

PISHILL WITH STONOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held at White Pond Farm, Stonor
on 20th July 2023

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

Also present: Cllr F VanMierlo (District & County Councillor); Mr A de Segundo, Mr T Forster, Mr D King

61/23 To receive apologies for absence
Apologies received by Mrs F Hunt and Dr B Snell

62/23 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations re: items on the Agenda None

63/23 To agree Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 16th May 2023
The Parish Council resolved to agree the Minutes as a true record, duly signed by the Chairman.
To discuss any matters arising None

64/23 To agree Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2023
The Parish Council resolved to agree the Minutes as a true record, duly signed by the Chairman
To discuss any matters arising None

65/23 To invite public participation re: items on the Agenda 74/23 Road closures at Maidensgrove

66/23 To receive reports on Planning Applications:

- a) P23/S0932/FUL Chapel Wells, Pishill – erection of belvedere, SODC refusal 12th May 2023
- b) 'The Crown' Public House, Pishill The Clerk had contacted Planning and Enforcement Officers prior to the meeting, but only an acknowledgement had been received. The Chairman reported that he had contacted the Manager, Mr N de Haan, reminding him of promises made to hold a meeting with the local community and that a feasibility study would be undertaken. Various assurances had been made, which had not been forthcoming and the community is becoming unimpressed by the lack of action.
When Mr Haq and Mr Collett had visited the site, they noted the considerable number of vehicles parked outside.
Cllr VanMierlo had no new information regarding the current position, but said he would report back when he had heard from Planning and Enforcement officers.

b/f

67/23 To report on current situation re: land adjacent to The Orchard, Russells Water
Mr Collett reported that there had been no change.

68/23 To receive report on parish communications including purchase of replacement laptop
Mr Haq had established that the mobile telephone mast in Stonor was installed by EE and it is possible to access a signal providing one is a subscriber to EE, but not other providers. The parish laptop had ceased to function and, in spite of the efforts of Mr Haq and Mr Lewis a parishioner in Stonor, it had not been possible to repair the problems. It was therefore agreed that a replacement laptop should be provided and Mr Haq purchased this through his company, Audim Ltd., for which he was thanked. Mr Lewis then spent a considerable time re-installing the information contained on the broken laptop and the parish councillors requested that Mr Dunn should write to Mr Lewis thanking him for his assistance.

69/23 Finance and Administration

- a) To report on Bank Balances
Barclays Community Account balance is £12,263.93; the Amenity Account balance is £738.47
- c) To agree ratification of cheques issued from Community Account since last meeting
The following cheques were ratified:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| Ch no: 100687 South Oxfordshire District Council, election expenses | £200.00 |
| 100688 Audim Limited – purchase of new Dell laptop for Parish Cncl | £799.01 |
- To agree ratification of cheques issued from Amenity Account in respect of HM The King's Coronation Party:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| Ch.no 100064 Mrs L. Stracey Coronation party expenses | £81.41 |
| 100065 Mr. S. Stracey Coronation party expenses | £125.00 |
| 100066 Majestic Wines per Mr T Dunn | £521.40 |
| 100067 Mrs. F. Hunt Coronation party expenses | £68.92 |
| 100068 Mrs P Pearce Coronation party expenses | £178.48 |
| 100069 Sue Ryder Charity donation | £300.00 |
| 100070 Mrs P Pearce Coronation party expenses | £60.00 |
- d) To agree payment of the following from the Community Account
The following cheques were sanctioned:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Ch.no: 100689 HMRC PAYE | £83.32 |
| 100690 PA Pearce (Cirks wgs 63hrsx13.48ph=£849.24-PAYE 83.32+exps 21.75) | £787.67 |
- e) Insurance renewal received from Gallagher
The Clerk reported that the insurance policy had been renewed and the paperwork received.
- f) Internal audit report received
Ms Elizabeth Cooper had completed the internal audit and the resulting report had been forwarded to the external auditors, More, together with the other completed details.
Ms Cooper's account is awaited.

70/23 To receive Commons Report

- a) Driving on Commons Nothing to report
- b) Replacement 5 metal signs on Maidensgrove Common The signs are awaiting installation and are currently in White Pond Farm barn. SS

71/23 To receive Footpaths Report Mrs Hunt was unable to attend the meeting, but no problems have been reported.

72/23 To receive Roads report

ALL

- a) To report of meeting with OCC Highways Technical Officer
Mr Collett and Mr Haq had met OCC Highways Technical Officer, Jonathan Beale on 17th July.
Mr Haq reported as follows:
Mr. Beale recommends a Speed Survey as a first step. These will cost approx. £200 each and would entail a cable stapled on the road with a logger attached to a telegraph pole. He recommends they be on the road within the new speed limit area rather than on the point of where the limit changes. It was discussed having one each in Pishill, Stonor and Russell's Water.
OCC will take the results as percentiles and generally ignore the top and bottom 15%. If the 85th percentile is around 35 mph, this is seen as a good result. Mr Collett and Mr Haq expressed the view that it was the top 15th percentile that concerned the councillors the most – as these are the people who speed excessively.
The first step on traffic calming would be "roundels" (the speed limit painted in a circle on the road), "Dragon's Teeth" (zig-zags painted on the road) and white gates at the position where the speed limit changes. OCC will fund 50% of these measures.

278

72/23 To receive Roads report (cont)

To report of meeting with OCC Highways Technical Officer (cont)

The step after this is signage – inc. electronic signage. There are 2 type: mobile and permanent. OCC do not fund the signs (which cost around £2,000), but they will fund installation of poles to which they are connected. The “smiley face” signs cannot be permanent, but the ones that show the Speed limit as a road sign, can be.

The step after this is temporary Police traps (where fines are issued) or community speed traps (where infringements are sent to Police for them to deal with as they see fit). Cllr VanMierlo suggested applying to the County Councillors' Priority Fund, details of which are on the OCC website, or the SODC Community Grant which closes on 20th October 2023.

Additionally, it was discussed who was responsible for cutting hedging and cleaning road signs, Mr Beale recommended that the Parish keeps on top of this as they have no resources to do so.

b) Parishioner comment received re: replacement of trees along B480 from Stonor to Pishill

The Clerk reported that an email had been received following the incident of a large oak tree falling across the B480 between Middle Assendon and Stonor. Thankfully there were no resultant injuries, but a parishioner had requested by email that consideration be given to the eventual replacement of the old oak trees from Middle Assendon to Pishill.

The councillors discussed the proposal, reminding the meeting that the replacement of the trees had been considered on a previous occasion, but the land does not belong to the parish and consideration should be given to the fact that trees planted on the verges pose additional hazards to road users in the event of collision. It would also be necessary to water the newly planted trees very frequently in order to ensure their survival. It was agreed that Mr Stracey would contact Evelyn Trust to ascertain their views.

SS

c) Mr Dunn brought the attention of Cllr VanMierlo to the generally dreadful state of the roads.

Mr VanMierlo suggested that the poor situation had been inherited from the previous Conservative majority in the County Council, but Mr Stracey pointed out that Balham's Lane, which is party under the control of Bucks County Council, has been fully repaired – which throws the poor quality of maintenance undertaken by Oxfordshire, into stark relief.

d) Mr Dunn also reminded Cllr VanMierlo of the undertaking to provide a permanent sign at the bottom of Hollandridge Lane to forbid access by HGV vehicles.

73/23 To receive report on Refuse & Waste Collection

Noting to report

74/23 Matters for discussion at the discretion of the Chairman

a) Mr de Segundo was invited to address Cllr VanMierlo concerning the continued inefficiency of Thames Water and OCC regarding road closures affecting The Five Horseshoes PH and the residents of Maidensgrove and Russells Water. These closures are regarded as being unacceptable and compensation should be forthcoming for the publicans who have lost countless days trading. Mr de Segundo supported his remarks with a timetable of the days and hours actually worked on the repairs, resulting in 4 days closure for no more than 2 hours work.

75/23 Date, time and place of next meeting

To be confirmed: Thursday, 14th September, 2023, 7.00 p.m., at The Village Hall, Russells Water

PP

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all those for attending and declared the meeting closed at 20.20.

.....Chairman