

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

**Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall, Russells Water on
Monday, 8th May 2017**

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

Also present: 1 parishioner: Mr..M. Hoare.

16/17 **Welcome by the Chairman** Mr. T. Dunn welcomed all those present.

17/17 **Apologies for absence** Cllr.S. Harrod (OCC) and Cllr. Mrs. A. Badcock (SODC)

18/17 **Report from the Chairman**

Mr. Dunn began by thanking the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their commitment and support during the past year. Mr. Dunn's annual report covered the following topics:

Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Haq

Sadly Mr. Godfrey resigned as parish councillor at the September meeting. He had been a very valuable member of the parish council since Sept 2001 and had been very effective in encouraging the parish council to initiate a Parish website, which had ensured that the council was kept up to date and in contact with many parishioners. He was also the parish footpaths representative, and took a great interest in ensuring that the paths were well maintained.

Following Mr. Godfrey's resignation, the Parish Councillors are delighted to have co-opted Mr. Stephen Haq, who was previously attending meetings in his capacity as our Broadband Champion, and who has shown himself to be a committed member of the team.

Planning applications - Since January 2016 – January 2017

There have been 8 applications in total during the year, on which the Parish Council has given 1 approval, 3 no strong views with 4 refusals. South Oxfordshire District Council as subsequently given 3 approvals and 2 refusals; 1 application has been withdrawn and 2 are awaiting decisions.

Parish Communications (Mobile Mast and Broadband)

Broadband meetings have been held in the parish during the past year – one arranged by Connect8 on 7th June 2016 at the Village Hall, one at The Crown, Pishill, in January (arranged by Village Networks), both of which were well attended.

During the past year, agreement has been reached with Stonor Park to use existing fibre connections allowing Village Networks to begin delivery of wireless broadband.

The mobile phone mast is to be positioned in woodland and new green cabinets are currently being installed in the parish.

Currently 11 households in Stonor have been connected via Village Networks.

Pishill residents have yet to nominate a fund raiser to facilitate their own provision of broadband by Village Networks.

HM The Queen's Birthday Party held at White Pond Farm, on 12th June 2016 This event was a great success, chiefly due to the enthusiasm and generosity of the Stracey Family, who hosted the party and who worked tirelessly to make it such an enjoyable occasion.

The party was self-financing, thanks particularly to parishioners in providing salads and desserts and the extremely generous use of White Pond Farm, courtesy of the Stracey Family. The final credit balance of £186.76 was divided into two payments of £90 each, one to the Village Hall and one to Stonor Cricket Club. The remaining £6.76 is retained in a bank account for use on a future celebratory occasion. An added advantage was, at the time that the invitations were delivered to all the residents within and near to the parish, they were requested to provide their email addresses, with the result that a greater number of people can be contacted *occasionally* with planning applications etc. and general information from the parish council

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18/17 (Cont)

Roads Potholes remain a problem, but at last the swale ditch in Stonor Park and the grips along Balham’s Lane have been cleared. This has taken the parish council three years to achieve.

Mr.Keith Stenning, Oxfordshire County Council Highways Area Steward, had attended the January meeting of the parish council and his visit had been informative.

Commons

Gates have recently been erected outside Horseshoe Cottage, Russells Water; these are situated on common land, and are impeding the right of way for pedestrians, who feel they must use the main road on a dangerous bend. An amicable solution to this situation is being sought.

Shopping Bus

The Parish Council is helping to subsidise a weekly shopping bus, operated through the Nettlebed Good Neighbour Scheme, which calls into the parish collecting pre-booked passengers. The bus is used by 2 people from the parish, with the bus generally carrying 8 – 10 passengers. The bus is costing the Parish £268 pa, payable at £67 per qtr.

BT Telephone Boxes

Following the news that BT may be thinking of removing the public telephone boxes at Russells Water and in Stonor, the parish council requested that this should be reconsidered on the basis of poor, if non-existent, mobile phone coverage.

Lions Club

The Parish Council distributed green emergency boxes which are placed inside a frig and contain personal details, such as prescription information, next of kin contact etc.

Meetings attended

Mr. Hunt attended the Unitary Workshop, re: provision of services across the county. Town councils and parish councils have different priorities – Town Councils want extra play areas and libraries, Parish Councils want repaired pot holes and grass cutting. Devolution of these powers is unlikely to happen for a while yet. Mr. Stracey had attended the Town Parish Council Forum in November, at which the SODC 5-year Housing Land Supply and Corporate Plan Projects had been discussed.

Mr. Collett had attended the meeting regarding the development of Chalgrove Airfield. Oxford City Council sees the site as a solution to its housing problem. There will be strong opposition to this proposal and an action group is likely to be formed.

Finance

The Parish Council already has a fully functioning website, which is a now a legal requirement under the Transparency code. However, under the Code, it is also necessary for the Clerk to have an independent laptop and printer/scanner. A grant was applied for, and £673.50 received, which had purchased a designated laptop and mono (black and white only) printer/scanner, which are now in use.

It has finally been resolved that the clerk cannot be self-employed any longer and as such the parish council has now registered with HMRC as an employer

Refuse and Waste

Thanks for help with the Litter Blitz this year. There are a number of public-spirited parishioners who currently pick up litter on a regular basis. Also, please take note of the need for food waste, used nappies, etc., not to be placed into the green recycle bins, as this contaminates the whole lorry load. Please use clear plastic bags for any surplus.

Stonor Bus Shelter

This has now been removed, and the noticeboard is fixed to the barn at Upper Assendon Farm, by kind permission of Mr. Richard Hunt.

The Village Hall, Russells Water An open meeting was held on 5th April to discuss the future of the Village Hall, attended by Mr.Collett (as President) and Mr. Haq. Various options were considered and more volunteer committee members came forward.

The Chairman concluded by once again thanking the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their support during the past twelve months.

19/17 **Reports received from Oxfordshire County Councillor Mr.S. Harrod and South Oxfordshire District Councillor, Ms. Anna Badcock**

Regrettably neither Councillor had submitted annual reports to be read at this meeting.

20/17 **Open Forum** - questions from members of the public – Mr. Hoare had no questions for the Parish Council

21/17 **Close of meeting** There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed

