

**PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
held in The Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor  
on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

<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: Cllr.S.Harrold (OCC); Mr.S.Haq (Broadband Champion)

1. Apologies and reasons for absence None
2. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to Agenda None
3. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda. No public present.
4. OCC Cllr. Mr. S. Harrod The Chairman invited Cllr. Harrod to address the parish council. Cllr. Harrod reported that OCC has had a further revenue cut of £20million, in addition to the current cuts of £50million. This will inevitably lead to further reduction in services, including bus subsidies. The total OCC budget now stands at £450-500million, cut from £800million. Cllr.Harrold has suggested a 15% increase to Council Tax in order to retain services, which would add approx. £120 p.a. to a Band D household. Such a proposal would require a referendum costing approx. £800,000, but the increase could add approx £41million to the available budget. Without holding a referendum OCC is only permitted to increase the Council Tax by 2%. (Social services provision accounts for half OCC budget expenditure). Cllr.Harrold suggested that it could be possible for the Parish to fund ditch clearing and repairs to potholes locally if OCC can no longer assist due to future financial restraints. Mr.Dunn thanked Cllr. Harrod who left the meeting.
5. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015. These were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
6. Matters Arising
  - a) *Mobile phone mast* Mr.Dunn reported that there is no further news, although Harlequin have submitted a planning application for the installation of a DSLAM equipment cabinet at Greenfield Farm, Christmas Common - P16/S0094/T28 (consultation with Watlington PC)
  - b) *Jubilee Tree guard* The Clerk had finally heard from Designer Metal (Suffolk) Ltd who will provide a full tree guard, painted black, for a total of £204.00. (The carriage cost is £75.00and would cover extra guards if required).
7. Planning Applications

P14/S4113/FUL	The Old Church, Chr. Cmn	Invitation received from SODC to address Planning Committee - noted, declined.
P15/S3398/FUL	Bank Farm, Pishill	SODC approval 7/12/15
P15/S3825/HH	The Old Chapel, Rsls Wtr	PC no strong views; SODC decision awtd.
P16/S0011/FUL	Stonor Park, adv.playground	Clerk had received email notification of this application, but no hard copy received by mtg. Circulate to all parish councillors for decision.

PP/ALL

8. Finance

The Clerk reported that the balance at Barclays Bank stands at £4644.26.

*Transparency Code:* The Clerk had arranged for Vision ICT to add a Finance link to the parish council website, which now facilitates inclusion of audit results, as required under the Code.

*Charity requests:* The Clerk read a letter from the Treasurer of Pishill Church thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £150.00 towards graveyard maintenance

*Cheques drawn at meeting:*

Ch.no: 100470	Designer Metal (Suffolk) Ltd (provision of tree guard)	£204.00
100471	Vision ICT admin fee	£ 30.00
100472	P.A. Pearce (Clerk's wages, 8wks@£60+2 mnths tel exps£20)	£500.00

*Addition of independent provision of Mail Chimp on Parish Council website*

In the light of a request that parishioners be individually emailed with the dates of meetings and other events, the Clerk had enquired the cost of an independent Mail Chimp facility, which is currently shared with, and operated by SKP Solutions; this would be approximately £100, including the Clerk's training.

The parish councillors noted that the Agendas are put onto four Parish notice boards, plus insertion on the Parish Council website and, following discussion, it was felt that emailing parishioners directly could have merit. The Clerk had attempted unsuccessfully to ascertain information on the organisation of the Bix & Assendon 'Grapevine' and was asked to contact the parishioner to ask if he would be willing to make enquiries in order that a similar procedure could be considered.

PP

*Changes to audit in 2017* The Parish Councillors discussed the new Audit arrangements and unanimously agreed to accept an auditor appointed by the Sector Led Body (SLB). No further action required.

9. Local Broadband - Mr. Stephen Haq

Mr.Haq reported that there had been an appraisal by Village Networks using a cherry-picker to establish viability, but the resulting map does not indicate the road, making it difficult to ascertain which properties are likely to be included. Provision of better broadband currently depends upon topography, although signals could be transferred from one property to the next, but this will 'dilute' effectiveness of supply. Village Networks are negotiating with Thames Valley Police and RAF Benson regarding the possible use of existing masts.

Connect8 is making representations to BT, but it is not clear who will be responsible for funding.

Mr.Haq will be attending a meeting with Connect8 on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

*Subsequent to the Parish Council meeting, it has been announced that the Commons Select Committee will visit the area during February*

10. Roads

a) Parish potholes - general situation is unchanged and, in the light of OCC cutbacks, it is possible that this will become the norm.

b) Balham's Lane ditches and ditch in Stonor Park - The Clerk had received an email forwarded by Cllr.Steve Harrod on 15/12/15, from Mr.Gordon Hunt (Environment & Economy, OCC) to the effect that OCC did excavate the Balham's Lane ditches and the swale ditch in Stonor Park and confirming that they are therefore OCC's responsibility. Mr.G. Hunt stated that the work is now scheduled to be undertaken, but the Stonor Park ditch will have to wait until the weather is dryer.

11. Commons Report

a) Driving on Maidensgrove Common/

Russells Water Common

Nothing to report

b) Driving through fields

Quiet at present

12. Footpaths Report Nothing to report
13. Refuse & Waste Management  
The annual Litter Blitz 2016 will coincide with the “Clean for the Queen” initiative to be held during the weekend of 4-6<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Mr. Richard Hunt will liaise with Parish Councillors to organise the collections and the Clerk will contact Biffa for collection of final rubbish. RH  
PP
14. Any other business
- a) *Hundred Hills Vineyard* Mr. Godfrey had received an email from a parishioner regarding the contractor’s night time security lighting at the Vineyard. Following discussion, Mr. Godfrey agreed to contact the owner, Mr. S. Duckett, to request that the lights be redirected to cause less glare in the valley. PGG
- b) *HRH The Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration* This will take place over the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June. Following discussion, Mr. Stracey kindly agreed to consider hosting an event at White Pond Farm, similar to the very successful Jubilee Celebration in June 2012. Further discussion will take place at the next Parish Council meeting. SS  
ALL
15. Date, place and time of next meeting  
To be confirmed: Either Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, or Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, in the Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor, 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

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Chairman