

## PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting at The Village Hall, Russells Water on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.00 p.m.**

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

Also present - 3 parishioners: Mr. and Mrs. R.Andrews, Mr. S.Haq, Mr.P. Peggie

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

1. Apologies for absence None
2. Report by the Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Thomas Dunn  
Co-option of new Parish Councillor At the June 2014 meeting, Mr.Richard Collett was co-opted as Parish Councillor.  
Community Governance Review  
The SODC working group recommended the transfer of 'Greenhill' in Russells Water from Watlington Parish to P-w-S, but the boundary between P-w-S and Swyncombe Parish is unchanged.  
Land from Pishill with Stonor at Christmas Common has been moved into Watlington Parish.  
Planning Applications  
During 2014 the Parish Council received 12 applications.  
The Parish Council approved 8, refused 3, and there was one decision of 'no strong views' by the Parish Council  
10 of these applications were granted permission by SODC, 1 was withdrawn before SODC gave decision, 1 has still to be determined by SODC.  
Broadband provision  
Mr.Dunn thanked Mr.Stephen Haq, who was appointed in September 2014 as our Parish 'Broadband Champion' . Mr.Haq has assisted greatly with the 'translation' of technical jargon into something that is understandable for members of the Parish Council. He has patiently answered numerous queries and has been in touch frequently with potential providers and with the organisers of the Connect8 initiative who are pressing for better broadband speeds locally. Mr.Haq has attended parish council meetings regularly as well as other meetings in connection with the provision of Broadband and has been in contact with various possible providers, including Gigaclear.  
Two surveys have been undertaken, one directly by Pishill with Stonor during 2013 and a second through the Connect8 initiative in 2014. The latter survey was delivered in other local communities in order to achieve a more persuasive estimate of the numbers likely to require faster broadband. This survey will be used to bring pressure to bear on OCC and SODC to provide 'in ground' cabling.  
Mobile Phone Mast  
After negotiations between land owners, a mast is to be erected by the Coxlease gate in Stonor Park by Harlequin Costs will be subsidised by central govt. Testing and surveys are being carried out. No date has been given for its commission.  
Assendon Spring Mr. Richard Hunt has been liaising with Bix & Assendon Parish Council, OCC Highways and the Environment Agency regarding responsibility for the maintenance of the ditches along the B480. The Parish Council has also been applying pressure to OCC regarding the inadequacy of the ditch depth.  
OCC Cllr.Steve Harrod has also assisted by contacting the Area Steward.  
Mr. Hunt is due to attend a further meeting in May.

Report by Parish Council Chairman (Mr. T.Dunn) cont.

A4130 Maintenance Contract This was completed two weeks early with little disruption to B480 users. The Parish Council had written to OCC Highways congratulating them on the efficiency and speed of the contract.

Balham's Lane The Parish Council has endeavoured repeatedly to have these excavated, together with the ditch in Stonor Park; this still remains to be dealt with by OCC.

Commons' Signs

The Commons are under the ownership of Lord Camoys; there were demands for the replacement of the signs and the Parish Council has assisted with the funding for the replacements; the wording was approved by Lord Camoys and horse riding and commercial dog walking were included at his behest.

Total cost was £429.00. The funding came from OCC County Councillor's Community Budget and Lord Camoys.

Henley Highwayman - 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June

The cycling route for this event will definitely pass through the parish. The parish council has contacted Mr. John Howell MP requesting legislation stipulating that parish councils must be consulted during the advance planning stage of such events and that cycling events in general should be licensed.

Stonor bus shelter Due to high costs of maintenance, it has been decided to remove the bus shelter.

The seat will remain where it is at present until a suitable location can be found.

A Stonor village sign has been replaced following theft.

Hare coursing/deer poaching on Commons

At the end of 2014 gates and fences were being damaged. Thames Valley Police appeared to be taking more robust action, with 41 people apprehended.

Footpaths

The stile adjacent to Pishill Farmhouse boundary wall has been replaced by a gate from The Chiltern Society. Leylandii trees have been cut back by the owners and Mr.Hunt had trimmed back the remaining overgrown trees.

Tree work at Pishill This had caused problems with noisy activity at weekends, but this has now been resolved.

Defibrillator provision

The provision of a defibrillator had been discussed by the councillors, but it was decided that acquisition and maintenance is currently not viable

Mobile Library consultation

OCC plans to modify the local route which could omit the parish, but Mr.Dunn has written requesting that services remain the same. No further news has been received as yet.

Retiring District Councillor Revd. Angie Paterson

Mr.Dunn paid tribute to the support and hard work which has been done throughout by Revd. Paterson during her district councillor's role. She will be very much missed by the Parish Council, and good wishes we extended to Revd. Paterson for her future public life.

Mr.Dunn thanked Mr.Stracey for his very able assistance as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, in addition to the other members of the parish council whose support has been invaluable. Mr.Dunn also thanked the Clerk for her help throughout the year

3. Address by District Councillor

None received

4. Address by County Councillor, Cllr. Stephen Harrod

This can be viewed by accessing the Parish Council website, [www.pishillwithstonorpc.co.uk](http://www.pishillwithstonorpc.co.uk)

5. Open Forum

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public.

Q: A tree of significant size fell in Park Lane recently and was cleared by Mr.W.Carr. Firstly, whose responsibility is it for clearance of the road in such situations and secondly, would the Parish Council please contact the Evelyn Trust whose land the trees in Park Lane stand on, to request that a tree survey is undertaken as some appear seriously in need of maintenance.

A: The Evelyn Trust has responsibility to ensure the safety of trees on its land and fallen trees can be cleared by Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department. There have been exceptionally strong winds recently, but the Parish Council will TD/PP write a firm letter to the Evelyn Trust reminding them of their obligations, mentioning trees behind Longwood, Maidensgrove, and near to Pishill Church.

Q: Signs on Maidensgrove and Russells Water Commons are causing concern in the horse-riding fraternity, with suggestions being made that enquiries should be made of the British Horse Association and the Open Spaces Society. This was felt by the enquirer to be draconian, what is the Parish Council view?

A: The wording on the signs has been suggested and approved by Lord Camoys as owner of the Commons. Commoners do have specific rights and these also have to be protected. It is understood that horse riders have no rights of access on common land, but Lord Camoys has permitted horse riding in the past. It is suggested that hacking around the edge of the Commons would probably be permissible. It was also suggested that an approach could be made by individual local horse riders to Lord Camoys.

There being no further questions, the Chairman declared the Annual Meeting closed.

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Chairman