

## PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall, Russells Water,

on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010

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

Also present: Cllr. Rodney Mann (SODC), 3 parishioners, Mrs. B. Snell, Mr. J. Jenkins, Mr.R. Warner.

The Chairman welcomed all those present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence District Councillor Mrs. Angie Patterson - attending a meeting elsewhere; PCSO Tina Heslop - unavailable, not on duty.

2. Parish Report by the Chairman, Mr. T. Dunn

The Chairman outlined the work of the Parish Council over the past year

On Planning Applications generally, there were 17 applications considered by the Parish Council, including two appeals, both of which were dismissed (Honeysuckle Cottage in Maidensgrove and Land at North End). Eight applications were approved by the Parish Council, three were refused and four had no strong views. SODC approved eight, refused two, appeal. There seems to be a marked increase in the numbers of applications withdrawn before SODC decisions are given.

Considerable concern had been expressed at the changes whereby Planning Applications will no longer be automatically referred to SODC Planning Committee in the event of a difference in view between the Parish Council and the SODC Planning officers. The Chairman had written to SODC and then to Mr John Howells MP, stating the misgivings of the Parish Council, and excerpts from Mr. Howell's letter of explanation were read to the meeting. During the year, the Parish Council had supported the residents of Pishill in their concerns at the proposal by Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department to increase the existing 30 mph limit to the national speed limit along the B480 in Pishill. This has now been fixed at 30 mph, to the great relief of all concerned.

Driving on the commons continues to be an issue and has been reported to Thames Valley Police on a number of occasions. Unfortunately there have been a number of thefts from Pishill Church during the year, about which the police are fully aware.

New waste collections were implemented in 2009 and after some teething problems these appear to be running satisfactorily

Fly-tipping continues to be a problem, notably near Hollandridge Lane, Stonor, and at 'the slough' in Russells Water.

Mr. Dunn reported that a response had been sent from the Parish Council on the NATS Consultation (the possibility of changes to the Luton and Stanstead air movements in our region).

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chiltern Way is to be commemorated this year and Mr. Godfrey has organised a walk within the Parish as part of the celebrations. Details were to be given in the next part of the meeting. (*See Footpaths Report, item 11*).

Finally, Mr. Dunn paid tribute to the considerable amount of work undertaken by his fellow Parish Councillors and also thanked the Clerk for her help throughout the past year.

Mr. Dunn invited Cllr. Rodney Mann to address the meeting.

3. Address by District Councillor, Mr. Rodney Mann.

Cllr. Mann reported on new Waste collection services, introduced this year to 56,000 households. SODC has received a national award for the communication of the new scheme to residents and although there were some problems to overcome in parts of the district, these were now largely resolved.

On Community safety, Cllr. Mann reported that the PCSOs are working well in both towns and villages. This is a joint project and residents are becoming more aware of their presence. CCTV is to be reviewed during the coming year to ascertain whether the system reflects value for money and whether residents consider it is effective.

Joint working with the Vale of White Horse District Council has meant a reduction in staff but resulted in efficiency savings. The Council Tax has a nil % increase this year, which is a good record.

There has been a downturn in planning applications due mainly to the recession. There is a new process for referrals, to which the Parish Council Chairman had already referred in his own report.

4. Open Forum

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public:

Q: Why is it necessary to sign in a book when wishing to address the meeting?  
Surely this will act as a disincentive for the parishioners to attend.

A: This is now a stipulation under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and is already noted and explained at the top of each Parish Council Agenda.

Q: What can be done about the fly tipping problems?

A: Cllr. Mann offered to pursue this issue with the SODC Waste Management Team.

There being no further questions, the Chairman declared this part of the meeting closed. It was to be followed immediately by the Annual Meeting.

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Chairman