

Old Stratford Parish Council

MINUTES OF OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2023 held at the Memorial Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Mr T Pateman (in the chair), Mrs T Arthur, Mrs N Gibbs, Mr R Smith, Mr S Tolley, Mr C Carey, Mr M Fitch, Mr I Watson (from min 4)
Also present was Cllr Mr K Pritchard (Min:9), Mr D Everett (Clerk) & Mrs N Laurence (Deputy Clerk). There were 0 members of the public present

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Smith seconded Cllr Carey that Cllr Pateman be elected Chair > unanimous
Proposed by Cllr Pateman seconded Cllr Carey that Cllr Smith be elected V/Chair > unanimous

2. Declarations of Acceptance

Both signed declarations of acceptance

3. Apologies for Absence

Alan Holloway (away), Mrs L Murgatroyd (post meeting apology)

4. Casual Vacancies

Mr I Watson attended and had shown interest in joining the Parish Council and was welcomed
*** Declaration of Acceptance completed.**
One vacancy remains

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

Mrs Tania Arthur– Firs Farm planning Item 12 (a)(1)

6. Minutes for approval of the Meeting dated Tuesday 11th April 2023

***Resolved to approve** - Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 11th April 2023 were signed as true record

7. Clerks Report

- Proposal from OS School PTA to run a Scarecrow Festival. **OSPC happy to support with printing and prizes – awaiting report/request for support**
- Tree surgeon raised questions/issues with tree report requests rear or Hall Close and 30 Chapmans Dr
 - Hall Close – Trees / shrubbery reduced at northern end but not along all boundary. **NL to discuss with contractor**
 - 30 Chapmans – NL discussed with contractor. Concern works will be too severe – **NL to discuss with resident**
- Deputy clerk has passed Clerks Qualification CiLCA. Acknowledgement of and thanks for support of OSPC, especially the Clerk and Chair.
- Meeting of DE with Helen Howard of WNC Highways
 - Discussed desire to resurrect one way system proposal for Passenham. Issues from Deanshanger residents
 - Flooding on London Road. Gullys cleared but not fully de-silted
 - Road narrowing signing proposed to highways (Passenham). Need to apply to MKC once WNC have approved to sign from MK direction

8. **Public Speaking Time**

No public present

9. **WNC Councillor's Report**

Annual summary report attached as appendix 1. Additional issues reported as follows:

- Furtho Pit Proposed Warehouse Development– spoken to Director of Planning. Environment Agency have rejected on the basis of flooding and if WNC are minded to approve, the application will be referred to Secretary of State. Traffic issues being considered by National Highways in context of Gateway, Fenny, Bell Plantation etc warehousing developments. Unlikely to go to committee before Aug / Sept.
- Blackhorse Drive Development – s106 money assigned for Doctors provision is now approx. £100k. Local NHS was MK and now part of Luton. Only 2yrs left to spend money or will be returned to Persimmon. Stonedean say they don't need the money – KP working with practice to investigate. Additionally money from other developments in the area is to go to Deanshanger to form local clinic (approx. £79k) - surveys being undertaken to link communications for patient records to Stonedean.
- Britannia Bus – MD of Britannia has alleged that Deanshanger Parish Council are subsidising the new bus service replacing Britannia's service. This is untrue, DPS are financially contributing to promote a community bus company operating in the area, but are not subsidizing the service
- The Meadows –a housing needs survey has been requested to be carried out. For the proposed 32 houses, it has been identified that there are 38 local people on housing list, however not all will be in a position to purchase. MKC have objected due to flooding and reports from Environment Agency and Ecologist are requested by WNC
- WNC has formed two new planning committees (Local North / Local South) and have retained the strategic committee. This structure replaces the previous 4 committees.
- WNC Purchase of city centre buildings in Northampton for flats
- Towcester link road – Roundabout should be finished by end of May. Link road largely complete, but national highways roundabout linking to A43 is likely going to tender (anticipate 9-12 months).
- WNC Spatial strategy is now abandoned. Replaced with 15yr plan rather than to 2050. No of housing in the OS to Towcester area reduced to 6k – Our Councillors looking to reduce / remove this. Furtho pit was allocated in Plan Part 2 so still remains in the plan

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

None reported

11. **Adoption of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Equality Policy and Code of Conduct (circulated after April meeting)**

***Resolved to adopt** – Proposed by Cllr Tolley seconded Cllr Fitch > unanimously agreed.

12. **Planning**

(a) Applications received

- **2023/5060/TCA – Firs Farm 27 London Rd**
crown reduction on Ash tree, reduce beech and crown raise group of pine trees
- **2023/5154/TPO - Tree Tops 18 Towcester Road**
1631 Sycamore: Remove one epicormic branch 1635 Beech: Remove deadwood
1636 Beech: Remove deadwood & prune back damaged branch to healthy wood
- **2023/5121/PNHPD - 5 River View**
Determination as to whether prior approval is required for proposed single storey rear extension extending 4.10 m beyond the rear wall of the original dwelling house, maximum height of 3 m and height of eaves 2.8m

No Observations on any of the above

(b) Decision Notices
None

(c) Enforcement / Appeals
Manor oak homes withdrew appeal on Deanshanger site off Northfields– following dismissal of similar appeal.

(d) Press Notices
None

14. Finance

(a) The Council to approve budgetary control to date (Provisional Year End balance)
The receipts and Payments ledger, along with trial balance (ready for audit) were presented and **approved by Cllr A Pateman**

(b) To Approve Current State of Finance
Treasurer's a/c £6,291.43
Business Instant a/c £40,210.73 (£10k transferred to treasurers a/c 09/05/23 as half precept payment of £30,500 not confirmed receipted)

Proposed by Cllr Smith. Seconded Cllr Pateman > unanimous

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

003827	Clerks Salary:	£1,008.66 (£952.00+ £36.20 petty cash + £100 coronation disco)
003828	Deputy Clerks salary	£422.52
003829	HMRC PAYE:	£349.00 (PAYE)
003830	Cleaner:	£160.00 (MH cleaning)
003831	NJ Blackwell GS:	£1127.70 (POS Maintenance +Mowing)
003832	DNH Contracts:	£180.00 (Environmental Contract > Apr)
003833	K Peach	£1208.66 (Memorial Hall Repairs, 2x Notice Board Repair)
003834	Odell:	£46.36 (OSIB Compost)
003835	NPower:	£1,42.35 (Public Lamps – unmetered supply)
003836	E.ON Next:	£121.77 (MH Gas)
003837	E.ON Next:	£91.86 (MH Electric)
003838	Minuteman Press :	£104.40 (OSIB Plaques)
003839	Viking:	£239.44 (Hand over supplies (Cosgrove PC repay 50% less VAT = £115.30)
003740	N Laurence	£10.27 (expenses)
003741	C Woodyard:	£1,300.00 (Tree work as agreed)
003842	R Smit :	£20.89 (Fire assembly point sign)

Proposed by Cllr Smith. Seconded Cllr Pateman > unanimous

(d) To Receive and Approve End of Year Accounts for audit
***DEFERRED until after internal audit**

15. Street Lighting

Contractors contacted with reminder to undertake works advised or invoice if complete.

16. **Highways**
Nothing further to Clerks Report

17. **Councillor Project Update, Questions and Items for Next Agenda**

Ray Smith

- OSIB have requested replacement of 3 cherry trees. Advised of proposal to make OSIB a working party, giving structure to all. Working party terms of reference to be formed ***RESOLVED unanimously.**
- Spate of vehicle thefts and theft from vehicles. Vigilance advised
- Resident has requested bus stop moved as vision splay issues. *KP to ask if it is possible, but question of where is more suitable raised

Mike Fitch

- request from Linda Ritson for memorial bench to late husband Don. Churchyard of St Guthlacs? **OSPC no issues, however LR must Discuss with Church and Diocese**
- vegetation between Oxfield Park Drive and ROW upkeep – **looking to include in Parish management plan, but historically left to encourage biodiversity**

Stuart Tolley

- Tithe barn secured for event on opportunities in agriculture and farming.

Colin Carey

- Lecterns. No delivery date. Graphics – detailed brief required as six themes on each. Need input from Passenham for their board

Nickie Gibbs

- c150 entries to colouring competition at OS Primary and pre-school. ***Resolved £15 book token/winner/age group. Winners selected**

Tania Arthur

- following feedback at last meeting, solar street lights likely to not be viable at £2k plus per unit – proposals halted for now, unless retrofit is more viable

Tony Pateman

- Coronation event a success 300-400 attendees.
- Cadent gasworks update – walk around not completed, but came back and restored. Drains cleared, and surfaces restored and cleaned.

Meeting concluded at – 20:55

18. Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday 13th June 2023 commencing at 7.30pm

Derek M Everett PSLCC
Clerk
01908 569053 clerk@oldstratford.org.uk

Dated: 15th May 2023

Old Stratford website www.oldstratford.org.uk

Appendix 1

WEST NORTHANTS COUNCILLORS - DEANSHANGER WARD ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 -OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

It has been a pleasure for the three of us to continue working as Ward Councillors for Old Stratford in the new West Northamptonshire Council. During this civic year we have had numerous successes in solving issues highlighted to us including planning which seems to generate most problems, Highway issues and signposting services for those in need. We have also finished distributing nearly £7,500 in Covid support grants to local community groups to aid with their recovery from the pandemic.

Despite the pressures of high inflation during the last year, the Council has worked hard to balance the books and has set a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 of £383.5m (excluding grant funded schools spending of £443.7m). The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, well below current inflation rates and in line with the Government's allowance, crucially generating extra funding of around £12m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care. This represents an average increase on a Band D property of £80.50 a year, the equivalent of £1.55 a week.

Last year we were asked to comment on the Boundary review for the current 93 Wards in WNC. The proposal was for this to be reduced to 77 as advised by the Commission and input was sought from all parties including Parish Councils. A month ago, we received the result of this consultation in draft form which in fact was for 76 new councillors made up of one, two and three Member Wards. This proposal is out for further comments up until 15th May. As far as the Deanshanger Ward is concerned the Ward would become a two-member Ward. The new highways contract commenced last summer after being awarded to Kier. This winter has seen adverse weather conditions which has meant that nationally the number of potholes has risen dramatically and in our Ward this is a major issue. As part of next years budget a further £1m has been assigned for potholes plus £1.6m from Government announced in their budget. We are investing in new plant to ensure repairs are more effective in the future and we would remind everybody to please report any defects via 'Fix my Street'.

Last year we were all consulted on the Spatial plan for the District and initial output was expected last Summer. Due to overwhelming number of responses this has been delayed and also the timeline has been reduced to 2035 to ensure the document is fit for purpose. This plan will become the Local Plan for the whole of WNC and the housing requirement is dramatically reduced for the new time period.

The Council will be investing up to £215,000 in the year ahead towards bus services. This continues the funding allocated for the current year, while the Council shapes a new bus strategy and considers the most viable options for supporting and delivering the services in the future.

The new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) gives our Council the ability to ensure that the public can use and enjoy these public spaces and aims to help to make West Northamptonshire a better and safer place to live and work. It will last for a period of three years and means dog owners could be fined £100 if they fail to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it properly or carry the means to pick up after their dog. It also prevents their dogs from entering public places from which dogs are excluded.

A pilot scheme which helps landowners clear and prevent fly-tipping has been extended for another 12 months in West Northamptonshire. As town and parish councils will be aware, when fly-tipping takes place on public land, the taxpayer pays for the removal and disposal of the waste. However, if a fly-tip occurs on private land, the responsibility for the clean-up and removal falls with the landowner. Last year our Council worked on a scheme whereby private landowners could apply for a grant of up to £1,500 towards the cost of having the fly-tipped waste cleared away and to support them in establishing prevention measures which will make the land less vulnerable to fly-tippers in the future. However, the Council did introduce green bin charges for our local area and to say that it was unpopular, was an understatement, this was part of the unification process.

The introduction of voter identification has been moved from December 2022 to January 2023. This requires voters to present some form of photo ID at polling stations in order to receive their ballot paper. Voter Card application service is expected to go live in January 2023 and will be first used in any elections from May 2023.

Finally, we would all like to thank all Old Stratford Parish Council members and other community volunteers for their ongoing commitment to the village. Without this support our job would be immeasurably more difficult. As already said we are open to any input and as elected representatives we will strive to deliver solutions when possible.

We wish Old Stratford Parish Council and it's residents a successful and peaceful council year

Deanshanger Ward Councillors

Ian McCord - Ken Pritchard - William Barter