

## **PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Annual Meeting held at The Village Hall, Russells Water, on Tuesday, 6th May 2014**

<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 Mr. S. Harrod, South Oxfordshire District Councillor Revd. Angie Paterson.  
4 parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Pauline Andrew, Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Susan Owen.

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

1. Apologies for absence None

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

Parish Councillor Mrs. Doreen Newell Mr. Dunn paid a warm tribute to Mrs. Newell who had unfortunately died in February 2014, saying that she will be very much missed by the community as a whole and particularly by the Parish Council, for whom she gave a very committed and devoted service.

Resignation of County Councillor Mrs.Caroline Newton whose husband is now working in Italy; Mr. Dunn formally welcomed our new County Councillor ,Steve(n) Harrod, to the Annual Meeting.

#### Planning Applications

From January 2013 to January 2014 there were 14 planning applications considered by the Parish Council, which approved 7, refused 1 and gave no strong views on 6. SODC subsequently granted 13 and refused 1. The Cookley Hill Farm enforcement is now finalised and the bungalow has been removed.

Quince Tree, Stonor P13/S1186.FUL A Special Meeting was held at The Village Hall, Russells Water in connection with revised retail opening hours, when a lively discussion took place. Subsequently SODC has granted temporary permission for one year to ascertain the impact on the local neighbours.

Bank Farm Vineyard A meeting was held in October with the new owners, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Duckett, who subsequently received permission for the erection of a winery and associated buildings, including a new home. Currently the first of 67,000 vines are being planted which will begin to produce fruit in four years time, with the first bottled wine becoming available in six years.

The Parish Council has given consideration to producing neighbourhood plan, but feel that this is more suited to larger parishes.

Community Governance Review - SODC propose some boundary changes affecting the parish at Russells Water where all households could now be included, causing some concern to residents and Swyncombe PC. SODC also propose the removal of some households at Christmas Common from Pishill with Stonor, which could now to be included in Watlington Parish.

#### Roads

Triathlon 2013 - Despite continued opposition by the Parish Council, the event took place in September 2013. At a meeting subsequently held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 13, very ably chaired by our local MP Mr. John Howell, but not attended by Just Racing, a new venue was suggested as Henley was seen to be an inappropriate locality for such an event. Subsequently we were informed that the Traithlon is to be moved to Weymouth for 2014.

Potholes filled at Maidensgrove by use of new equipment called Jetpatcher, . Thanks are also due to Prof. Kempner for continuing to encourage OCC to carry out work at Maidensgrove.

The Balham's Lane ditches required fully excavating during winter, when flooding occurred outside Little Balham's. Sandbags had been provided by SODC, but the Parish Council will continue to press OCC to undertake proper ditch maintenance.

2. Parish Report, Mr.T. Dunn (cont)

The Oak tree on B480 (on left-hand side after the Coxlease track) is to be removed by the Agents and replaced.

The Stonor road sign was missing, but has now been replaced.

Speed Watch - a speed camera has been used in Stonor recently but the Parish Council is awaiting the results from Thames Valley Police.

The Assendon Spring

Richard Hunt has been attending meetings with Bix & Assendon Parish Council who are in negotiations with OCC and the Environment Agency regarding the maintenance of the ditches along the B480; OCC have erected signs and traffic lights, but the road is in need of repair, particularly bearing in mind the imminent start of work to the Bix Dual Carriageway. The Clerk has been in touch with OCC who are aware of our concerns and the County Councillor Mr. Stephen Harrod was asked by the Chairman to see whether he could bring pressure to bear on the Highways Department for repairs to be carried out as soon as possible.

Flooding at septic tank in Russells Water - the Parish Council contacted Monson's who investigated and dealt with the localised flooding.

Russells Water and Maidensgrove Commons

The Clerk wrote to Henley Standard asking dog walkers to take away the plastic bags containing dog faeces rather than hanging them on the bushes.

The Jubilee Tree Planting took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013, and is being protected by a squirrel guard given by Lord Camoys. The tree itself was generously provided by Cherry and Richard Hunt, who continues to care for the tree.

Driving on commons and through fields continues, with some arrests. Raves continue to be held at Hollandridge on occasions.

The verge beside The Green, near to Beech Barn Russells Water has been unsatisfactorily restored following the end of the building contract and the parish council is still trying to have this rectified to a satisfactory standard.

Lord Camoys has requested replacement signs for the Commons, the costs of which are being researched by the Parish Council. There may be additional wording included regarding horse-riding.

The Litter Blitz was held again this year and was once more very successful.

Parish Communications A new notice board has been erected in Pishill, partly funded by the Don Millar Fund of The Chiltern Society (grant £150). Grateful thanks are extended to Guy Godfrey for its preparation and construction, including the provision of the brass plaque. The Parish Council is also indebted to 'The Crown' public house, whose owner has agreed that the board may be placed on its wall.

The Parish website is continuing satisfactorily.

Broadband provision: a questionnaire from the Parish Council was published both on the website and in the two Parish magazines, to which only 5 responded.

Meetings: The Parish Council wishes to encourage attendance across the parish and as the heaters in The Village Hall, Russells Water, are rather noisy, making it difficult to hear and to be heard. meetings are likely to be held in Russells Water during summer, and in Stonor during the winter months.

Stonor bus shelter

Notification has been given on the website of the possible bus shelter removal during 2014, as restoration, maintenance and insurance costs are becoming prohibitive. This will be discussed at the July meeting.

Thanks Mr.Dunn concluded his report by thanking his fellow councillors and Clerk for all their commitment and hard work throughout the year.

Mr.Dunn then invited the District Councillor, Revd. Angie Paterson to address the meeting.

3. Address by District Councillor, Revd. Angie Paterson

Finance SODC has again held its own financially over the past year, and services throughout have continued to be maintained. The Council Tax has been reduced by 2½%, partly as the result of office-sharing with ..../3

3. Address by District Councillor, Revd. Angie Paterson (cont)

TheVale of White Horse, who have moved to Crowmarsh Gifford £15million has been given as a low interest loan over 20 years to South Oxfordshire Housing Association. Recycling continues to be successful, but the grey bins going to landfill have begun to rise in capacity and SODC plans a renewed effort to encourage residents to use the bins wisely. The Big Clean Up, which tackles refuse in hedgerows etc., has been very effective again and is now a firm, annual, Biffa contract.

Planning Reforms are now being implemented and as a result enforcement is on the rise. There appears to be confusion over what is, and is not, permissible under the new system.

Housing This is a contentious issue as to what amount of building is to be put where. There is still a waiting list for affordable housing, but this is exacerbated by the average age of residents continuing to rise, resulting in fewer homes becoming available for young people.

Boundary Changes Pishill with Stonor Parish will remain within the Watlington Ward, with Nettlebed, Lewknor and Adwell being moved out of the Ward. There will consequently be a reduction in District Councillors from 48 to 36.

Regrettably, Cllr. Paterson announced that she will not stand for re-election on the next occasion, chiefly due to her church commitments.

Mr.Dunn responded by expressing the Parish Council's regret at Cllr. Paterson's imminent resignation, and thanked her sincerely for her support.

Mr.Dunn then invited the County Councillor, Mr.Stephen Harrod to address the meeting.

4. Address by County Councillor, Mr. Stephen Harrod

Cllr. Harrod presented the meeting with his background information, saying that he is currently Chairman of Great Milton Parish Council, a District Councillor covering the Great Milton Ward and has recently been elected County Councillor. He felt he was so newly elected that he was unable to give an account of the past year's work and achievements by the County Council and therefore the Chairman, Mr. Dunn, invited questions from the parishioners.

5. Open Forum

Q: The details of the proposed works to the Bix Dual Carriageway are not clear, as shown on the Parish website, please could they be explained?

A: The Parish website seemed unable to download all the details sent from OCC, and regrettably only a small part of the scheme could be shown.

Q: At present, whilst flooded by the Assendon Spring, the B480 has insufficient warning signage and traffic controls and is not in an adequately sound condition to take the traffic proposed under the Bix Carriageway scheme.

A: The Clerk has constantly requested OCC to maintain adequate signs etc., but has not been successful in achieving the desired improvements.

There is a reduced County Council Highway's Budget, but Cllr. Harrod undertook to investigate the current road surface condition, particularly in view of the proposed re-routing of traffic along the B480 when the A4130 Dual Carriageway project begins on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Q: There is a lack of capacity in the roadside ditch. The Council filled the ditches 25 years ago, and in 2001 they were re-excavated. At that time, the water depth was measured while the water table was falling, resulting in the ditches not being dug sufficiently deeply. Currently the flow rate is one-third less than in 2001.

A: Cllr.Harrod will investigate.

Q: What is the likelihood of Broadband being available, and at a more satisfactory speed?

A: The County Council is concentrating on the larger settlements first, but it is expected that 95% will receive Broadband by 2015.

Q: This figure is only relevant to those who actually receive Broadband - are the District and County Councils committed to rolling-out Broadband at a reasonable speed to all?

A: The County Council will do all that it can; the District Council is waiting for the County Council to achieve some Broadband service before approaching cable providers.

Q: Basically a mobile signal is required in all areas, which is not the case locally.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked both Councillors and members of the parish for their presence and declared the Annual Meeting closed.

.....Chairman

