

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Village Hall, Russells Water on
27th March 2017

Present Mr.T.Dunn Chairman
Mr.S. Stracey Vice-Chairman
Mr R.Collett
Mr.R. Hunt
Mr.A. Haq

Also present: Cllr. S.Harrold (OCC), Cllr. A. Badcock (SODC), 3 Parishioners: Mr. T. Bolt, Mr.B. Porter, Mr. D. Wood.

The Chairman welcomed all those attending.

16/17 Apologies and reasons for absence None

17/17 Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to Agenda Mr.Dunn declared a non-financial interest (*) in item (8) Planning Application P17/S0873/FUL - Longwood, Maidensgrove, having acted professionally in the past for the applicant at an unrelated project in an area outside Pishill with Stonor Parish; following advice from Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils he would therefore not vote following the discussion of planning application P17/0873/FUL.

18/17. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda. Item 8 - Planning Application P17/S0873/FUL - Longwood, Maidensgrove,

19/17. Cllr. S. Harrod (Oxfordshire County Council) Cllr.Harrold spoke on a number of topics as follows:

OCC Budget This reflected the current austerity, with reductions and cuts to many aspects 50% of the annual OCC budget is spent on 2% of the residents, i.e. adult social care. The vulnerable will still be protected.

Chiltern Centre This will continue, but with assistance from local stakeholders.

Highways There are constraints on the available funding.

Unitary Council There is a keenness to simplify the county and district councils, and therefore South Oxfordshire and The Vale have amalgamated, and will hear from the Secretary of State shortly, but West Oxfordshire and Cherwell have not yet reached a decision. The final amalgamation could save as much as £20 million per annum, and these savings could be channelled into some of the currently reduced services.

Cllr. Harrod has been elected to Cabinet and is the member for Education. The funding for schools will be the subject of a separate consultation.

County Council Elections May 2017 Cllr.Harrold will be standing again as a County Councillor.

Questions followed:

Q: Surely there will be money made available for road maintenance?

A: Central Government has promised extra funding. (A 'one-off' payment of £100million would solve the problems in Oxfordshire, but will not materialise). If the councils change to a single unitary authority, there may well be more funding available. A new Dragon-Patcher has recently been received by the County.

Q: Does the Dragon-Patcher do a better job than the previous method?

A: Yes, it heats the damaged area and bonds the tarmac to the heated surface.

Q: Regarding the recent reinstatement work carried out to the Balham's Lane grips and the swale ditch in Stonor Park, we have been attempting to find out the costings for this and are not receiving complete advice. Please can you investigate as the time and labour allowed would appear to have been excessive?

A: Contracts are large and long term, i.e 10-15 year duration and this can cause difficulties when enforcing penalty clauses. Supervision is a problem. Traffic management costs are high.

19/17 (cont) Cllr.S. Harrod (cont)

It was agreed that the Clerk would send copies of recent emails so that Cllr. Harrod can PP/SH investigate.

Parish Councillor Statement: There was no traffic management, and the operatives were observed sitting in their van for great periods of time.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Harrod for attending the meeting and invited Cllr.Badcock to speak.

20/17. Address by Cllr. A. Badcock (South & Vale District Council)

Cllr. Badcock acknowledged that Cllr. Harrod had already spoken on the unitary council proposals. She then addressed the following subjects:

Charity and Volunteer Awards The closing date for nominations is 3rd April 2017.

SODC Local Plan This will be published by the end of the week. Culham is scheduled to have 3500 houses built, and Chalgrove Airfield will have 3000, but here the infrastructure is less well-established. There is a new runway proposed at Chalgrove.

It is possible that there will be a new road around Watlington.

Cllr.Badcock feels that the preference will be for a Culham development bearing in mind the proximity of a railway station and the science park.

Cllr Badcock will be circulating parish councils to advise how their comments can be used to enable the planners to change the policies. Infrastructure provision is very important.

Cllr.Badcock encouraged the parish councillors to respond to the Chalgrove questionnaire.

Berinsfield A budget of £1 million has been announced for Berinsfield regeneration.

Thame is to receive £350,000 for regeneration.

PCSOs are to have increased visibility and will particularly focus on domestic violence.

Hare coursing has been taking place around the M40 area.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Badcock for attending the meeting.

21/17 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 24th January 2017 These were agreed as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

22/17 Matters Arising

a) *Mobile phone mast* Mr.Hunt reported that the providers had submitted a Planning Application to Wycombe District Council, for either 'EE' or 'Orange' services. If 4G becomes available it will assist Broadband provision. New green cabinets are being installed, and reliability is improved if the fibre-optic cables are situated on the ground rather than overhead.

b) *Installation of laptop and scanner* Mr.Haq reported that the laptop and scanner had been installed at the Clerk's home and some tuition delivered.

c) *Stonor bus shelter/ replacement notice board* The shelter had been removed and the notice board fixed to the barn at Upper Assendon Farm. The board is in reasonable condition and a replacement is not required immediately.

23/17. Planning Applications

P17/0873/FUL Longwood, Maidensgrove The Chairman having indicated an interest in this application (see *) the Vice-Chairman invited the parishioners present to speak to the parish council. The neighbouring residents are concerned at the size, height, bulk and positioning of the two proposed dwellings. The parish councillors discussed these concerns and a vote was taken with three councillors expressing 'no strong views'. and one councillor opposing the application. (*One abstention). It was therefore agreed that a response of 'No Strong Views' be returned to SODC Planning accompanied by a letter, copied to the District Councillor, requesting

23/17. Planning Applications (cont)

P17/S0873/FUL Longwood, Maidensgrove (cont)

that the application be called-in to the full Planning Committee for determination.

P16/S2816/FUL Marigay, Russ. Wtr

SODC refusal.

P16/S4287/FUL Land to N. of Old

Church, Chr. Cmn

SODC decision awaited.

Multi-Parish meeting on development of Chalgrove Airfield Mr. Collett and the Parish Council had heard nothing further.

SODC 2nd Preferred Option of Local Plan Constltation Brfg. Mr. Dunn will report in due course. TD

24/17 Finance

At 24th March the Community Account Bank balance stands at 2700.94; the Queen's 90th Birthday Account stands at £6.76.

The first 2017/18 Precept payment of £2400.00 will be paid in April.

The Audit documents have been received by the Clerk.

Clerk's employment status The Parish Council has been registered as an employer and the Clerk will be submitting PAYE payments to HMRC.

Cheques drawn at meeting:

Ch.no: 100498	OALC annual sub (£110.89+VAT £22.18)	£133.07	
100499	Village Hall, Russ. Wtr (Mtg hire 2 ½ hrs@£12ph)	£ 30.00	
100500	P.A. Pearce (Clerks wages 23/1/17-31/3/17 @ £72pw + two mnths tel exps £20, less 30% for PAYE)	£524.00	
100501	HMRC (PAYE payment)	£216.00	PP
100502	Petty Cash	£100.00	

25/17 Parish Communications

Mr. Stephen Haq reported that 11 households in Stonor have been connected to Broadband by Village Networks. 6 are in line of sight of the node on Upper Assendon Farm barn, and 5 are in line of sight of the Stonor Park mast.

Stonor Cricket Club can see the barn, and it is hoped that the owners of either Thornton Lodge, or the Quince Tree, will allow a node to be fixed to their building(s) in order that more Stonor residents will be in line of sight. Those that have already been connected are delighted with the improved broadband speeds.

There are remaining problems with Pishill in that no one has yet come forward to organise the raising of the necessary £9000 for the installation to begin. Two or three households are interested and Pishill Farm has already been connected.

However, Village Networks is not very proactive, and some interested Stonor residents have not been contacted following their expressed interest.

The additional equipment will be fixed to the Britwell Mast on 30th March and this will serve Russells Water and Maidensgrove.

It seems likely that the recent activity by BT in installing green boxes has been driven by the Village Networks involvement in the parish.

26/17 Commons Report

a) Driving on Maidensgrove Cmn/ Russells Water Common Nothing to report, but one of the parishioners had observed a quad bike. Mr. Hunt said that this was probably driven by the farm's agronomist, but he would investigate.

RH

b) Driving through fields White Pond Farm and Hollandridge had both experienced problems recently.

c) Right of Way, Gates at Horseshoe Cttge. Russls Wtr Mr. Dunn had passed maps showing the Commons boundaries to the Stonor Park Administrator, but neither he, nor Mr. Collett nor the Clerk had heard anything further. Clerk to contact the Administrator again.

PP

26/17 Commons Report (cont)

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| d) | Pedestrian signage on bend nr.The Pond,Russls Wtr | This item to be brought forward following a reply from the Stonor Pk Administrator (see 17c) | b/f |
| e) | Reinstatement of Verge opposite Beech Barn, RW | The work at Beech Barn is now complete; the Clerk was asked to draft a letter to the owner requesting reinstatement of the verge, to be vetted by Mr.Collett prior to despatch. | PP/RC |
| f) | Costs of reinstatement of Stonor Pk + Balham’s La. ditches | The Clerk had endeavoured to ascertain the costs of this work. Overall costs were £1796.00, but detailed analysis of hours worked and labour costs had not been forthcoming. Cllr.Harrod will endeavour to find out more details. | SH |

27/17. Roads - to include:

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|----|--------------------------------------|--|----------|
| a) | Parish potholes | The general situation is not good, but the Dragon Patcher repaired potholes across Maidensgrove and Russells Water Commons. Mr.Collett will report at the next meeting.
The Clerk will report the uneven surface on the B480 outside Stonor. | RC
PP |
| b) | Verge cutting maps from OCC Highways | The Clerk had received a hard copy of the verge grass cutting map from OCC Highways, which was examined by the parish councillors. It was decided to continue with the current system of cutting by OCC. Clerk to inform Mr.K.Stenning,OCC Highways. | PP |

28/17. Footpaths Report

Nothing to report, but Mr.Hunt undertook to walk all the parish footpaths within the next 2 months. RH

29/17. Refuse & Waste Management

Litter Blitz 2017 Mr.Hunt reported that there had been plenty of volunteers, and wished to pass the Parish Councillors’ thanks to all those who had participated. The Clerk had added this to the website.

30/17. Any other business

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| a) | The future of The Village Hall, Russells Water
An Open Meeting is to be held at the Village Hall on 5 th April from 7.30-8.30 pm. All are welcome for discussion on its future. Mr.Haq and Mr.Collett will attend
The Hall is recognised as a great asset for the community and volunteers are being sought to join the Committee to arrange fund-raising events and give general help. | SH/RC |
| b) | 11 th November 2018 – “Battles Over” – 1918 British Legion Commemoration
Mr. Hunt had arranged with Brig. A.Myrtle to provide the beacon for lighting on this occasion. More details to follow. | RH |
| c) | Summer Town and Parish Forum 2017 Wednesday, 5 July 6:00-9:00pm. To be brought forward to next meeting. | b/f |
| d) | Rural Oxfordshire Network meeting – 5 th April. This meeting clashes with the Village Hall, Russells Water, therefore the councillors are unavailable. | |
| e) | ‘Carers Oxfordshire’ – request from Oxon High Sheriff - Noted. | |
| f) | Proposed removal of payphones in Russells Water and Stonor The Clerk had emailed a response to this consultation, indicating that, in view of the lack of reliable mobile phone signals, the two parish payphone (Russells Water and Stonor) were essential lines of communication. | |

31/17. Date, place and time of next meeting To be confirmed: Monday 8th May 2017, 7.00 p.m., The Village Hall, Russells Water. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting.

32/17. Close of meeting There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all those for attending and declared the meeting closed.

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Chairman