

Old Stratford Parish Council

MINUTES OF OLD STRATFORD ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
Held on 25th April 2017 at the Memorial Hall, 2 Deanshanger Road

Present:

Cllrs Mr A Pateman (in the chair), Mr C Carey, Mr A Holloway, Mrs N Laurence, Mrs L Murgatroyd, Mrs L Ritson, Mrs N Ryder, Mr R Smith & Mrs S Tait
Also present were Mr D Everett (Clerk), Cllrs Mr K Pritchard (SNC) & Mr A Walker (NCC), and 5 members of the public

1. Apologies

Ms K Morris

2. Minutes of the 2016 AOM

Minutes of the AOM meeting had been previously displayed and approved at the May 2016 AGM

3. Any Outstanding Matters

(The Swan, Blackhorse Field housing and other development updates)

(a) **The Swan Inn** the redevelopment of the PH is progressing well after demolition of the barn and site clearance

(b) **Blackhorse Field housing** (the clerk gave an update)

125 dwellings

12 shared ownership

38 rented (including 4 bungalows)

75 for sale

Conditions indicate that after 50 dwellings are built allotments / play area be made ready (Yet experience shows that despite this condition the site compound is located there as developments conditions) An allotments list of applicants is continually updated

The entrance and new crossing place/central bollard and history explained (review unlikely to take place will until estate roads are adopted?) and Discussed

(d) **Other developments**

(i) Update on the ACE Plant relocation? Now sold relocation site? Redevelopment of Cosgrove Road is dependent on relocation (whether to Furtho Pit site or Silverstone)

(ii) Land off The Meadows (River View and Paddock Road) has commenced - removal of trees and hedgerow has been an issue despite TPOs put on a No of trees at the boundary of the fields by MKPT. SNC Enforcement Officer is monitoring

4. Petitions or Questions from Electors (*before 12 noon that day*)

E-mail re OS RAB (congestion and latest rumours), Stony Stratford health provisions for OS; Route 89A (which no longer passes through OS); have all been raised, dealt with or await resolutions.

5. Presentation of Accounts

Outlined by the clerk, especially the current level of Precept and spending:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| (a) | To receive Audited Accounts 2015/2016 | } No comments |
| (b) | Observation of Finance 2016/2017 | } No comments |
| (c) | Budget Proposals 2017/2018 | } No comments |

6. Report from Northamptonshire Police

Not present ambiguous figures that do not show Burglaries, theft or motor crime

Previous Crime figures >

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Burglary Dwelling</i> | <i>12 > No separate category</i> |
| <i>Burglary</i> | <i>Not listed</i> |
| <i>Criminal Damage</i> | <i>6 > 6</i> |
| <i>Drugs</i> | <i>1 > 1</i> |
| <i>Violence/ Behaviour</i> | <i>16 > 18</i> |
| <i>Sexual Offences</i> | <i>0 > }</i> |
| <i>Robbery</i> | <i>0 > }</i> |
| <i>Theft from M/V</i> | <i>4 > } Not seperately listed</i> |
| <i>Theft of M/V</i> | <i>1 > }</i> |
| <i>Theft / Handling</i> | <i>0 > }</i> |
| <i>Other Offences</i> | <i>7 > 12</i> |
| Total Crimes | 34 (a decrease on previous years 47) |

7. Report from NCC Highways

Not present (outstanding issues outlined by the clerk)

Towcester Road verges remain an issue especially as the Blackhorse Field development is underway (NCC suggested Enhancement gang request); HGV traffic - OSPC have had to take the initiative regarding the amount of HGV traffic from MK as NCC have been unable to influence MKC re assistance (as newsletter stated, letters to hauliers re MK expansion and delivery routes)

Passenham scheme for a one way system is being considered and supported

8. Report from District Councillor Ken Pritchard

I have been your District Councillor for the past 6 months and am still learning about how the Parishes and Council interact and hopefully I have been able to support your council on some issues that have arisen recently

I would like to thank The Clerk, Derek and Tony your Chairman and other members of the Council for the support they have given me and this has certainly helped me in becoming more familiar with my responsibilities. It is very encouraging to work with people who are enthusiastic and dedicated to improving the village and I am sure that I speak on behalf of many of the residents of Old Stratford in thanking you the Parish Councillors for your time and efforts in improving the village and it's environment. Judging when I attend the monthly meetings there are still a lot of ideas and potential improvements to come. Since taking office I have been appointed to committees on the Council namely, Budget and Finance, Planning, Community Funding and represent the Council on the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Panel. I will ensure when appropriate to fully represent the Parish Council and residents of Old Stratford with issues that may affect them and the village.

When I say village or mention Old Stratford of course I include Passenham . !!

South Northants A Great Place to Live as a recent Halifax survey continues to rank South Northants as the 13th best place to live in the country. Unemployment is one of the lowest in the country and this has been assisted by SNC running their Job Club programme which gets people back into work. Our waste and recycling record is one of which we remain proud having achieved 59.9% recycling rate. This put SNC in 11th position in the country.

SNC Financial Highlights Funding continues to be reduced from central government, we are getting less money from grant but with growing housing numbers, growing business rates we continue to balance the books. SNC are currently investigating commercial opportunities to increase income to balance further anticipated Government cuts. The government gave SNC a four year financial settlement and we have a little more certainty but there are still many levers that government can pull to control expenditure. SNC continue to be one of the best at collecting council

tax with 99.1% of all tax collected. Only about a dozen councils consistently collect above 99% the national average is 98%

New Homes Bonus continues to be paid by SNC into separate parish ring fenced funds. SNC is one of the few Councils that pass this money back to directly benefit the areas of housing growth. Changes made by the government mean that in 2017/18 new homes bonus will be paid for 5 years not 6 as in 2016/17. It will reduce further in 2018/19 to 4 years. There is a new “deadweight” factor, which means in effect the first 155 houses built in SNC area will not qualify for new homes bonus. For 2017/18 the current allocation process will continue dividing the available pot by the number of houses per parish. This will be reviewed during the year. The money accrued to date is safe and is still available for the parish to use. The rate of growth will slow in future years and should be flagged early. 2017 will see another £703,192 been added to the allocations to the parishes. In the previous years £2.2 million has been allocated bringing the total to £2.9 million. So far £1.35 million has been spent leaving £1.54 million awaiting a bid from the parishes.

Old Stratford has £29,613 available for village projects. In addition to the Parishes the voluntary sector has also benefited from a funding allowing SNC to continue, and increase, the levels of support within the district.

Council Tax SNC part of the Council Tax bill was only raised by £5 a year for a Band D property the same as last year. The amount for this year is £180.37 per year. In terms of your bin collections 87 pence per bin per week to have it emptied. (Based on Blue, Black, Green, Food)

Chief Executive Sue Smith the joint CEO retired in February. She was our first Joint Chief with Cherwell District Council and was instrumental in the success of this joint venture. Sues replacement as Joint Chief has is Yvonne Rees, who currently is the joint Director of Community at Surrey County Council and Chief Executive at Mole Valley District Council. It is anticipated that she commences her duties in July.

Planning The Local Plan Part 2A, which sets forth SNC’s the planning criteria for the future is now being discussed. The draft of this is now public and available for comment. SNC have request feedback on this draft before a formal consultation which will begin in the summer. There are maps showing the village confines which in large have not changed, however, it does take into account the Blackhorse Drive and Meadowside developments. As it stands at present there is little opportunity for further expansion of new housing within Old Stratford and we await formal village confines missing since 1997.

There is a new Central Government White Paper that proposes changes to the planning system and the way that numbers of houses built are assessed. Until we know the details it is impossible to say if SNC plans are adequate or need revision. We continue to keep a watching brief.

One of the main areas of contention at planning appeals is the issue of the 5 year land supply. Developers often argue that that their proposed development should or should not be included in the 5 year formula. The new White paper suggests there will be a standard method of assessment to follow. This should bring welcome clarity. Our Council has a current land supply sufficient for 8.2 years. The land supply is based on assessing the number of houses we plan to build per the Core Strategy document, versus the number of planning permissions granted. We must demonstrate that we have a minimum of 5 years supply. At 8 years supply we have demonstrated we are well within the target figure. However, within the Joint Core Strategy there is an area identified and known as the Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA) this has all of the Northampton Borough area and some parts of South Northants and Daventry districts. The land supply within the NRDA is well below the 5 year minimum required. Recently an appeal in Daventry area was won by a developer who successfully argued that although not in the NRDA it was sufficiently close to help and given the NRDA does not have the 5 year land supply the presumption in favour should apply. The inspector agreed. The Local Plan Part 2a will also include two provisional sites on the edge of Northampton for 1000 and 1400 houses. These are reserve sites which have been identified as a defence mechanism to protect the district from unwanted development. We intend to bring these forward only if the land supply in the NRDA requires it, and should anyone try to run the same

argument in South Northants we have a counter argument that we are attempting to help with this allocation.

Towcester Town Expansion An outline planning permission for Persimmon Homes and Bloor Homes has been in place since 2014. The design code to cover the design of the houses has been agreed in the past twelve months and the detailed planning permissions for the first approx. 500 been granted out of an anticipated total of 2700 houses. Three weeks ago, opposite the racecourse, work started on the new round about to enable to give access to the land. This will take a few months to build and will result in some overnight closures on the A5.

Ultimately this housing development will bring a relief Road to Towcester and the Council has been working closely with government to get the relief road delivered early. At present the agreement states that the road is not required until in excess of 1000 houses have been completed. We want to get this road completed earlier and the Leader of SNC, has had meetings with the Roads Minister, Andrea Leadsom our MP to achieve this goal.

Two critical roundabouts on the A43 have been completed and will help to improved traffic flow and support the expansion of Towcester namely The Tove Roundabout (at Tesco / VW) and the Abthorpe Roundabout (McDonalds) .

Moat Lane Moat Lane development continues with work starting on the corner site along Northampton Road for retail shops and apartments above. The work that has been done so far is of an exceptionally high standard and is a real enhancement to the town.

Horton Hospital Consultation SNC have been working with Cherwell, Stratford upon Avon and Banbury Town Councils to challenge in a very robust form the proposals to reduce the services at the Horton Hospital. We have written to the NHS to tell them that the split consultation is, in our view, unacceptable and we need them to have a single holistic consultation. This issues affects about a third of the area of SNC and we will continue to put the case that our residents need better treatment than this. It is disappointing that the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has not responded positively to the concerns of the council and SNC has joined with Cherwell District Council, Stratford upon Avon Council and Banbury Town Council to issue a legal challenge in the form of a judicial review to assess the lawfulness of the split consultation.

Supporting Local Business The Council is determined to have a council that is open for business. SNC recently hosted, at Towcester Racecourse, an evening to meet with local business and help them network. More are planned later in the year. To help grow business large areas of land for employment use has been allocated at Silverstone and Junction 16 M1. MEPC the new owners of Silverstone circuit have delivered several new units on the site and have opened a metallurgy lab for companies to measure and test components this facility can be rented by the hour by smaller companies. To support business SNC have introduced a series of grants for Towcester Town Centre funded from planning S106 money. This fund has £140,000 to match fund up to 50% the cost of shop front changes in Towcester. We are hoping to do similar in Brackley when funds are available. SNC have introduced a new policy to help bring long term empty properties back into use. SNC will give rates relief on properties that have been empty for more than 6 months in the centre of Brackley or Towcester.

Car Parking In the past year the new car park on Northampton Road, Tove Long Stay has been opened and in July 16 it was fully opened giving 160 additional spaces to the town. This car park is free of charge without waiting time restrictions.

The short stay car park has been restricted to a maximum 3 hour waiting limit and the car parking in front of the Town Hall re painted with a few less spaces but now have spaces that are the correct size to enable the 2 hour limit to be enforced.

These changes have had a great positive effect on the car parking in Towcester.

The second part of the district wide car parking strategy was completed and considered by council. This states that there is a need to find additional parking especially in Brackley and Towcester to cope with the growth of the towns. Brackley needs approx. 50 spaces in the next 5 years, Towcester 120 in the next decade, although the extra capacity at Northampton Rd provided 110 of those.

Major Projects in the District SNC have arranged a £3m loan facility for the Silverstone Heritage

Centre (total project cost of approx. £18m) which is being part funded by £9m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This will provide an excellent tourist attraction for the area and is due to open in 2019. Work has commenced on the refurbishment of the Grade 2* listed Brackley Town Hall which has been funded by £2.3m from Heritage Lottery Fund and £500k from both Brackley Town Council and SNC. This will ensure the iconic building in the centre of one of our historic market towns is assured and will kick start the regeneration of the Town Centre.

Action on Fly Tipping In the past year SNC has introduced a new policy to allow for fixed penalty notices for fly tippers to be issued. SNC does prosecute when it can find the evidence but there are costs and risks of going to court. Several people have faced a mix of fines and costs totally several thousand pounds.

Taxi Licensing New Policy Primarily driven by a desire to increase standards and improve customer safety. We are one of the first authorities in the area to introduce compulsory Safeguarding Training. We know from other places that taxi drivers can be a great source of intelligence and training them in what to spot may help prevent abuse.

Smoke Detectors for Private Landlords In the past year SNC introduced a new policy to enable it to give large fixed penalty fines to any landlord who does not fit smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their property. They face a first warning, then a hefty fine if not rectified within 7 days.

Ken Pritchard Email: ken.pritchard@southnorthants.gov.uk Mobile 07764 939070

9. Report from County Councillor Allen Walker Deanshanger Ward including Old Stratford I will only give a Verbatim report to all 11 Parishes I represent including Old Stratford, NCC. It has been a busy year again this year, what with. The Budget, Devolution and Brexit!!! We used to run on a revenue budget of £1.2B which has now been reduced to £840M. Council Tax is 4.95% this being the 4th lowest in the Country. We have invested £54M in a new building for our workforce, closing 12 older building that were not congenial for working purposes. The County Council over next 4 years will split into 5 depts. namely: Transport, Social Care, Children's Services, Communities and Place as well as Finance. All controlled from the Centre by the Cabinet and us 57 Councillors. We will still be Scrutinising these services and will continue to hold 51% of overall control.

Devolution. Has brought its own problems with the 6 Districts + The Borough and County Council, not being able to agree to a Unitary Authority. This will also rumble on for some time. I am pragmatic about this insomuch I will decide what is best for you the residents I represent (If re-elected).

Brexit. Has had no effect on us yet

Locally. MK Master Plan, Traffic Accidents, Buses, A508.

Empowering Councillor Money. Cosgrove WI for Map. Cosgrove PC for replacement railings.

Finally. I have through putting it into the Transport Strategy at NCC some 18 months ago got £3.5M for reconstruction work to the Old Stratford Roundabout, which will commence late 17 early 18

My duties at NCC are, Chair East Midlands Scrutiny Network also the Chief Whip and my role as District Councillor for Deanshanger, SNC Scrutiny Chairman.

I would again like to thank. Derek, CPC Councillors and you the public for your forbearance, whilst dealing with any local problems.

I can be contacted on: - allenwalkert14@outlook.com. awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk. And 01908 260302.

10. Any Other Business

None

With no other business the meeting close at 8.52pm