

# Old Stratford Parish Council

MIUNUTES OF OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023 held at the Memorial Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

*Face coverings remain optional*

**Present:**

Cllrs Mr T Pateman (in the chair), Mr C Carey, Mrs L Murgatroyd, Mr R Smith & (from Min:2) Mrs N Gibbs (Co-opted member)

Also present was Cllr Mr D Everett (Clerk), Mrs N Laurence (OSPC IT liaison) & 1 member of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Mr S Tolley (Work commitments away), Mr A Holloway (Convalesce), Mrs D Wallace & Mrs T Arthur (Family Commitments), Mr K Pritchard (WNC)(Finance meeting WNC) & acknowledging the sad death of Mr C Allin (condolences sent)

**2. A Casual Vacancy**

Now 3 after Karen Morris resignation & the death of Mr C Allin (2 x Notice Posted)

Mrs N Gibbs had attended and had shown interest in joining the Parish Council and was welcomed

\* Declaration of Acceptance before the next meeting and necessary paperwork (SOs / DPI etc)

**3 Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the Agenda)**

None

**4. Minutes of Meeting dated Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and the Cancelled December meeting report**

Minutes of the meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> November and the Finance Minutes of the cancelled December meeting were signed as a true record

**5. Clerks Report**

The clerk gave formal 4 months notice of retirement after 31 years. NL was near completion of CiLCA and an interim salary and date as Deputy Clerk **RESOLVED** to be agreed

\* Cllr Murgatroyd raised the Q on advertising for the clerks position (discussed along with good practice)

**6. Public Speaking Time**

No public now present

**7. WNC Councillors Report**

No report forwarded

**8. Correspondence received since last meeting (list at the meeting)**

- Chapmans Drive Play Area late email /Photos re damage

**9. Planning**

**(a) Applications received**

**WNS/2022/2352/FUL Subdivision of rear garden to create one 3 Bed dwelling (access from Brookside Close). Sallow Copse 40 Deanshanger Road**

\* **OBJECTION** Backland development contrary to planning policy (especially as the access proposed is through the private road and parking area of Brookside Close, where access is to be approved by the Brookside Residents Association? This would create a dangerous precedent especially given the proposed foul sewer connection

**WNS/2022/2320/106DV Deed of Variation Holtons Yard off Deanshanger Road now The Meadows (Claus 4 of 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule (Social Housing element))**

\* Noted

**INTERIM**

**WNS/2023/0011/MAF** Affordable housing off The Meadows and River View

\* **OBJECTION** In the initial literature produced by the applicant it was stated that at least 38 people were in need of Social or Affordable housing and this is why this application was put forward. Yet we have not been consulted by WNC on housing need in Old Stratford or see an attached report from WNC to support this.

Currently the first phase of The Meadows estate has affordable houses available and just recently

**WNS/2022/2320/106DV** the developer have asked for their affordable and social status to be removed as the Housing Association were having difficulty in disposing of these houses.

If this is the case, where has this local need for these type of properties come from?

Observing the site map and plan, shows that the current historical footpath will be relocated to allow for property layout which is in part of the flood plain. There has been NO consultation with the Parish Council regarding the relocation of this footpath or diversion or an Environmental Impact Assessment regarding flood risk.

There is also a section of land bordering the south side of the development within the parish boundary which the applicant states that they will give to Milton Keynes Parks Trust. The Parish Council and residents cannot understand why the applicant wishes to give the land to them and has not being offered to the Parish Council as public open space

*For the reasons outlined above and given the history of refused applications for this area and that planning laws only allow affordable housing outside the village confines in certain circumstance as part of a new development within confines. We seek that this application be refused.*

- (b) Decision Notices
- (c) Enforcement / Appeals
- (d) Press Notices

None

**10. Finance**

**(a) Current State of Finance**

Treasurer's a/c	£5,982.45
Business Inst a/c:	£32,303.93
Earmarked Reserves:	£63,927.71
<b>Available Capital:</b>	<b>£8,083.26</b>

**(b) Accounts for Payment** (proposed by AP and seconded by RS and carried unanimously )

003774	Clerks Salary:	£985.41 (952.00 +£33.41 petty cash)
003775	HMRC:	£238.00 (PAYE)
003776	Cleaner:	£120.00 (MH cleaning)
003777	DNH Contracts:	£225.00 (Environmental Contract > Dec)
003778	NJ Blackwell GS:	£240.00 (POS Maint > Dec)
003779	E.ON Next:	£258.88 (MH Gas (2 months))

003780	E.ON Next:	£101.88 (MH Electric)
003781	NetWise UK:	£396.00 (Web Fees)
003782	Furniture at Work:	£182.40 (2 tables (late payment delayed invoice))
003783	NPower:	£1,767.46 (PL unmetered supply)(incl Gov Discount)
003784	Wave:	£48.94 (MH Water rates)
003785	Karen Cook:	£85.00 (Advent Calendar s137 Donation)

**(d) Precept requirements 2023/24**

\* deferred to end of meeting with budget proposals

**11. Street Lighting**

\* PL5 Falcon Drive fp is out and Q whether alternative bnlb source for existing lamps?  
Some outstanding maintenance remains

**12. Highways**

- Pot holes old A5 and verges Towcester Road
- Drain maintenance and outflow at River Bridge (flood issues)

\* Clerk to request site visit from WNC Highways

**13. Councillors round up**

- **Cllr Smith** > Litter Pick/Oxfield Park tree planting(?)
- **Cllr Carey** > BCS update (all quiet)/ Resurrect Lectern proposals
- **Cllr Murgatroyd** > Gigaclear issues / Village library > to chase
- **Chairman** > recent discussions with the clerk proposed Memorial Hall planters in Memory of Cllr Allin > next meeting. Also spoke on recent planning apps and outstanding Furtho Pit

**14. Questions and Items for Next Agenda**

Conservation issue; Memorial Hall planters

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

**10(d)** (No public Present)

**PRECEPT**

The clerk presented draft proposals for 2023 / 24. Discussed at length with the current Running Balance, especially the increase of the CH Donation re increased Fireworks costs ; 6.3% increase was agreed given the current national concerns due to rising energy and admin / Maintenance costs. (WNC restricted to 5% with no such limit for PCs, although this may change given financial pressures in the future). Last year was pegged at 3.5% and the projected precept rise from £57,000 > £61,000 was justified and unanimously approved. The clerk to amend the draft to include the issues discussed and outlined.

**RESOLVED:** That the precept be issued for the sum of £61,000

With no other business the meeting closed at 8.58pm