

# PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at The Village Hall, Russells Water on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Present	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: County Councillor Mrs. Caroline Newton, District Councillor Revd. Angie Paterson, PCSO Mark Rawnsley, Thames Valley Police.

2 members of the public: Dr. Barbara Snell and Mrs. Sue Reed.

The Chairman welcomed the County and District Councillors and PCSO Rawnsley, and the members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence None.

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

Mr.Dunn began by paying tribute to our former County Councillor Mr.Roger Belson who sadly died in December 2011. Roger had been a very pro-active councillor who took a genuine interest in Parish affairs and tried to take action where he felt it was needed. Mr.Dunn and Mr.Stracey had attended the well supported memorial service held in the Guards' Chapel at Wellington Barracks during March.

Mr.Dunn reported on the first Henley Challenge Triathlon event held in September 2011, on which there appear to be mixed views.. Henley residents seem to welcome the event, but it caused a lot of local disruption in the Stonor valley and there is concern regarding this year's event as little notice appears to have been taken of the Parish Council comments following the 2011 experience. On 28<sup>th</sup> September our MP, Mr. John Howell, visited the parish when the Parish Council's concerns were made known to him personally. The Parish Council is continuing to make representations to the County Council, District Council, Thames Valley Police and local MP.

The B480 ditches remain a problem, although some work to the grips had taken place during the year. Asbestos roofing material dumped at the bottom of Hollandridge Lane has finally been cleared, and Mr. Dunn thanked Mr.Godfrey for organising the use of part of Mr.Michael Lakey's skip for its removal. The Parish Council is extremely grateful to Mr.Lakey for assisting in the disposal. Mr.Dunn also thanked Mr.Stracey for his hard work in the actual removal and to Mr.Carr for his contribution towards the costs. Driving through fields and across the commons remains a problem, although this appears to have subsided a little recently. The frequency of raves, also, appears to have diminished, possibly due to the current inclement weather.

Mr.Dunn thanked Mr.Hunt and Mr.Stracey for their hard work in distributing road salt, provided by OCC, throughout the Parish. This was much appreciated, particularly during the very cold February weather.

The planned Parish Council Website is making encouraging progress, and the Parish Council is in the process of engaging a provider. The website will include copies of minutes, agendas, planning applications etc. It will be an ongoing project and it will be interesting to see how frequently this will be used. Mr.Dunn thanked the members of the working party for all their hard work.

During the past year there have been 26 Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council: who approved 14, refused 3 and gave 'no strong views' on 8. One application had been withdrawn. Of these applications, SODC had approved 19, refused 2 and there are currently no decisions on the 4 remaining applications. (One had been withdrawn). The Parish Council had written to SODC enquiring why they did not agree with Parish Council recommendations, but a full reply has not yet been received.

The Quince Tree (formerly The Stonor Arms) has finally opened and Mr.Dunn wished them every success. Mr.Dunn reported on the arrangements for H.M. The Queen's Jubilee Party to be held at White Pond Farm on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, followed by the lighting of a Beacon on Maidensgrove Common on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10.15 p.m. Mr.Dunn encouraged as many as possible to attend both events.

Finally, Mr.Dunn thanked the Vice-Chairman and all the Parish Councillors for their commitment and hard work over the past year, and also thanked the Clerk for her assistance.

3. Address by PCSO Mark Rawnsley, Thames Valley Police

PCSO Rawnsley has recently been moved from the Woodcote area to cover our Parish, amongst others. He was briefed on the Triathlon issues and is interested in the concerns of the parishioners. He will request that Police Sergeant Graham Pink contacts the Thames Valley Police Events Team, who will also contact Just Racing, the Triathlon organisers. Sgt. Pink will telephone the Clerk when a reply is received. Parishioners are encouraged to contact the local police by using their website, or by dialling 101 for non-emergency calls.

4. Address by the District Councillor, Revd. Angie Paterson

Cllr. Paterson outlined the current Boundary Review, which will result in reducing District Councillor numbers from 48 to 36. This will definitely affect the Watlington Ward, of which Pishill with Stonor is a part, as it is currently a two-member Ward.

The Core Strategy for Planning is still going through the examination stage and another hearing regarding Thame and Wallingford is scheduled during May; there will then be a full consultation process.

Major changes in the national planning system have resulted by the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act.

Regarding Waste, the District Council has once again been nominated for a recycling award reflecting the excellent results in recycling throughout the district.

There is an area of uncertainty with regard to changes in finance from Central Government. The SODC Budget for the current year has reduced council tax by 2.5%, which has been passed on to residents, but the aim is to continue to deliver statutory requirements and services which residents expect.

5. Address by the County Councillor, Mrs. Caroline Newton

Mr. Dunn introduced Cllr. Newton to the Parish Council and congratulated her on her recent election.

Mrs. Newton outlined her background and experience and encouraged the Parish Council and residents to contact her if she could be of assistance.

On 15<sup>th</sup> May the new OCC Cabinet had been announced under the leadership of Cllr. Ian Hudspeth; Mr. David Nimmo-Smith remains in the Cabinet.

The Electoral Review will result in the reduction of OCC Members from 75 to 65 and there will be some changes in divisions, but these should not affect Pishill with Stonor Parish.

Mrs. Newton outlined the funding availability in respect of the Area Steward (Highways), and was asked to broach the repair to Hollandridge Lane which is now deteriorating very seriously.

Mrs. Newton gave details of funding under the Big Society initiative, which covers community projects that are not within existing charitable finance.

Regarding the Triathlon, Mrs. Newton reported that she understood that there would be a local review, but that a decision to change the overall event would remain in place for 5 years. This caused consternation amongst the Parish Council, and Mrs. Newton will continue her investigations.

6. Open Forum

The following queries were raised by the public:

Q: How much does Just Racing pay to have the B480 closed for the Triathlon?

A: (Cllr. Newton) Not known if any payment is made.

Comment to Cllr. Newton from parishioner:

“Just Racing seems unaware of the local issues, particularly in respect to the impact of closing the main road i.e. B480, for the whole day”. Cllr. Newton noted this comment.

There being no further comments, the Chairman thanked the County and District Councillors, PCSO Rawnsley and the parishioners for their attendance.

This concluded the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

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Chairman