

STANTON ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton St John Parish Council held on **Monday 14th December 2015** at **7.30 pm** in the village hall.

Present: David Polgreen (in the chair), Andrew Clark, Charlie Burt, Gina Moore
Alex Smith, David Stern, Clare Massey (Clerk), John Walsh (District Councillor) for part,

86. Apologies Anne Purse (County Councillor)

87. Declarations of interest in Agenda items - None

88. Approve and sign minutes of meeting held on Monday 16th November 2015 previously circulated. These were accepted as a true record of the meeting and duly approved and signed off by the Chairman.

89. PUBLIC FORUM

SODC - Local Plan 2031 next stage consultation will come out in the Spring. SODC have been setting their budget for next year. They are going to be linking with 3 other authorities to tender for services to hopefully get a better deal. Also more services are going to be outsourced such as finance and HR. Hopefully savings achieved this way will mean they can freeze their portion of the council tax and not have to make service cut backs.

OCC - The County Council will arrange meetings with bus companies in the New Year so that people can negotiate with potential bus operators with a view to seeing what can be provided.

A group has been formed to fight the cuts to the Wheatley Children's Centre and also to raise funds to continue the work.

90. Matters arising from last meetings

Repair to walls in village including Mill Street - Alex will carry out a list of which areas need repairing.

ACTION - Alex Smith

Damage to wall on Pound Lane - Still no response from SPORN construction. David Polgreen will call and see if he can talk to them to ask what we need to do to get this resolved.

ACTION - David Polgreen to call SPORN construction

Bayswater Brook - No response has been received

ACTION - Clerk to ask Anne Purse who else to contact.

91. Planning

91.1 Planning Applications received:

P15/S3753/HH Single storey rear extension 2 Lodge Cottages Woodperry OX33 1AQ - No strong views submitted before the meeting.

91.2 Planning Decisions to be noted:

P15/S2477/FUL Proposed replacement gardeners facility and new service centre. Oxford Crematorium Bayswater Road near Headington OX3 9RZ - WITHDRAWN

91.3 Planning Decisions pending:

- i) P15/S2242/FUL Erection of an agricultural building. Holly Cottage Mill Street Stanton St John OX33 1HJ
- ii) P15/S3060/FUL Conversion of existing outbuilding (including insertion of fenestration and internal works) to provide two holiday accommodation units Rectory Farm Pound Lane Stanton St John OX33 1HF.
- iii) P15/S3418/FUL 1 Woodperry Hill Stanton St John OX33 1AL Demolition of existing dwelling with extant planning permission to extend, subsequent erection of new four bed dwelling.

91.4 Green Belt Study opinions - Andrew Clark and David Polgreen will meet with Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council to discuss a consistent response.

91.5 Look at SODC planning decision vs SSJ PC planning responses - generally consistent.

91.6 Invitation from Beckley with Stowood for Neighbourhood Plan discussion - It was decided that we should be included in initial discussions and a firm decision will be taken whether to be included by the full council with extra information. A main concern is that if areas where development 'is not minded' are detailed in the plan that this means developers will very quickly submit to build there.

92. Letter from Julian Money Regarding Village Maintenance

Julian can no longer commit to all of the jobs he does for the parish council. The grass cutting will need to be done by someone else. Thanks to Julian for all the work he has done were recorded.

ACTION - Clerk to get quotes from Oxford City Services, Michael Hawkins and Ben Gristwood to mow the play area and periphery of the village hall.

93. Letter from Lord Stanley Regarding Hedges in Pound Lane

Lord Stanley has written to individuals concerned separately so this was not felt to be a Parish Council matter.

94. Reporting of Public Forum in minutes

Concern was raised about individuals expressing their own opinions in the public forum which when minuted must be clear not to be from the parish council. It was suggested that by being in the 'public forum' section it is clear these are members of the public raising their own points. It would help to keep it clear by stating in the minutes 'a member of the public raised' and then it should be made clear what action the Parish Council decide to take if any.

95. Finance

95.1 Applications for routine subscriptions and donations:

Tax Aid

Open Spaces Society

95.2 Accounts for payment:

Clerks Pay 11th Nov - 9th Dec (4 weeks)

£381.20

All agreed

95.3 Receipts -

None

95.4 Balances at bank

Current Account as at 30th November 2015

£10,351.38

Deposit Account as at 1st October 2015

£9,365.49

95.5 Discussions for budget and precept setting 2016/2017

It was felt it is necessary to increase the precept due to the services which are being cut by OCC and therefore being picked up by parish councils. The policy of passing these services was felt to be a one-way route and concern was that these services would then remain parish council responsibility. It was suggested that where we undertake some services which used to be carried out by county council or district council budget that we make it clear with them that it was their responsibility and ask for a contribution.

There are a number of capital projects which are likely to need increased financial support next year, speed reduction, wall repairs, play area replacement, upkeep of the recreation ground and potentially writing a neighbourhood plan. As such it was agreed unanimously that an increase of £4,000 was needed on the precept raising it to £15,500. For a band D dwelling this represents an £18.38p increase in their yearly council tax bill for the parish council portion or £1.53 a month. It was felt the reserves were of the correct level as the budget wouldn't meet all capital projects above and may be needed to support any new transport schemes.

96. Safety on B4027, speed signs and response from Chief Constable

David Stern will respond to Alison Mitchell's latest email. Gina Moore had noted an article in the Beckley newsletter about keeping up pressure on the County Council to improve safety at the dangerous Lodge Farm double bend on the B4027. Clare Massey had met with a county council senior traffic technician to discuss the issues the parish council have. A vehicle activated sign would cost more if purchased through them, Wheatley parish council are currently trying to purchase signs privately and get them installed and are working with the county council to resolve legal issues, once this is done we may be able to do the same. The cost of putting a 20mph speed limit through the village would be £2500. It was suggested that one way to make the corner outside the Talkhouse safer for pedestrians would be to have a mirror opposite to see coming cars.

ACTION - David Stern to draft letter in response, Gina Moore to speak to Beckley, Clerk to follow up on new speed limit options and talk to Talkhouse regarding a mirror on their land.

97. Outcome from Bus Consultation

The current decision is to cut all bus subsidies but this will be finalised at the February budget meeting. If there is an option in the budget some subsidy could be saved which would mean saving route 118. Everyone has been encouraged to write to their MP and Anne Purse their county councillor ahead of February's meeting to reiterate how important the bus service is to the village. No response has been received from the transport county councillor, David Nimmo-Smith to our letter stating our disappointment that the consultation responses seem to contradict the decision to remove the subsidy. It was decided to write to him again pointing out how devastating it will be particularly for the elderly in the village to lose the bus service.

ACTION - Clerk to write to David Nimmo-Smith

98. Appointment of External Auditor from 2017

It was agreed that the council will use the NALC / SLCC chosen auditor.

99. Correspondence Received

- i) CPRE magazine Winter 2015
- ii) Wheatley Newsletter Dec-Jan 2016 - Circulated on email
- iii) War Memorial - invitation to comment on consultation report
- iv) BBOWT Magazine December 2015

v) Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire - plans for Her Majesty the Queens 90th Birthday 11th-12th June 2016

vi) Concern was raised that by moving our meeting to the second Monday of the month this will always clash with Holton's meetings creating issues for our District and County Councillor.

ACTION - Clerk to investigate.

Dates of Meetings

SSJ Parish Council Meeting - 11th January 2016, 7:30pm, Village Hall

SSJ Parish Council Meeting - 8th February 2016, 7:30pm, Village Hall