

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held in The Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor
on Tuesday 17th November 2015**

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

Also present: SODC Cllr.Ms.A.Badcock, Mr. S.Haq (Broadband Champion)

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming SODC Cllr. Ms.Anna Badcock.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence OCC Cllr. Steve Harrod (prior engagement); Parish Councillor Mr. Richard Collett (prior engagement)
2. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to Agenda None.
3. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda None.
4. SODC Cllr. Ms. Anna Badcock The Chairman invited Cllr.Badcock to address the councillors.

Recycling: SODC has announced that worn-out textiles can be recycled from roadside collections if placed in separate plastic bags placed beside the green collection bin; broken or unusable small electrical goods will be collected from the roadside in grey bin week. Good quality items should be taken to charity shops.

Watlington Neighbourhood Plan . SODC is about to ‘sign-off’ the revised Watlington Parish boundary. Work is progressing with residential and traffic surveys and it may be possible to comment on these in due course. There is a faint possibility that a Watlington by-pass could be considered, but this would be dependent upon sufficient numbers of homes being constructed.

Free Christmas Parking in SODC car parks has been announced for December: Henley - every Tuesday, Wallingford - every Thursday; Thame - every Saturday; Didcot - every Tuesday; Goring - every Saturday.

Local Plan. SODC may be unable to deliver the central government requirement of new housing, due to the recession affecting developers in Didcot, where the largest part of the new developments were to take place. Planning Permissions for these sites have been granted, but developers have not completed building. This lack could encourage planning applications to be made in other parts of the District, e.g. Thames Farm outside Shiplake, as it may be argued that the Local Development Plan figures have not been met and SODC may therefore not have the requisite 5-year housing supply. AONB areas are currently protected, but until the Local Plan is in place there could be a risk.

Replacement of SODC Offices and possible merging of services with Vale of White Horse
Prior to re-building the SODC Crowmarsh offices destroyed by fire, more back-office services could be merged with Vale of White Horse and, as so many council activities are now conducted on-line, the need for such a large building may not be as great. The loss-adjusters have still to reach a conclusion on funding. There is a constraint on the use of the Crowmarsh land, in that it has to remain largely in municipal use, however, construction is not imminent and new premises are at least 18 months away.

The Chairman thanked Cllr.Badcock for her informative contribution.

5. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 28th September 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 news had been received that Harlequin had not applied for planning permission within the time available, and the proposed mast could not then go ahead. This has caused great disappointment locally and will not assist faster broadband provision. Lord Camoys had written to the Minister for Culture, Media & Sport, Mr. Ed Vaizey and also to our local MP, Mr. John Howell. Mr.Dunn will contact Lord Camoys again to ascertain any further information. TD
- b) Verges in Pishill Mr.Godfrey reported that there is no further news, except that the vineyard staff have been informed that it is preferable to cut the verges now, rather than in the Spring time.
- c) Salt bin It appears that the promised bin has now arrived and the winter salt delivery has been received at Upper Assendon Farm. Mr.Hunt will deliver a supply to Mr.Stracey at White Pond Farm.RH
- d) Jubilee Tree guard The Jubilee tree guard will be ordered from Designer Metal (Suffolk). The classic iron guard will be finished in black paint; the cost includes delivery and VAT. PP
- e) Town & Parish Cncl Forum, SODC (4/11/15) Regrettably Mr.Stracey was unable to attend, but Mr.Collett reported that the meeting began with a Q&A session chaired by the Leader of SODC, Mr.John Cotton. Following this was a presentation by Adrian Duffield, Head of SODC Planning Dept on the subject of planning appeals, which was interesting.

7. Planning Applications

- P14/S4113/FUL The Old Church, Christmas Cmn. SODC decision awaited.
- P15/S3398/FUL Bank Farm, Pishill PC approval: SODC decision awaited.
- Watlington Neighbourhood Plan Please see Cllr.Badcock's remarks (Item 4).

8. Finance

The Clerk reported that the balance at Barclays Bank stands at £4644.26.
Budget 2015/16 and SODC Precept(details circulated to Cllrs prior to mtg)
 The Budget was discussed and agreed; the Clerk was instructed to request an unchanged SODC Precept figure of £4800.00 for 2015/16. PP
Risk Assessment 2016. Following discussion, Mr.Dunn proposed adoption of the 2015-16 Risk Assessment, seconded by Mr.Stracey and Mr.Godfrey.
SODC Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant The Clerk reported that this is likely to be phased out in 2016.
HMRC letter to Clerk re: PAYE: The Clerk read a letter dated 27th October 2015 received from HMRC regarding her PAYE, in which it is confirmed that HMRC will continue to agree to the completion of a Self-Assessment tax return in respect of all income, as previously advised.
Clerk opting out of pension scheme: The Clerk presented a letter to the Chairman and Parish Councillors confirming that she does not wish to be enrolled in a council pension scheme. The Parish Council is aware of the possible need for this in the event of employing a new clerk.
Transparency Code: The Clerk will arrange for the necessary information to be placed on the parish council website, following contact with the website providers to insert the necessary links. PP
 Discussion concerning the possible need to provide a dedicated Parish Council laptop took place, but it transpired that it may be possible to deal with parish council matters by using 'cloud' technology. Mr.Haq kindly offered to give advice on this and the Parish Councillors agreed to pay Mr.Haq a 'consultation fee' in respect of his time and expertise. SH
Charity requests: Request received from OxBel was considered by councillors, but no donation approved.
 The Parish Councillors unanimously agreed to send a cheque for £150.00 to Pishill Church in respect of graveyard maintenance. PP
 Cheques issued at meeting:
 Ch.no: 100468 P.A. Pearce (Clerk's wages 7 wks @ £60 pw+2 mnths tel exps £20) £440.00
 100469 Pishill Church (graveyard maintenance) £150.00

9. Local Broadband

Mr. Stephen Haq reported on the October meeting he had attended with local MP, Mr. John Howell and Mr. Ed Vaizey, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport. In response to Mr.Haq's question, Mr.Vaizey said he would look into the possibility of taking fibre to the pole rather than to the cabinet.

Mr.Haq said that central government had pledged to provide broadband for all by 2020, but speculated that it may be difficult to demand 10 meg at that time in areas such as Pishill with Stonor. However, by stating that broadband access is now considered "essential", BT will eventually have to provide a service.

There has been a recent Connect8 meeting with Village Networks, and some route investigation has taken place. Regarding Pishill with Stonor, it would be better if the service were provided via mast, even though the route from Britwell Hill would zigzag. The Connect8 group is in contact with Thames Valley Police and with RAF Benson to investigate whether there is a possibility of sharing their existing masts and backhaul connection. No offers of assistance from either has yet been received.

Mr.Dunn thanked Mr.Haq for his continued help with this matter.

10. Roads

- a) Parish potholes - general situation is unchanged
- b) Balham's Lane ditches and ditch in Stonor Park: In spite of continued assurances, these are still awaiting attention by OCC Highways. Clerk to continue to chase.

PP

11. Commons Report

- a) Driving on Maidensgrove/ Russells Water Common Nothing to report.
- b) Driving through fields Nothing to report in parish, although activity has been noted in Middle Assendon and Turville where, on the same night, fields containing cattle had been broken into and, in Turville, causing the animals to break through fencing. It is vital to report such events to Thames Valley Police.

12. Footpaths Report Nothing to report.

13. Refuse & Waste Management Nothing to report.

14. Any other business

- a) "Oxfordshire Together" report Parish Councillors noted this OCC report, which looks at alternative ways to deliver services.
- b) The Estate of the late Mrs. Anne Orage The Clerk had been contacted by solicitors BLegal of Henley, wishing to discharge a legacy from Mrs. Anne Orage, a former resident of Maidensgrove Common. The legacy directly benefits the Village Hall at Russells Water and the Clerk re-directed the enquiry to Mr.Ian Beecher-Jones, the Chairman of the Village Hall Cttee.

15. Date, place and time of next meeting To be confirmed: Wednesday, 13th January 2016, 7.00 p.m. in The Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor.

16. Close of meeting

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

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Chairman