

**PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting  
held in The Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor,  
on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

<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: Oxfordshire County Councillor Mr.S.Harrod; 2 parishioners: Mr.S. Haq, Miss M. Burley

1. Apologies and reasons for absence None
2. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) and Dispensations with regard to Agenda None
3. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda Item 7 Broadband
4. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014 These were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
5. Matters Arising
  - a) Capacity of ditch alongside B480 Cllr.Harrod reported that the Highways Dept is aware of the problem. Mr.Hunt pointed out that the inadequacies had been caused 20 years ago when the County Council had filled in the ditch; the water level is now 6m above average for the time of year and if there is normal, or above average, rainfall in the coming months it is only a matter of time before the problems begin again. The Parish Council strongly feels that the problems have been exacerbated by the County Council's actions 20 years ago, and the ditch should be returned to a suitable depth. Cllr Harrod undertook to pursue the matter.
  - b) Mobile phone mast Mr.Dunn and Mr.Stracey reported that the current favoured site for the proposed mast is at the top of Stonor Park by the Coxlease Gate and a report has been submitted which is being consulted upon. An alternative position is Rose Farm', Turville. It is not known whether the mast will provide 3G or 4G, but it is hoped that it will be in service within eighteen months to two years. Mr.Haq pointed out that Maidensgrove and Russells Water may receive better quality reception than Stonor, as the mast beam will function more efficiently across the top of the valley.
  - c) County Boundary Sign The Clerk had received an email from Mr.Mark Francis, Senior Traffic Technician, to the effect that it would be difficult to move the sign to the other side of Balham's Lane due to BT apparatus in the verge. Mr. Francis considers the sign is safe at present and will monitor verge erosion with a view to asking the Area Steward to reinstate the verge should it erode further. To be monitored.

6. Planning Applications

P14/S2343/FUL Stonor Arms Hotel (The Quince Tree) SODC permission granted  
 P14/S3470/HH The Dower House, Stonor PC approved; SODC decision awaited.  
*Watlington Neighbourhood Plan:* The Clerk reported that Watlington Parish Clerk, Mrs. Kristina Tynan, had emailed that Watlington PC had commissioned a traffic survey and the results were presented to the community on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Further information can be obtained from [www.watlingtonnp.org.u](http://www.watlingtonnp.org.u).  
*Negotiations with developers and landowners regarding local infrastructure and service provision* This information was placed into the Information Pack.  
*Neighbourhood planning conference - March 2015* Details were announced by the Clerk, but the content of this conference was considered to be beyond current Parish Council requirements.

7. Local Broadband

Mr. Stephen Haq reported that OCC will contribute 90% and SODC 5% of provision costs and that early in 2015 it will be decided which areas are to receive funding. It is likely to be on a 'centre out' basis, with larger communities, i.e. towns, being served first and rural areas being relegated to provision at a later stage.  
 Private options exist for broadband provision and Mr.Haq has been in contact with Gigaclear who indicate that they require 400 households, with a 30% take-up, in order for provision to be financially viable. Pishill with Stonor has 142 households and Swyncombe, with whom we could possibly join, has 117. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Haq would approach SHaq Gigaclear to ascertain how many households they would deem viable, regardless of the total households within a given area. Consideration is also to be given to conducting a house-to-house survey to enquire whether parishioners would be willing to pay up to £40 per month for faster broadband service. b/f  
 Cllr.Harrod is planning to lobby for an initiative to improve the economic infrastructure of rural areas, which encompasses better broadband access. £1.5 billion has been allocated across the UK, and a figure of only £6-7 million would be required to achieve this goal.

8. Finance

The Clerk reported that the balance at Barclays Bank stands at £3763.71.  
*Budget 2015-16* The Councillors discussed the Budget and decided to request £5200.00 for the forthcoming year, the increase being based on the necessity of instructing an accountant to deal with the Clerk's PAYE (approx £200pa) and the possibility of extra expenses in the event of an election being called in May 2015. Clerk to inform SODC. PP  
*Charity applications* The Parish Council considered applications from Sue Ryder Care and South & Vale Carers, but decided to decline requests on this occasion.  
 Cheques drawn at the meeting:  
 100449 P.A. Pearce (Clerk's wages 9 wks @ £60 - £540.00 + 2mnts tel exps £20 + Petty Cash ££50.00 = £610 total) £610.00

9. Roads

a) Parish potholes Poor condition in Maidensgrove and Russells Water. Clerk to contact OCC Highways with reference to large hole in Park Lane at the top before right-hand turning. PP  
 b) Assendon Spring Mr.Hunt outlined the present condition of the ditches, which still require excavating by OCC. Cllr.Harrod was urged by SH the councillors to press for this work to be done, prior to winter, the local water table level being 6m higher than usual for this time of year.  
 c) B480 generally See above.  
 d) Balham's Lane & Swale Ditch Strn.Pk. Cllr.Harrod reported that he had spoken to the Drainage Team b/f and understood that they would be attending.  
 e) A4130 Maintenance Contract Mr.Hunt reported that this work had been completed two weeks earlier than scheduled. The Clerk was instructed to write to OCC congratulating them and their contractors on this excellent work. PP

9. Roads (cont)

- f) Parish Salt Supplies Mr.Hunt reported that this year's salt supply has been delivered by OCC to Upper Assendon Farm, and there are now two bags available. The salt bin in Park Lane is 90% full.
- g) Proposed Henley Triathlon 2015 Details of these proposals had been received by the Parish Council and passed to Lord Camoys. It is envisaged that the event will take place on 19-21 June, but will result in no road closures. The Clerk expects to receive more information b/f in due course from Cllr.Jeni Wood of Henley Town Council. Currently the event is being marketed as the 'Henley Highwayman', but Henley Town Council is negotiating this title.

10. Commons Report

- a) Driving on Commons None at present.
- b) Driving through fields Hare coursing/deer poaching are apparent at present, with gates and fences being damaged. Thames Valley Police are aware and appear to be taking more robust action, 41 people having been apprehended in the past 4-5 months, chiefly from the Wantage area.
- c) Maidensgrove/Russells Water Commons signs A pro forma invoice was presented to the Parish Council from Evans Graphics. (Other suppliers approached were 'Build a Sign' and 'GB Signs' both of whom were more expensive and did not offer artwork assistance). After discussion the councillors instructed the Clerk to request a revised estimate for provision of five signs. PP Cllr.Harrold also offered to consider submission of a grant application from the Pairs Council under his Councillor Community Budget and the Clerk will prepare the necessary forms. PP (The cost of the signs is likely to be in the region of £400).
- d) Obstruction at Russells Wtr. Cllr.Julia Wells from Swyncombe PC had contacted the Clerk with reference to the obstruction of common land outside Rose Cottage at Russells Water. After discussion the Clerk was instructed to contact Cllr. Wells and suggest that Swyncombe PC approach the tenant to explain the position, prior to any more formal action being taken. PP

11. Footpaths Report

- a) Footpath P6 Pishill to Hollandridge The owners of Pishill Farm, Mr and Mrs. Percy-Davis cleared a section of the footpath from overhanging vegetation and a letter had been sent from the PC thanking them accordingly. A request had been sent to Mr.W.Carr for further work to be undertaken but, as yet, there has been no response. b/f

12. Refuse & Waste Management Nothing to report.

13. Community Action Plan This OCC plan aims to provide secure shelters as a 'Survivor Reception Centres' in the event of a local need. The Clerk had contacted Stonor Park for permission to make use of the Cricket Pavilion, but no response had been received to date. The Village Hall at Russells Water had offered accommodation; its Fire & Safety capacity is up to 100 seated/150 standing, based upon the time required to exit - these numbers would be seriously cramped, but feasible in an emergency. The Clerk was instructed to contact 'The Quince Tree', Stonor and 'The Crown', Pishill, to enquire whether they would consider acting as emergency shelters if required. PP

14. Defibrillator provision  
Details of costs of defibrillators had been received and advice also received from a retired local GP. After discussion the Parish Councillors decided that acquisition and maintenance of such equipment is currently not viable.
15. Mobile Library consultation  
The Parish currently receives visits from the Mobile Library service on a twice monthly basis, with 4-5 users in Stonor and one in Maidensgrove. OCC plans to alter the local route which will omit the parish completely; after discussion the Clerk was instructed to request that the Parish continues to be included within the service. PP
16. Parish Communications & County Councillor's Report The Clerk reported that the Parish website continues to be updated regularly. The County Councillor's report is included in the Information Pack.
17. Any other business
- a) Stonor bus shelter The Clerk reported that Mr. Pearce had now located a hard wood window sill for replacement, but after discussion it was unanimously agreed that the bus shelter should be removed. Discussion followed on the future of the commemorative seat inside the bus shelter which, it was decided, should be left in position until a more suitable location could be found. The Stonor notice board currently outside the shelter will be fixed to Upper Assendon Farm barn for the moment. Mr. Pearce is to be asked if he would undertake this work. The Clerk is to inform Batchellor Monkhouse (Evelyn Trust Agents) thanking them for their permission to use the land in the past, but informing them that the bus shelter is to be removed and that therefore the licence should be terminated forthwith. PP
- b) Trimming of B480 hedges OCC had informed the Clerk that vegetation obscuring the speed limit signage at Pishill will be cut back within next 28 days.
18. Date, Place and Time of Next Meeting  
To be confirmed: Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015, The Almshill Room in The Quince Tree, Stonor, at 7.00 p.m.

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

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Chairman