

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 17th May 2018 at The Village Hall, Russells Water

Present: Mr.T. Dunn Chairman
Mr. S. Stracey Vice-Chairman
Mr. R. Collett
Mr. S. Haq
Mr. R. Hunt
Mrs. P. Pearce Parish Clerk

No members of the public present.

33/18 Welcome by the Chairman, Mr. T. Dunn

The Chairman welcomed all members of the parish council to the meeting.

34/18 Apologies for absence - Received from Oxfordshire County Councillor Mr. S. Harrod.

35/18 Address by the Chairman, Mr. T. Dunn

Mr. Dunn outlined the business of the parish council over the past year, as follows:

Planning applications - Since January 2017 – January 2018

There were 27 in total, and the parish council responded to SODC with 9 approvals, 9 no strong views, 6 objections, and 2 were withdrawn by the applicant before SODC reached a decision. Included in those considered was one Certificate of Lawful Development; one was referred to Enforcement.

SODC responded with 19 approvals, 3 refusals, 2 were withdrawn and 3 await decisions.

Parish Communications (Mobile Mast and Broadband)

A mobile phone mast has been positioned in woodland and should be operational very shortly. At the time of the last Annual Meeting, it was thought that Village Networks would offer the best solution to the virtually non-existent Broadband service in the parish. However, now the situation has altered in that BT is providing good broadband speeds with 2 cabinets installed in Stonor. Maidensgrove and Russells Water are now connected, with a connection going into Pishill – hopefully - by early summer.

Roads

Potholes remain a major problem. The parish council has very frequently contacted OCC Highways department and also OCC Cllr. Stephen Harrod. Some pot holes are becoming extremely dangerous and delamination of the B480 is a matter of great concern.

Provision of Salt Bins in Pishill and clearing roads of snow in Maidensgrove

The Parish Council is in discussion with Pishill Bank residents regarding the provision of either a large salt bin, or a series of small unofficial ‘tubs’ with lids, to help cope with the lane leading to Walnut Tree Cottage.

Snow clearance measures have also been requested by Maidensgrove residents, but the County Council is fully committed in existing areas and the likely solution is for a private contractor to be employed on an ad hoc basis, when required. Funding for this is likely to come from the Community Infrastructure Levy given by SODC to the parish from developments in our area. As such, this is not funding that will continue to be available in the future, as it is dependent upon new development.

Commons

Gates erected outside Horseshoe Cottage, Russells Water – these are on common land, and are impeding the right of way for pedestrians, who are feeling they must use the main road on a dangerous bend. A solution is still being sought by the land owner in conjunction with his Agents.

The damaged verge at Russells Water (adj Beech Barn) has been restored and the developers of The Views, Maidensgrove, have been contacted regarding the reinstatement of the verge outside the property.

General Data Protection Regulations come into force at the end of May. A leaflet drop was made in Russells Water and Maidensgrove, which was very successful and a number of new contacts were added to the distribution list. However, as a result of the new regulations, the Clerk has contacted all parishioners currently on the distribution list and has received a large number of positive responses from people wishing to remain, or to be added to the new list, which will come into effect at the end of May. It is hoped that either the Clerk, or Mr. Stephen Haq (parish councillor) will be permitted to carry out the data protection role. The distribution list has been used mostly for sending information on planning applications, but has also been useful for telling people about road closures and, on one occasion, to be vigilant in the face of an isolated spate of burglaries.

Defibrillators for the Parish

The Councillors have discussed the provision of defibrillators following a very successful First Aid course, held in the Village Hall, which has inspired local people to recognise the need for these. A letter to all households, other than those in Russells Water, was hand-delivered during April enquiring whether there is support for donations towards the purchase and installation costs, which are likely to be in the region of £1700 each. Currently donations offered amount to approx. £1400.00

Shopping Bus

The Parish Council is continuing to help subsidise a weekly shopping bus, operated through the Nettlebed Good Neighbour Scheme, which calls into the parish collecting pre-booked passengers. However, currently this is not being well-supported by parishioners – one regular passenger only. The bus costs the parish council £268 per annum.

Refuse and Waste

Thanks are due to all those parishioners who helped with the Litter Blitz this year, which carried out over two separate weekends, 24-25th February and 24-25th March. There are also a number of public-spirited parishioners who collect litter on a regular basis throughout the year, which the parish council would like to thank.

Lions Club

Last year, the Parish Council distributed green emergency boxes which are placed inside a refrigerator and contain personal details, such as prescription information, next of kin contact etc. There are more of these available from the clerk, if required.

There being nothing further to report, the Chairman concluded his address by thanking all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work throughout the past year.

36/18 Open Forum

As there were no members of the public present, the open forum was not required.

The Chairman declared the Annual Parish Meeting closed; this was followed immediately by the Annual Meeting.

.....Chairman (275)