

## PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in The Almshill Room at The Quince Tree, Stonor on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

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

Also present: Mr. John Howell MP, Revd.A. Paterson, Mr.S.Haq

1. Apologies and reasons for absence: Mr. S. Stracey (Vice-Chairman) (Cornwall), Mr.R.Collett (holiday), OCC Cllr. S. Harrod (Brussels).
2. Welcome to Mr. John Howell, MP The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Mr. John Howell, MP, inviting him to address the Parish Council.

Regarding Broadband, Mr.Howell and Mr.Haq (Parish Broadband Champion) are to attend a meeting at Watlington Pavilion on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October when the Minister for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr.Ed Vaizey MP) will be present and Mr.Haq will enquire why central government strategy did not include rural areas at the outset.

Mr.Haq reported that Mr. P. Richardson of Connect8 (the local community action group) is looking at alternatives to BT, i.e. "Village Networks". Mr. Howell advised that moving away from BT could cause withdrawal of funding and consequent delays, and this should be taken into consideration prior to deciding to use another provider. At present, Village Networks is purely undertaking an initial survey. Mr.Haq reported that Connect8 had employed a cherry-picker to ascertain potential wireless broadband reception, and it appears that there are good possibilities for microwave provision. Village Networks have given some rough indication of costs.

Townlands Hospital Mr.Howell said that Townlands Hospital must be regarded as a hospital serving the whole of the South Oxfordshire Area, not purely Henley. The Clinical Commissioning Group intends to develop a Rapid Ambulatory Care Unit (RACU) and it is planned that the RACU will be open for 7 days per week, with an Outpatients Department being available 6 days per week. The redevelopment of Townlands Hospital was always intended to provide a medical campus and beds can now be provided within the Care Home, 8 of which will be purchased permanently plus 6 further beds available for 'on the spot' care. GPs have agreed to manage the beds rather than Consultants.

There will be a period of time between the hospital closing and the care home opening during which patients will be transported free of charge to Wallingford Hospital.

A current difficulty exists in that local GPs have no tie-in with OCC Social Services, meaning that beds can be blocked by patients requiring home care, over which the GPs have no control.

Ideally Oxfordshire Health Authority would like to have three large cottage hospitals with 30-60 beds in each.

The local GPs generally support the RACU solution, although not all others share this view; if a judicial review is pursued by the Townlands Hospital Steering Group, this will delay the provision of the hospital by up to two years. (Mr.Howell considers that the Steering Group represents the views of a small number of people).

Cycling Events Mr.Howell had been instrumental in arranging for the removal of the Just Racing Event and commented that, although the licensing of cycling events was of interest, these are not confined to the activities of cycling clubs, as enthusiasts also congregate together; it is therefore difficult to see how licensing could be easily implemented. A major local complaint is that cyclists leave damaged inner tubes littering the verges.

Motorbike Nuisance In view of the continuing nuisance caused by speeding motorbikes along the A4130, Mr.Howell advised that it would be sensible for the parish council to contact OCC Cllr. Mr.Steve Harrod to request that he approaches OCC Cllr. Lorraine Lyndsay-Gale PP who deals with such matters. Mr.Howell will also contact Cllr.Lindsay-Gale. Mr.Dunn thanked Mr. Howell for attending the parish council meeting and responding to so many local concerns.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to Agenda None.
4. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda  
No members of the public present.
5. Local Broadband - Mr. Stephen Haq See Item (2).
6. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015. These were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.
7. Matters Arising
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|----|----------------------------|---|-----|
| a) | Mobile phone mast          | Mr.Dunn has no further news, but will contact Stonor Park.  | TD  |
| b) | Verges in Pishill          | Mr.Godfrey reported that the arranged meeting with Mr.Stephen Ducker (100 Hills Vineyard) had been postponed, but that the verges appear to be recovering. It is suggested that a ‘path’ through the vegetation be cleared for walkers, but that the rest of the wildflowers should be allowed to flourish.   | PGG |
| c) | Salt bin                   | A new green salt bin has been ordered from OCC Highways, which will be located in Park Lane shortly. The cost includes delivery and initial filling with salt.  |     |
| d) | Jubilee Tree guard         | It is hoped to order the tee guard from Designer Metal (Suffolk) Limited. The Clerk is pursuing this matter.  | PP  |
| e) | OALC Annual Mtg            | Mr.Hunt attended this event on behalf of the Parish Council, at which Mr. Anthony Stansfeld, (Police & Crime Commissioner) spoke. Thames Valley Police Authority covers over 2½ million people, and over 1000 parish councils. Their budget is £400 million and although the recent cut by £60 million can be accommodated, the further cut of £40 million in four years time may be difficult. Manpower is the most costly aspect of the budget. Mr.Stansfeld said that household crime is down and rural crime has dropped by 6% (NFU figures). Mr.Stansfeld commented that if convicted offenders on parole were ‘tagged’ then re-offending could be more easily controlled. Mr.Hunt said that this OALC event was interesting and that Mr.Stansfeld was a good speaker. |     |
| f) | Laminated planning notices | The Clerk read the response from SODC Planning: “Planning notices are posted if the property/area of land: Is a listed building; is in a conservation area; is a major development; affects a public right of way; is an un-neighbourly development; is not according to the development plan”.   |     |
| g) | Land at Maidnsgrve         | The Clerk had received notification that recently sold land at Maidensgrove has had a lockable post-box erected to the right of the gate, plus a name-plate indicating “Paddock View”.<br>The parish councillors will monitor.  | ALL |
8. Planning Applications
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|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| P14/S4113/FUL | The Old Church, Christmas Cmn | SODC decision awaited.             |
| P15/S121/HH   | Well Cottage, Stonor          | PC approval; SODC approval 18/8/15 |
| P15/S1956/FUL | Beech Barn, Russells Water    | SODC approval 5/8/15               |
- Community-Led Plans:* The parish councillors had considered the preparation of a Community-Led Plan, but felt that this was unnecessary at present.
- South Oxfordshire Open Space Audit:* The Clerk had received notification regarding the designation of ‘open space’ at Stonor Park. The parish council advised that this was a privately-owned deer park and any communications from SODC regarding its status should be directed to Lord Camoys. Clerk to notify OCC. PP
- Watlington Neighbourhood Plan:* Notification has been received that the area of the Plan has been re-designated. .../3

9. Finance

The Clerk reported that, including the receipt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Precept payment, the balance at Barclays Bank stands at £5384.26.

Cheques issued at meeting:

Ch.no: 100466 P.A.Pearce (Clerk's wages 11 wks @ £60 +3 mnths tel exps £30) £690.00  
 100467 Petty Cash £ 50.00

*External audit:* The external audit report had been received. The auditor raised the issue that the Parish Council is not registered as an employer and was not in compliance with the requirements. The Clerk had received a letter from HMRC closing the PAYE scheme but, as this is dated December 2012, it was conceived to be out of date. The Clerk had tried to set up a payroll system through Douglas Tonks but this had failed, following which contact had been made with a private accountant (SKS Consultants) who would delegate the work. The parish councillors felt it may be possible that HMRC would agree again to the Clerk paying PAYE as a self-employed person, as previously, and it was agreed that Mrs. Pearce should write again to HMRC asking whether this would be acceptable. If it was not, the private accountant would be instructed. PP

*Council Tax Reduction Scheme:* SODC Finance had written to the Parish Council regarding the CTRS grant and the possible effect upon parish precepts. The grant funding received for 2015/16 was £33.00, which may be reviewed in future.

*Charity requests:* Requests received from Sue Ryder, South & Vale Carers and Oxfordshire Association for the Blind were considered by the councillors, but no donations approved.

10. Roads

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|----|-------------------------------|---|----|
| a) | Parish potholes               | The general situation is unchanged; a deep pothole at the Stonor junction between Park Lane and B480 will be reported by the Clerk.   | PP |
| b) | Assendon Spring               | Mr. Hunt reported that there has been no news recently. This item to be removed from the agenda.  |    |
| c) | Balham's Lane and Stonor Park | This work has been promised repeatedly, but no date given. Clerk to chase again.  | PP |
| d) | Oak Tree B480                 | The dangerous oak tree has been removed by Evelyn Estate and a replacement will be planted in a position further away from the roadside.  | RH |
| e) | Church Hill, Pishill          | The lane is in need of repair, with the large soak-away collapsing on one side. Mr. Godfrey reported that the end of the public road was formerly at the end of the church wall, but the remaining stretch encompassing the Oxfordshire Way has been 'adopted' by OCC and should be maintained by them. Two trees in the church car park also require attention and Mr. Hunt will remind Mr. K. Earle of the work to be done. | RH |

11. Commons Report

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| a) | Driving on Maidensgrove / Russells Water Commons | Nothing to report   |
| b) | Driving through fields                           | Nothing to report.  |
| c) | Signs on Maidensgrove/ Russells Water Commons    | Mr. Hunt, Mr. Michael Hunt and Mr. Pearce had put in place the two remaining signs.   |
| d) | Metal detecting Maidnsgrv. Common                | Lord Camoys had given permission for metal detecting by Mr. John Tobin, whose ID has been circulated to the Parish Councillors. |

12. Footpaths Report Nothing to report

13. Refuse & Waste Management Nothing to report

14. Any other business:

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|----|--|----------|
| a) | <i>SODC Town &amp; Parish Forum 4/11/15 6-9.00 pm. Didcot Civic Hall</i> The Clerk will enquire whether Mr. Stracey and Mr. Collett wish to attend this event. | SS/RC/PP |
|----|--|----------|

14. Any other business (cont)

b) *Henley Half Marathon, 11<sup>th</sup> October* Mr.Dunn reported that the RNLI will benefit from this event, organised by Henley Rotary Club. The run reaches Middle Assendon but does not pass through Stonor.

15. Date, place and time of next meeting To be confirmed: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 7 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