

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Meeting held at The Quince Tree, Almshill Room, Stonor, on Thursday, 2nd May 2013

<u>Present</u>	Mr. T. Dunn	Chairman
	Mr. S. Stracey	Vice-Chairman
	Mr. P.G. Godfrey	
	Mr. R. Hunt	
	Mrs. P. Pearce	Parish Clerk

Also present: Oxfordshire County Councillor Mrs. C. Newton, South Oxfordshire District Councillor Revd. Angie Paterson.

5 parishioners: Mr. S. Haq, Mr. M. Hoare, Mr. and Mrs. D. Reed, Mrs. A. Taylor.

The meeting was opened by Mr. T. Dunn who welcomed all those attending.

1. Apologies for absence Mrs. D. Newell (unwell).

2. Parish Report by the Chairman, Mr. T. Dunn

Planning

There were 13 planning applications from January 2012 to January 2013.

The Parish Council approved 11, refused none, gave no strong views for 2.

SODC approved all 13.

H.M. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

A Celebration Barbecue was held in appalling weather at White Pond Farm on Sunday 3rd June, 2012.

The tickets sold covered all food, drinks and tractor rides and 174 people came to the barbecue. Mr. Julian Blumfield had kindly designed and produced all the invitations. The Quince Tree generously donated a celebratory cake, which was cut by Mrs. Edith Stanmore of Stonor, who is the parish's most senior resident.

Many parishioners donated salads, puddings and other items, all of which were very gratefully received and helped to keep the costs to a minimum.

Pishill Church generously gave each child living in the Parish a commemorative mug, sourced by Guy Godfrey, free of charge.

Total raised was £1467.50, costs totalled £1335.16, therefore the balance of £132.34 was divided equally between the Village Hall, Russells Water, and the charity Help for Heroes. (£66.17).

Great credit due to Mr. and Mrs. Stracey who hosted the barbecue in difficult conditions. It was very much appreciated by all who attended.

Beacon lighting on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th June, 2013

This took place on Maidensgrove Common by kind permission of Lord Camoys. The area was taped off by Richard Hunt and Simon Stracey, and the water bowser was provided by Richard Hunt.

Although the evening was chilly, parishioners brought their own refreshments to this event, which was most enjoyable.

Risk Assessments for this and the barbecue was carried out by Doreen Newell.

Jubilee Tree Planting

This took place on Friday 22nd March 2013 at Maidensgrove Common. Permission to plant the English Oak tree was kindly granted by Lord Camoys, who donated a squirrel guard. A metal 'park-style' guard will be provided by the Parish Council in due course, when it is certain that the tree has become established.

Funding for the metal guard (£245.40) has already been received via the County Councillor's Community Fund, courtesy of Cllr. Caroline Newton, who had given the relevant contact details and information and supported the application.

Website

Thanks are extended to Guy Godfrey, Mrs. Sue Reed and Dr. Barbara Snell. The website has been live since August 2012 and is being used by parishioners. (27 visitors to the site in January 2013). SKP Solutions and Vision Websites have organised the technical aspects and reports of usage are being received monthly. The website carries news of parish council meetings, agendas etc.; in addition other items of interest are included, i.e. church events and police alerts.

A subscribe/unsubscribe facility is now in place for occasional emails to be sent to interested persons. ..2

2. Chairman's Report (cont)

New Notice Board for Pishill

The Parish council is providing a new notice board for Pishill to be placed outside The Crown PH, by kind permission of the landlord. The notice board has been designed and is being made by Mr Godfrey, to whom the Parish Council extends gratitude for the time and effort involved.

Triathlon 2012 and 2013

Last year's Triathlon event resulted in more dissatisfaction locally and the outcome has been that the cycling element is not taking place through the Stonor Valley in 2013. However, all four villages are effectively being 'cut off' by the race, which will travel along the Fairmile and the B481 to Watlington.

Representations to the County Council and Just Racing continue, and there is a consultation taking place currently organised by Thames Valley Police

Roads and footpaths.

Potholes are a constant source of concern and the Parish Council has unceasingly communicated with the County Council to encourage better road maintenance. The areas around Maidensgrove are particularly bad and Hollandridge Lane remains untouched. The grips alongside the B480 in Stonor have just been re-opened by Mr Philip Shaw, and paid for by the Parish Council. Thanks are due to Mr. Richard Hunt for organising this. Subsequently OCC Highways has worked on the ditches themselves, due to the rising of the Assendon Spring.

Re: parking outside Quince Tree, which caused concern, the Parish Council made enquiries of OCC on the possible provision of double yellow lines. OCC responded to the effect that such provision requires lengthy consultation, which OCC is unwilling to undertake.

Re: parking on The Green, Russells Water, this issue has been resolved.

There were no issues re: footpaths during the past year.

Precept

This remains the same as previous year - £4800.00.

New Code of Conduct/Register of Interests/Dispensation Forms

The Code of Conduct was adopted by the Parish Council and notified to SODC Monitoring Officer on 1st July 2012.

New registers of interests had been completed by all councillors and returned to SODC.

Dispensation forms in connection with the Precept have been completed, effective from 2013-2017 inc., and are held by Clerk.

Townlands Hospital

Mrs. Newell had attended meetings detailing the proposed development of a 64-bed care home and hospital. The hospital will be situated in the centre of the development, with Sue Ryder Home on 2nd floor. Existing Listed Buildings will be updated to provide high quality residences and there will be some new residential building. Parish Councillors had expressed doubts at the indicated time scale and also the adequacy of the car parking.

Refuse & Waste Management

The annual Litter Blitz was very well supported in all parts of the parish. Larger numbers of drink cans have been dropped recently.

Rock Salt and Snow Strategy

A yellow salt bin has been provided by the Parish Council and placed at top of Park Lane.

Salt supplies were just adequate for the recent winter.

Meetings Attended

Planning Training (TD & PP)

OALC Briefing on Tax Changes (PP)

Neighbourhood Planning Briefing (RH)

Townlands Hospital (DN)

Watlington Neighbourhood Plan (TD)

Triathlon (TD & SS)

Dog Fouling

The Parish Council sent a letter to the Henley Standard encouraging dog walkers who bag faeces to remove them from the Common.

Broadband Provision The Parish Council now has a broadband champion (Mr. Stephen Haq), who was introduced to those at the meeting. Mr. John Howell, MP is meeting BT, and we are awaiting news.

3. Cllr. Revd. Angie Paterson - South Oxfordshire District Council

The Chairman welcomed Angie Paterson and invited her to report to the parishioners. In spite of recent changes via central government, SODC has been able to continue delivering all the services that residents regard as important and efficiency savings are continually made.

Finance SODC budget for 2013/14 was cautious and the Council has again been able to set a budget reducing council tax by 2.5% for the second year running

Benefits Changes to the benefits system, including the introduction of Universal Credit, will have an impact on some residents. The council continues to make resources available to offer advice where necessary.

Planning The core strategy (the key spatial planning document for the district through to 2027) has finally been adopted. This is now the key planning document against which applications are assessed. It is referred to as the 'New Local Plan'. Work remains to be done on supplementary planning documents and this is ongoing.

Waste The Vale of White Horse District Council and SODC were first and second in the national league tables for recycling this year.

A 'Big Clean Up' will be working through the district clearing hard to reach and overlooked areas. Feedback indicates that this has been very well received

There is now a facility for residents to recycle batteries with their recycling waste; these should be put in a clear bag and placed on top of the green bin on recycling weeks.

Boundary Review An exercise looking at the number of district councillors representing residents across the district and the Local Government Boundary Commission agreed a reduction from 48 to 36 councillors. This has inevitably led to a reviewing of the Ward boundaries. The final recommendations from the OGBC were received in March which completes the review. Watlington Ward will be represented by one councillor instead of two as at present. It will be made up of Watlington and the surrounding villages of Britwell Salome, Cuxham with Easington, Stoke Talmage, Pyrton, Shirburn, Swyncombe and Pishill with Stonor. The new Ward will no longer include Nettlebed, Lewknor, Adwell and Wheatfield. The next step is for a draft Order to be laid in Parliament but the date for this is not known at present. This Order will provide for new electoral arrangements for South Oxfordshire to be implemented at your next elections in 2015.

Council Tax SODC is now the 15th lowest tax base in the country. (Ten years ago it was 45th).

186 councils are higher. Over the past 9 years a Band D property's council tax has risen by £4. If it had risen by RPI over this period it would have risen by £39. The efficiency savings have been enabled by joint working with Vale of White Horse District Council, further streamlining of back office processes, embracing technological change and joint contracts.

4. Cllr. Caroline Newton - Oxfordshire County Councillor

The Chairman invited Cllr. Newton to address the meeting.

OCC Budget This rose 2% this year, which is the first rise for two years.

Broadband There should be a decision on broadband on 21st or 22nd May on the preferred partner, which will be the infrastructure provider; 90% of Oxfordshire should receive faster broadband as a result. It is planned that the new broadband facility will be available by December or January 2014.

Roads The recently completed work at Maidensgrove was carried out by OCC using a new piece of equipment, which is on trial. In the past year, OCC has filled twice as many potholes as in previous years.

Councillor's Community Fund Pishill with Stonor were successful in applying for a grant from this fund for the provision of a metal tree guard for the Jubilee tree. Each County Councillor is entitled to allocate up to £10,000, and there is a £100,000 grant for youth 'chill out' provision.

Triathlon There should be more news on this year's Triathlon by the end of May or beginning of June.

Refuse Oxfordshire has the best record for recycling over the whole country. The new Waste Energy Facility will be opening in 2015, and will provide energy for 58,000 homes.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Paterson and Cllr. Newton for their attendance at the meeting, which was much appreciated. This concluded the Annual Meeting; the Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately, for which there are separate Minutes.

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Chairman.