

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting
held via Zoom on
Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Mr. T. Dunn Chairman
Mr. S. Stracey Vice-Chairman
Mr. R. Collett
Mr. S. Haq
Mr. R. Hunt
Mrs. P. Pearce Parish Clerk

Also: Parishioners: Mrs. G. Evans, Mrs. L. Walton

4/21 Welcome by the Chairman Mr. Dunn welcomed all present

5/21 Apologies for absence: Dr. B. Snell, Mr. M. Moore

6/21 Address by the Chairman

The Chairman opened by outlining the change to Parish Council business as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The normal pattern of services had been altered, with the Annual Meeting being cancelled in May 2020, but virtual meetings were held in May September, December and February, with an open air meeting held in July. The Parish Council had circulated information sent by Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, in addition to items published by central Government. Support was given to the various hospitality businesses in the Parish, particularly the pubs, whose takeaway menus are regularly circulated.

The Parish Councillors are all extremely grateful to the volunteers who stepped forward at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, offering help to their neighbours. We had a splendid group of 26 volunteers taken from the whole parish. Interestingly, on only one occasion was help requested, and no other help has been required, probably due to the closeness of our neighbours and the willingness to help without the need to go through an 'official channel'.

Due to the Covid pandemic, meetings have been less regular than usual. There was a virtual meeting in May last year, which was not the normal Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting, which had been cancelled by central government due to the restrictions. The subsequent meeting in July was held in the open air at White Pond Farm, and this was followed in September and December by virtual meetings. A further virtual meeting was held in February, which was purely in response to the Planning Application P21/S0047/FUL at Grove Farm, Pishill.

During the Covid restrictions, the parish council has endeavoured to keep parishioners informed by circulating various items of interest sent from Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council as well as updated details of Government regulations. The Parish Council has also tried to support local businesses by publicising hospitality businesses and take-away menus from the local pubs.

A new noticeboard has been provided for Stonor, and the original noticeboard at Pishill has been re-sited opposite the entrance to The Crown. We are very grateful to Mr. Bill Eastwood and Mr. Guy Godfrey for their help with both of these.

In response to Government regulations, the parish website has been re-vamped to achieve greater accessibility for mobile phone users etc.

6/21 Address by the Chairman

Work to soakaways and ditches has been undertaken this year, notably to the large soakaway in Church Lane, Pishill, and the ditches along the B480 in Stonor and Balham's Lane. The swale ditch situated in Stonor Park has also been cleared. The Parish Council has funded these works chiefly through the Community Infrastructure Levy, whilst the County Council has undertaken the swale ditch work.

The refusal of refuse collection trucks to visit some homes in Maidensgrove necessitated the repair of a track across the common. It is thanks to the hard work and commitment of Mr. Andy Wilson and the parish councillors liaising with Biffa and South Oxfordshire District Council, that this issue was eventually solved and we are grateful to them for their co-operation. The residents had generously contributed two-thirds of the cost, with the parish council contributing the remaining third.

Mr. Stephen Haq had obtained twenty sets of litter pickers for use by parishioners and these have been distributed. Due to the ongoing lockdown restrictions, sadly the annual litter blitz is postponed for the moment, but we are hopeful that it can take place in the Autumn.

The Parish Council has achieved a momentary stay of execution on the BT telephone box in Stonor, but sadly failed to retain the box in Russells Water despite parish council objections. The disadvantage with the Stonor box is that the electric interior light has been removed by BT and the parish council is endeavouring to have this reinstated.

Fly-tipping is proving a constant problem, with pork offal being left on Maidensgrove Common on two occasions, and various items being tipped throughout the parish, most notably in Russells Water. We are very grateful to all those parishioners who keep us informed, who often clear the rubbish themselves and who are willing to contact Biffa direct. This all assists in keeping the parish tidy and attractive.

Stiles and gates to the footpaths have been monitored by the parish council and arrangements made for their repair when necessary.

Planning

Since January 2020 the Parish Councillors have considered 36 planning applications, of these they have supported 20, had no objection to 7 and objected to 5, 4 were withdrawn prior to determination. Of these, SODC have approved 24, 4 were withdrawn and 8 are awaiting determination.

The Parish Council has also maintained a 'watching brief' on land adjacent to The Orchard at Russells Water and also arranged a specific parish council meeting on 2nd February 2021 in response to an application for the construction of a hotel in Pishill. This has since been refused by SODC.

Oxfordshire County Council report had been received from Mr. Steven Harrod, the OCC Councillor; this is available on the Parish website.

South Oxfordshire District Council report – this was expected from SODC Councillor Ms. Anna Badcock prior to the meeting and, on receipt, will be published on the Parish website.

Mr. Dunn closed his address by sincerely thanking all his fellow Parish Councillors who had all been co-operating so well as a team during the Covid 19 pandemic. Mr. Dunn also thanked the Clerk for her support over the year.

7/21 Open Forum The Chairman invited questions from members of the public, but there were none. He thanked all those present for attending and declared this section of the meeting closed at 7.08 pm.

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Chairman