

Old Stratford Parish Council

MINUTES OF OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Tuesday 12th APRIL 2022 at the Memorial Hall Commencing at 7.30pm
Under latest Covid-19 Protocol *Face coverings optional*

Present:

Cllrs Mr T Pateman (in the chair), Mr C Carey, Ms K Morris, Mrs L Murgatroyd, Mrs L Ritson
Mr R Smith, Dr S Tolley & Mrs D Wallace

Also present was Mr D Everett (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mr C Allin (other), Mr A Holloway (Post op) & Mrs N Laurence (IT liaison) (Holiday)

2. Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the Agenda)

None

3. A Casual Vacancy remains

4. Minutes for approval of the Meeting dated Tuesday 8th March 2022

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 8th March 2022 were signed as true record

5. Clerks Report incl: Queens Jubilee celebrations and Queens canopy update (OSIB)

- Queens Jubilee proposals update > Chairman spoke on the preparations and 11 member sub-committee

- The Queens canopy > Jubilee tree planting (orchard?) outlined by OSIB

* Costs of trees agreed (+ another) > clerk to order but invoice due Autumn

- Q re MH green bin (late advice required > order see PCash
- Britannia Bus > Chairman/clerk attended DPC for meeting > update

6. Fallout issues of Gigaclear works in Old Stratford

Current complaints and concerns over 6m restoration period > Site meeting requested

Q why road repairs are tar sealed but footway repairs are not > WNC Highwayst

7. Public Speaking Time (or points raised before the meeting)

No members of the public present

8. WNC Councillors Report

In the absence of Cllr Pritchard > Cllr Ian McCord's April 22 report for Deanshanger Ward is attached at the end of the minutes

9. Correspondence received since last meeting (list at the meeting)

- PSLCC/NCALC advice on agreed clerks pay rise 1.75% back dated to Apr 21

* (Clerk in discussion with the Chairman has agreed to accept rise as of 1/4/22 but not backdated > Adjustment next meeting

- N/CALC eUpdate > circulated
- NJ Blackwell fuel costs rises > circulated for agreement and **RESOLVED** to continue contract with price rise
- NJ Blackwell amended quote noted

10. Planning

(a) Applications

WNS/2022/0639/FUL Side extension 42 Mounthill Ave

* No objection

WNS/20220591/FUL Single storey rear extension (kitchen and utility) and two story side (garage with bedroom over and on suite above) 45 Mounthill Ave

* No objection

INTERIM

WNS/2022/0698/FUL (due to an Enforcement Notice as Extension contrary to planning Approval) a reapplication required due to footprint and windows overlooking Bridge Stores 1 Towcester Rd Bridge Stores (But the plans are as original?)

* **OBJECTION** The plans now submitted are the same as those original approved, for which there was an enforcement notice and a requirement to resubmit.

Whilst Old Stratford Parish Council as the adjacent landowner, will have to accept the encroachment of the footprint towards the boundary and primarily due to lack of site supervision during the build; The addition of the windows however, to the rear and side of the new extension that overlook the rear of the Memorial Hall (where dancers often change under a gazebo during exams and other use activities, is unacceptable, and, these windows should be removed as in the originally approved plans. ANY replacement by opaque glass is unacceptable and Old Stratford Parish Council are adamant that there should be no compromise on this issue as the as this is a storeroom.

(b) Decision notices

(c) Enforcement / Appeals

(d) Press Notices

None

11. Finance

(a) The Council to approve budgetary control to date (attached to the Agenda)

* **RESOLVED** to approve budgetary control by unanimous decision

(b) To Approve Current State of Finance (Provisional end of year)

Treasurer's a/c	£6,692.82
Business Inst a/c:	£58,938.91
Earmarked Reserves:	£38,577.53
Available Capital:	£27,054.20

(c) To Approve Accounts for Payment (proposed AP seconded KW and carried unanimously) 14/3

003649 RBLI Ltd: £113.65 (Jubilee Plaques, bunting and flag)

003650 Clerks Salary: £1,048.60 (£844 + 204.60 Petty Cash)

003651 HMRC: £211.00 (PAYE)

003652 Cleaner: £120.00 (MH cleaning)

003653 DNH Contracts: £165.60 (Environmental Contract > Mar)

003654 NJ Blackwell GS: £2,231.86 (Mowing, Fencing repairs & hedging)

003655 E.ON Next: £281.66 (MH Electric)**

003656 E.ON Next: £415.54 (MH Gas)**

003657 Wave: £44.78 (MH Water Rates)

003658	Amberol Ltd:	£1,087.80 (Replacement and New planter)
003659	Minuteman Press:	£275.00 (Newsletter printing)
003660	Odell & Co Ltd:	£29.51 (OSIB)
003661	TJ Haycock:	£60.00 (Replace power pack MH Defibrillator)
003662	N Power Bus/Solutions:	£2,874.80 (Street lamps - Unmetered supply)

* Note: Green Bin sticker for Memorial Hall IS required > by clerk @ £42 to Petty Cash
** MH Gas & Electric supply: E.ON Next have eventually supplied updated Invoices for payment

12. Street Lighting

PL11MA is damaged and ooo – and OSPC awaits Lighting engineers survey

13. Highways

Parking obstruction (vision) opposite OSCH and build out especially when leaving hall

* Cllr Smith (Police liaison) deals

14. Councillor Questions and Items for Next Agenda

- Land east of 40 Deanshanger Road > lived in caravan no obvious build operation

- Passenham 'One Way' proposals & Manor Farm application position after committee withdrawal

15. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 10th May 2022 (Annual Council Meeting) commencing at 7.30pm

With no other business the meeting closed at 8.54pm

Old Stratford Parish Council
Outstanding Activities
April 2022

Date	Item	Parish Action	Action by Others
Projects	Canal fencing	Deanshanger Road	Original Metal fencing still Under review
Ongoing	WNC Council Surgeries	Suspended UFN	WNC
Ongoing	Allotments	Allocation agreed	Allotments committee running allotments > WC installed
Expand Tracker	Highway Issues Pot holes HGV traffic River Bridge	> Highway Tracker Continual review Monitored Cycle issues	Faults and complaints noted Some patching repairs only HGV traffic Still Under Investigation Unresolved
Ongoing	Blocked drains	When required	Monitoring
SIDs	Installed and working	Data reading available to collate 'One Way?' proposed	Monitoring early responses are positive Supported by OSPC awaits
Highways Tracker	Towcester Road Bus Stop obst'n RAB	> verge repairs OSPC to consider remedy (Report to WNC highways) Markings requested HE funded scheme	Maintenance carried out but already damaged by residents and delivery vehicles <i>resolution sought > parking regs option?</i> (NCC) Small works agreed > chase Improvements completed some safety issues remain > A508
Ongoing	Dog Fouling Litter	<i>Continues on verges and Playing Field - but better</i>	Monitor after additional signs in place > ongoing (Newsletters)
Review	Post Office	Clerk had liaised support with Bridge Stores re 'return' of PO * Londris (supports)	Positive response awaits outcome with PO (negative) - Still No progress despite shop expansion Request for PO counter awaits Disabled bay required by WNC
Ongoing	St Guthlac's	Churchyard maintenance (In addition to regular mowing)	Tree work ongoing Maintenance is reviewed
Ongoing	Hall Close	Old Canal issues	NFA > Awaits WNC advice tree work POS rear of Hall Close completed: Water flow test

Note: Most outstanding issues had been put on hold due to Covid19 & last Lockdown

April PC Report One Year On

The first day of April saw WNC celebrate its first year of operation. Whilst personally it was not the year I had thought it may be, the first year has been unexceptional. The process of integrating all the elements of the previous councils will continue for some time and we cannot expect this to happen overnight otherwise there is a risk to service continuity. The council financially has had as good a start as could be expected. The budget was balanced and the one set for this new financial year is more accurate and more based in the reality than the myriad of assumptions the first one had to be built on. The financial performance should be stronger going forward.

The biggest area for improvement, in my view is the culture and mindset from the administration and leadership. It is too Northampton focused and does not understand life beyond the 30mph sign in Northampton. The attitude that this is what the borough or NCC did and so we must emulate it pervades and needs addressing quickly. The decisions on the local plan and green waste charges were two glaring examples of this in my view. Two real opportunities pursue a different course and let residents know that this council would be different were thrown away because of the processes of 'Northamptonisation' of West Northants Council.

Green Waste Charges

The charging for green waste is now effective – any resident who wants to continue to have their green waste bin emptied will need to pay £42 for a sticker for the year. The council can be contacted on

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/xfp/form/382>

or call 0300 126 7000 for those without internet access

Ukraine Scheme

I am aware of residents who are wanting to host people fleeing the situation in Ukraine. They have proved a bit of a bureaucratic nightmare with a lot of forms to be completed and what looks like over complicated checks and requirement to take up an offer of help for those seeking sanctuary from war. Having contacted the council they are equally as frustrated and it seems everyone is trying to follow the central government guidance that is changing and often incomplete. Thank you to all those who are willing to offer spare rooms to help out.

The WNC website has a dedicated page with advice

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/homes-ukraine>

Energy Rebate

The government has announced that it plans to give all those in properties council tax Band A to D only £150 rebate to help with the spiralling costs of fuel.

For those people currently paying their council tax by Direct Debit, the rebate will be paid directly back into their bank accounts as soon as possible following collection of their first direct debit payment for the Financial Year 2022-23. It is anticipated that the rebate payment will start to be paid into accounts in mid to late April.

All households who do not pay their council tax by direct debit, will receive a letter inviting them to apply via an online application form using a dedicated website. All applications will be subject to a series of validation checks before any payments are made.

In addition to the above rebates, there will be a discretionary scheme, through which the Council will assist vulnerable residents who live in properties in Council Tax bands E to H, or those who do not pay Council Tax. Further details on our local discretionary scheme will be on our website in the coming weeks.

This last point is important as there is not always a direct correlation between means and property size / value. Many, especially elderly, live in larger properties on low incomes, who may avail themselves of this opportunity.

Gigaclear Permitted Development

We have all had complaints and comments about the siting of green gigaclear boxes. These seem to cause a lot of angst in conservation areas. Ken has taken this up and in sort there is not a lot we can do as they do have quite extensive permitted development rights to site their kit where they want, even in conservation areas. We have asked that there is some sensitivity to the siting of this but it seems difficult to get gigaclear to engage. I did try when I spotted them surveying in Yardley Gobion, but they did not contact me further.

All I can advise to those who have not had gigaclear in their village is to try to contact them if you see them surveying and ask to see the proposed layout before they start digging. Once these boxes are in place it is very clear that gigaclear will not move them willingly.

Road Closure Pury End

Sunbelt Rentals have applied for a road closure on the above road. The closure is to allow the safe installation of a new gas connection and it is expected that the road will be closed from the 3rd to 6th May 2022.

The closure and the diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=128296307>

Bus Route 89

I have been working with many of you to get this a better service on the 89 Bus Route. It seems now that the issues are being resolved and I am hopeful we will get an improved service in the very near future. As parishes I think we need to try to help publicise this service and do what we can improve its uptake. I appreciate that it needs to be convenient and fit with how most people who use it want to travel. Fundamentally this needs to be a viable service for the operator, however, it strikes me that with fuel costs at an all time high, if this is not the time to consider taking the bus, when will be?

Consultations & Community Engagement

WNC is currently consulting on the future plans for the Market Square in Northampton. It is planning to have monthly electronic newsletter and an twice yearly printed one starting in the autumn.

Report from Ian McCord – Independent councillor for Deanshanger Ward

William and Ken may or may not agree with any of the views stated herein.

3 April 2022