

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting
held in The Village Hall, Russells Water
Tuesday 30th September 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: 10 parishioners: Mr.S. Haq, Mr. Richard Andrews, Mr.Mike Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Susan Owen, Mr. Patrick Peggie, Mr.Roger Lavis, Mr. David Wood, Mr. Bob Warner, Mr. John Jenkins

1. Apologies and reasons for absence County Cllr Mr. S. Harrod, District Cllr. Revd. Angie Paterson (attending conference).
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 8 (Broadband)
4. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th June 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) The Clerk had contacted Cllr.Harrod who had been in touch with the Area Steward, but no further news was available. Clerk to follow up. PP
 - b) Music at Stonor Craft Fair No problems with excessive noise this year.
 - c) Mobile phone mast Mr.Dunn reported that a mast is proposed in Stonor Park area and all landowners had been approached. This is primarily for phone signals and may be less than 4g. The mast will not be in place for at least a year.
 - d) Tree work at Bank Farm, Pishill This continues but is mainly confined to Saturday working.
6. Planning Applications

P13/S1858/FUL	Marigay, Russells Water	SODC refusal, 27/8/14.
P14/S1519	Land adj. to The Orchard, Rs.Wtr	Withdrawn prior to determination, 16/7/14.
P14/S1614/LB	Porch Amnd, Dower House,Stonor	SODC approval. 15/7/14.
P14/S2244/FUL	Wool House, Stonor Park	SODC approval, 6/9/14
P14/S2343/FUL	Stonor Arms Hotel ('Quince Tree')	SODC decision awaited

Watlington Neighbourhood Plan: No further news.
SODC Local Plan 2031 Issues, Scope & Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: Mr.Dunn had dealt with this on behalf of the Parish Council.
7. Community Governance Review SODC Strategic Management Board had informed the Parish Council that the property known as 'Greenhill' will be moved from Watlington into Pishill with Stonor Parish, but the boundary between P-w-S and Swyncombe will remain unchanged. There will be no change to the boundary between Pyrton and Watlington near Christmas Common, but land from P-w-S will be moved into Watlington Parish from Christmas Common. .../2

8. Local Broadband The Chairman invited Mr. Stephen Haq (Parish Broadband Champion) to address the meeting and take questions. There are two means of receiving information; via a Forum and through Better Broadband for Oxfordshire. Contact direct with OCC is always referred back to these two sources. Essentially, faster broadband will be rolled out firstly to those communities living closest to an exchange, and those which have the largest number of households. There are 3 maps available on Better Broadband for Oxfordshire, each one of which shows the P-w-S area as being low priority, with nothing on copper wire being planned for at least a year. Broadband is delivered through the green ‘cabinets’ situated at intervals along the BT network. Although there is one in Stonor, this is served from Turville Heath via Southend Common - a lengthy stretch and too far from Turville Hth for it to be utilised satisfactorily; high speed broadband does need different cabinets and additional electricity supply to the cabinet is also required. Satellite provision was discussed; Mr. Barton (Pishill) reported that this gave satisfactory service, costing approx. £4-500 for the satellite and £25-30 p.m., delivering 10-30 megabits; there is a delay when connecting. Satellite provision is not to be confused with Skye, which provides TV through satellite, but broadband through BT cables. Mr. Haq suggested that the quickest route to achieving service may be via satellite broadband, although as a community it may be possible to join together and approach a large broadband provider independently. Mr. Haq outlined the Binfield Heath initiative where the community had raised £50,000 to receive fibre broadband; it appears however that the supply is variable and unreliable. Regarding broadband via 4G mobile signal: it is to be noted that signal strength diminishes from 4G maximum as the distance increases away from the supply. Mr. Haq was asked by the councillors to contact an independent provider, “Gigaclear” to obtain an opinion on whether a broadband service is feasible in the locality. The councillors also agreed to write again to the MP, Mr. John Howell, the County Councillor Mr. S. Harrod and the District Councillor, Revd. Angie Paterson. The Chairman thanked Mr. Haq for his attendance and for the help he is giving as Parish Broadband Champion. SH PP
9. Finance
 The Clerk reported that the balance at Barclays Bank stands at £2146.53.
Risk Assessment The Parish Councillors considered and accepted the risk assessment.
External audtrs rept No issues raised, but recommendation made that the Council registers as an employer as soon as possible, in accordance with current requirements. (HMRC had previously given written confirmation that the Clerk could pay her own PAYE). No fees were payable on the external auditor’s report. Conclusion of audit notice already placed on Stonor notice board. Clerk will seek advice from HMRC. PP
VAT Return The Clerk had completed the VAT return for the period to 31/3/14, amounting to £96.18; payment not yet received.
Charity applications None.
 Cheques drawn at meeting:
 Ch. no:1000447 Village Hall, Russells Water (mtg hire 1½ hrs @ £6 ph) £ 9.00
 1000448 P.A. Pearce (Clerk’s wages 14 wks @ £60pw 20/6/14-28/9/14 + £30 tel exps) £870.00
10. Roads
 a) Parish Potholes Reasonable, but Park Lane and across Maidensgrove Common needs attention. Clerk to contact OCC. PP
 b) Assendon Spring Mr. Hunt is continuing to attempt to have the ditch alongside the B480 excavated to its original depth in order that the water flow is contained in future. The road verge has been .../3

10. Roads (cont)

- b) Assendon Spring (cont) pressed against the ditch, which has reduced its ability to accommodate higher water levels. If there is only average rainfall this winter, it is very likely that the Spring will cause problems, as the ground water level is 6½ metres above normal for this time of the year.
There is stalemate over responsibility for excavating roadside ditches, with OCC maintaining it is the land occupiers' responsibility whilst the land occupiers disagree. OCC will accept responsibility where the road has been altered or piping has been laid. Mr. Robert Aitken of Bix is in general control of the negotiations, and Mr. Hunt will attend future meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.
- c) B480 Generally The speed limit signs alongside the B480 in Pishill have become obscured by overgrown foliage; the farmers are unable to cut back hedges until the end of September and therefore the responsibility for this possibly falls upon OCC. Clerk to investigate. PP
- d) Balham's Lane ditches and swale ditch in Stonor Park Cllr. Harrod (OCC) had offered to assist with this matter and has been unable to contact the Clerk with the results of his discussions with the Area Steward at OCC. Clerk to chase. PP
- e) A4130 Maintenance Contract Mr. Hunt reported that the work is on schedule and is expected to be completed before Christmas.
Work to the Lower Assendon Junction will cause B480 closures on 10th October and from 18th-25th October, 9am-5pm, although the road may be re-opened slightly before 5 pm on occasion.
Updates on progress can be obtained from Mr. Tony Basten (Site Mgr) on 0845 310 1111 or email tony.basten@skanska.co.uk.
Further information is available from:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/major-transport-projects.
- f) Parish salt supplies The annual salt supply will be delivered by OCC to Upper Assendon Farm in due course.
- g) Proposed Henley Triathlon - August Bank Holiday 2015 Lord Camoys' email dated 23rd September to Henley Town Council was discussed by the PC and it was agreed that an email in support should be sent from the Parish Council. Clerk will draft email for councillors to approve. PP/ ALL

11. Commons Report

- a) Damage to 'The Green' verge, RW The Clerk had received a response from Ms. Emma Bowerman, SODC Planning Officer, who had contacted Chesterton's, the developers of Beech Barn, Russells Water. Mr. Bryant of Chesterton's feels that the verges have been repaired properly, but it is still impossible for them to be cut easily and Mr. Warner has consequently discontinued this voluntary service. The Parish Council extended their warmest appreciation for all that Mr. Warner had done over many years, which has helped maintain an attractive facility for the local residents.
- b) Driving on Commons One incident was reported, when it is possible that wildlife had been killed.
- c) Driving through fields This may well have been associated with the above incident, when a gate was damaged. The car concerned left maroon paint on the damaged gate, the police attended and followed through by reporting the incident to Bucks Constabulary.
- d) Maidensgrove and Russells Water Signs The revised wording has been agreed with Lord Camoys, as follows: "Maidensgrove and Russells Water Commons"
The soil of these Commons is owned by the Stonor Estate and certain people have registered rights of common (Commons Registration Act 1965). The public is welcome to use these

(continued overleaf) .../4

11. Commons Report (cont)
d) Maidensgrove and Russells Water Signs (cont) Commons provided no damage is done and nuisance is not caused to other users or residents.
1. Motor Vehicles, including Motor Cycles, are not allowed more than fifteen feet from the Public Highway (The Road Traffic Act 1972)
2. The flying of powered model aircraft, horse riding and commercial dog walking, are expressly forbidden.
By Order”
The Clerk will make printing arrangements with Evans Graphics Ltd. PP
12. Footpaths Report Mr.Godfrey reported that the stile adjacent to the brick and flint wall at Pishill Farmhouse has been replaced by a gate from The Chiltern Society. The path (PS6) has become very narrow in places due to Leylandii trees on one side and a fence on the other; it is necessary for the trees to be kept trimmed to allow access and it is understood that The Chiltern Society can arrange for this work to be undertaken. The Clerk was asked to contact the Footpaths Representative accordingly and also to thank The Chiltern Society for providing the gate. PP
13. Refuse & Waste Mgm Nothing to report.
14. Parish Communications
The Clerk reported that the provider for the Parish Council website remains Vision ICT, but the website is now accessed directly through them, rather than through SKP Solutions Ltd.
15. Any other business
a) BT Telephone box RW Mr.Collett reported that this has been cleaned recently, and that, in view of the spasmodic mobile reception, the service it provides should be retained.
b) County Boundary Sign Balham’s Lane Mr.Stracey reported that the Bucks County boundary sign on Balham’s Lane is in danger of being demolished as it is now so close to the road. The Clerk was asked to enquire whether it could be moved to the other side of the Lane. PP
16. Date, Place and Time of Next Meeting To be confirmed: Wednesday 26th November 2014, 7.00 p.m. in The Almshill Room, The Quince Tree, Stonor. PP

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

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Chairman