in obtaining (Exact amount not yet Known) a grant to provide a pilot rural E£V charging hub.
- e. £2 bus cap will continue until 30th June.
- f. A County wide utilities voucher campaign has been launched. Short -term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment is available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis. All applications for the payment must be made by 24th March. (Details WCC website)

195. Correspondence

The Parish Council received a card from His Majesty the King thanking them for their heartfelt condolences on the death of his mother.

196. Questions to Chairman

There were no questions.

197. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 13th April 2023 at 7pm at Ashow Village Club.

198. Closure

The meeting was called to a close at 9.45pm.

Appendices 1

Please see the below crimes for Stoneleigh & Cubbington ward ONLY from 11/01/2023 to 08/02/2023.

12/01/2023 - Theft from vehicle – jacket stolen – Price Road, Cubbington

16/01/2023 – Burglary Business - Offenders damaged perimeter fence and caused damaged to several desks – HS2 site, Stoneleigh Park

17/01/2023 – Theft from vehicle – 2 coats – St Marys Mews, Cubbington (2 offenders arrested for multiple offences across Warwickshire)

17/01/2023 – Attempted Theft – Middlemarch Business Park

18/01/2023 – Burglary Business – Golf buggy stolen/Diesel/2 lawnmowers – Coventry Golf Club, Finham

19/01/2023 – Burglary Business – wheels and tyres – Middlemarch Business Park

22/01/2023 – Theft – E Scooter – Middlemarch Business Park

25/01/2023 – Violence – male arrested – Middlemarch Business Park

26/01/2023 – Vehicle Interference – HS2 site, Ashow Road

27/01/2023 - Damage – windows – offender arrested – Ramada Hotel

29/01/2023 - Damage/Theft from vehicle – rucksack taken – Stoneleigh Park

29/01/2023 – Vehicle Interference – offenders chased off – Stoneleigh Park

29/01/2023 – Theft – 2 lambs and 1 butchered lamb (butchered in field) – Stoneleigh.

29/01/2023 – Theft – personal items – Old Leamingtonians RFC, Bericote Road, Stoneleigh

04/02/2023 – Violence – Stoneleigh Park

06/02/2023 – Theft from dwelling – Domestic related – Rugby Road