

**PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting held in The Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor, on  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 7.00 p.m**

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

1 Parishioner: Miss M.Burley

1. Apologies and reasons for absence None.
2. Cllr. Mrs. Doreen Newell  
It was with great sadness that the death occurred on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014 of Mrs.Newell, who had given sterling and committed service to the Parish Council since her appointment on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2004. The Chairman spoke of the dedication which Mrs.Newell had shown in all her parish council work and added that she will be an enormous loss to the councillors and community in general.  
It was regrettable that now it is necessary to seek a replacement for Mrs. Newell, and the statutory notices will be prepared by the Clerk for insertion on the website and on the notice boards. PP
3. Declarations of interest (existence and nature)and Dispensations with regard to Agenda None.
4. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda. None.
5. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 These were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
6. Matters Arising
  - a) Oak Tree on B480 (14c) Mr.Hunt reported that the Evelyn Trust had responded to the Clerk's letter and will be removing the oak tree as suggested; no permission is required for its removal. A replacement is to be planted further from the road side.
  - b) Stonor road sign (14d) This is still to be replaced by OCC; Clerk to chase. PP
7. Planning Applications

P13/S1858/FUL	Marigay, Russells Water	SODC decision awaited
P13/S3226/FUL	Bank Farm, Pishill	SODC permission granted 3/3/14
P13/S3227/LB	Bank Farm, Pishill	SODC permission granted 3/3/14

In respect of the development at Bank Farm,Mr.Godfrey reported that he had received a representation from a parishioner who is concerned at the visual impact in the AONB of the number of tree guards likely to be used to protect the vines initially. It was felt that the guards would only be necessary for 2-3 years and would decompose naturally over time. The PC felt unable to take any action in this matter, as the guards are necessary for the establishment of the vines.

P13/S3654/FUL	Doveswood, Maidensgrove	SODC permission granted 31/1/14	.../2
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7. Planning Applications (cont)

P13/S3951HH+92LB Barn Cottage, Maidensgrove SODC permission granted 17/2/14  
 P14/S0200/LB The Dower House, Stonor SODC permission granted 21/3/14  
 P14/S0525HH Thatch Cottage, RslsWtr Mr.Godfrey will contact neighbours;  
 PC decision awaited  
 Watlington Neighbourhood Plan No further news.

8. Finance and Insurance

- a) The bank balance stands at £1903.62. (*Statement received 27/3/14 shows balance £1747.62*)  
 Cheques drawn since last meeting:  
 Ch.no: 100432 Cancelled  
           100433 OALC 2 Chairman's training seminar places, 7/5/14           £156.00  
 Cheques drawn at the meeting:  
 Ch.no: 100434 OALC annual subscription   £133.07  
           100435 P.A. Pearce (Clerk's wages, 8 wks @ £60pw+adjustment  
                           for full year's pay £120.00 + 2 months tel exps £20.00)   £620.00  
           100436 Pishill Church (graveyard donation)                               £150.00\*
- b) *Adoption of Financial Regulations:* These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were unanimously adopted.
- c) *Repeal of S.150(5) of the Local Government Act:* This covers the two-signature ruling on cheques. As the parish council is not likely to use BACS or internet banking in the near future for financial transactions, it was agreed to continue with two signatures on each cheque.
- d) *Draft Transparency Code* This consultation had been sent from NALC and refers to the need for local councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 to be exempted from routine external audit, but will be subject to new transparency requirements. The councillors consider that exemption from external audit would be an advantage and the Clerk will respond accordingly. PP
- e) *Chiltern Society Don Millar Fund grant application:* The terms of the grant have almost been completed, requiring only the final photographic evidence. Mr. Godfrey and Mr Stracey will organise this and the erection of the notice board. PGG/SS
- f) *\*Pishill Church graveyard donation:* The donation to Pishill Church was fully discussed and agreed unanimously (See above, Ch.no: 100436).

9. Roads

- a) Parish potholes           The general situation is deplorable, but this is partially due to the extremely wet weather overall. OCC is aware of Parish concerns.
- b) Assendon Spring       Mr.Hunt updated the councillors on the current position.  
 The ditches between Stonor and Middle Assendon are not deep enough. OCC was responsible for filling-in the ditches 25 years ago but, when they were excavated in 2001, the Spring was receding, and the ditches are now not adequate for the full extent of water currently rising from the Spring.  
 The Clerk is to request that OCC checks the actual water depth as at present. PP  
 As the B480 is showing signs of serious damage, the Clerk was instructed to contact OCC to alert them to the need to make proper repairs prior to the proposed works to the A4130, which will necessitate re-routing of traffic. PP  
 The Clerk was also instructed to inform OCC of the continued danger of the water-filled potholes along the B480, which cause drivers to move into the centre of the road, endangering themselves and other road users. Warning signs requested by the Parish Council and put in place by OCC are too few and too far apart; extra signs are required to remind road users of the continuing hazards along the full length from Stonor to Middle Assendon. PP

9. Roads (continued)
- c) A4130 Maintenance (cont) Mr.Hunt reported on a briefing meeting which he had attended at Bix, regarding major maintenance work to be carried out on the A4130 from the Assendon junction to Bix. This will take approximately 30 weeks and will commence on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Part of this project will be concerned with alterations to the junction with the B480 at Lower Assendon. There will be re-routing of vehicles along the B480 for part of the contract, while work at the junction takes place, when it will be completely closed to all traffic other than pedestrians.
- d) Flooding and grass cutting The Clerk had written to Cllr.Rodney Rose at OCC and read his response.
- e) Flooding outside "Little Balham's" Mr.Stracey and the Clerk had attempted to encourage OCC to excavate the ditches along Balham's Lane, which were threatening to overflow and flood Little Balham's. The owner had made strenuous efforts to dig silt from the ditches herself, but it required machinery to clear them sufficiently. In addition, the swale ditch in Stonor Park had become over-full, also giving rise to concern. The ditch had been dug by OCC, but not maintained. The Clerk had received assurances from both Mr.Stracey and the Administrator at Stonor Park that whilst permission had been given for the ditch to be excavated, the responsibility for its maintenance and clearing lies with OCC. The Clerk is to request any written evidence available from the Administrator with which to uphold this claim and will then approach OCC again. PP
- f) Flooding near RW septic tank The Clerk had contacted Monson's and this had now been resolved.
- g) Winter Salt supply This had hardly been touched as the weather had been mild.
10. Commons Report
- a) Damage to verge at 'The Green' RW The Clerk had contacted Chesterton Commercial and arranged for the verge to be re-instated, but this had been done to a very poor standard. The Clerk was asked to press Chesterton's to visit and re-do the work. PP
- b) Driving on Commons Mr.Hunt reported that no further incidents had been reported.
- c) Driving thro' fields Mr.Hunt and Mr.Stracey both reported that the situation was quieter at present.
- d) Metal detection The Clerk reported that Lord Camoys had sent details of two gentlemen permitted to carry out metal detection work on Maidensgrove and Russells Water Commons, including photographs.
- e) Maidensgrove and Russells Water signs Lord Camoys had contacted the Chairman regarding the signs, which he feels should be repainted. He may also wish the wording to be amended. The Clerk was instructed to seek quotations for the repainting and replacement of the signs as existing and to inform Lord Camoys accordingly. PP
11. Footpaths Report
- a) Generally Mr.Godfrey said there was nothing to report at present.
- b) Footpaths and Rights of Way/Access The Clerk will email copies of this legal information to councillors. PP
12. Refuse & Waste Management
- 2014 Litter Blitz Mr. Hunt reported that the litter blitz had been very successfully# completed on the weekend of 15-16 March 2014, and expressed his gratitude to all those who had assisted. The litter bags had been

12. Refuse & Waste M'ment (cont) delivered and collected by Biffa on behalf of SODC. Clerk to publish thanks on website. PP
13. Parish Communications  
a) Pishill notice board This is now complete, including the provision of a brass plaque at a cost of 16.43. The location is to be finally decided but will be within the boundary of The Crown public house at Pishill, by courtesy of the landlord, for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful. SS /PGG  
The Clerk is to send the completed grant acceptance form to The Chiltern Society and Mr. Godfrey will provide photographs which are to be included. PGG PP
14. Community Governance Review The Clerk presented documentation from SODC outlining the proposals to alter the Parish boundary at Russells Water, where it is planned to include all households in the village within Pishill with Stonor, removing them from Swyncombe Parish. One of the Swyncombe Parish Councillors had contacted the Clerk expressing concern at these proposals as it would diminish the numbers of households in their Parish to the extent that future, possible, reduction may resulting the parish becoming Swyncombe Parish Meeting rather than Swyncombe Parish Council. After discussion, it was agreed that Pishill with Stonor PC would not alter its original decision to support the change. Further documents showed the alteration to Watlington, Pyrton and Pishill with Stonor Parish Councils, which PwS PC continues to support.
15. Any other business  
a) The Clerk was asked to include details of the A4130 Bix Carriageway alterations on the parish council website. PP  
b) A check on the reflectors attached to the posts outside Stonor Cricket Club will be made to ensure that the correct colour is facing on-coming traffic. SS/ RH
16. Date, Place and Time of Next Meeting:  
Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014, at The Village Hall, Russells Water.

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

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Chairman