

Old Stratford Parish Council

MINUTES OF OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 11th July 2023 held at the Memorial Hall Commencing at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Mr T Pateman (in the chair), Mr C Carey, , Mr A Holloway, Mrs N Gibbs, Mrs L Murgatroyd, Mr R Smith, Mr S Tolley, Mr M Fitch, Mr M Kelk, Mrs T Arthur and Cllr Ken Pritchard (WNC Councillor)

1. Apologies for Absence
Mr I Watson,
2. Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda)
None
3. Minutes for approval of the ordinary meeting dated Tuesday 13th June 2023

Minutes of the meeting dated 13th June 2023 were signed as a true record

4. To Adopt

- Grant Awarding Policy

***Resolved to adopt** – Proposed by Cllr Holloway seconded by Cllr Arthur > unanimously agreed.

5. Clerks Report

- i. Annual renewal of Insurance policy
OSPC must hold a suitable insurance policy which covers key aspects of the parish councils activities, including our assets, public liability, financial and employers liability etc. In 2022, the Parish Council Opted to set up a long term policy with Hiscox Insurance, which expires on 31/07/25. This is a specific policy to meet the requirements of local authorities. Annual payment is now due.

***Resolved to pay the renewal fees of £3932.70.** Proposed by Cllr Holloway seconded by Cllr Gibbs > unanimously agreed.

- ii. Resident request re: fencing replacement

A resident adjacent to Parish Council owned land has complained about the vegetation having grown over their fence. OSPC have now removed the vegetation and ivy from the fence and carried out tree works (including on the resident's side of the fence). The fence is left in a poor state of repair and the resident is requesting OSPC give a 50% contribution to its replacement. (Quote circulated to Councillors with agenda for consideration)

*Councillors discussed widely in the context of the fence being the original 20+ years old and wooden posts into soil, lack of ability to maintain due to proximity of hedge and our contractors view that the laurel hedge will have had an effect. **Unanimously agreed to decline request**

iii. Annual playground inspections

Wicksteed have sent a reminder that our annual playground inspections are due. This can be undertaken at a cost of £99/location plus VAT. This would need to be undertaken for the playgrounds in Oxfield Park, Chapmans Drive and the community centre

****Unanimously Resolved – look to benchmark / source new provider in 2024***

iv. Photocopier & shredding

- a. OSPC currently rent a large photocopier /printer from Canon UK. Unfortunately, the unit cannot be accommodated in the home of the new clerk, so we have reviewed the possibility of returning this printer and taking out a lease on a smaller unit. All printer costs would include toner and staples, however there would be an additional cost per copy printed.

Cost of current contract settlement is £860

Cost of new smaller printer over 5 years including settlement starts at £1858.

****Unanimously Resolved*** to terminate the existing Canon UK contact and to purchase a new printer outright when appropriate

- b. OSPC need to dispose of historic documents. Anything that requires retention has been passed to the new Clerk, or taken to Northamptonshire Archives and Heritage Service for archiving. The remaining material is proposed to be destroyed by mobile shredder. Three quotes have been obtained, all have a minimum charge of 10 bags/boxes (approx. 15kg per bag)

****Unanimously Resolved*** to use Datashredders - Minimum Charge £66.00 + vat allowing for the first 100kgs of Paper to be shredded. Excess Weight Charged at £0.30p + vat per Kg

v. Retirement of OSPC Clerk, Derek Everett

Derek retired from the Parish Council on 30/06/23. The Chairman and Councillors would like to formally thank him for his 30 years of service as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and wish him well in his retirement.

Confidential minutes relating to the “Freedom of the Parish” awarded to Derek on his retirement, will now be made public.

6. Public Speaking Time
None

7. WNC Councillors Report
WNC have produced their annual report - [Annual Report | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/annual-report)

End of fiscal year. Budget of 342ml in Oct overspend projected to £29m reduced to £300k at year end. (Childrens trust overspend £12m, so reductions by all other departments). Extra £20m for children and £9m for adult and social care in this financial year.

30+ houses being bought in Northampton by WNC at a value of £10mln

School transport – £600 per year currently increasing to £1000/year

Deanshanger 190 and 187 houses held up as national highways have placed 3 month embargo on approval

New transport report re: bus services in WNC area – due to be published imminently

Market Walk in Northampton – budget for 8mln to revive with shops, cafes and leisure (25mln in market square) but funding by government

Furtho Pit – agreement by developers to have Q&A and exhibition. Cannot be accommodated before the summer holidays. KP working to ensure no decisions taken before this meeting. Question over how National Highways calculated traffic flow – now not anticipating roundabout or signalled junction. Northampton Gateway, Towcester, Whittlebury traffic not included in modelling.

Ken Pritchard has requested it to be minuted that he can advise on planning issues, but cannot pre-determine as he is on the planning committee.

8. OSIB Report and proposals

Men in sheds cannot repair the canal boat. Looking into purchase of marine ply to repair OSIB request to order flowers from Barnwells to the value of £90. Order must be placed by August.

***Resolved**

Request for water bags to place around young trees. ***Post meeting note – not progressed at request of OSIB**

Replacement cherry trees – three dead, at Boat, Willow Grove and Brookside. ***Post meeting note – not progressed at request of OSIB**

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

Multiple letters received regarding the proposed Furtho Pit development. ***OSPC will not individually acknowledge**

10. Planning

(a) Applications received

WNS/2022/1741/EIA at Furtho Pits Old Cosgrove Road Old Stratford

Draft response to latest documents circulated. Additional points to be added before document submitted ***resolved to submit**

2023/5719/FULL - Adams Cundell Engineering Ltd Old Cosgrove Road Old Stratford West Northamptonshire MK19 6LA. Change of use of land and buildings from Class B8 (Storage and Distribution) to Sui Generis (Vehicle Sales)

***To request extension.**

*Post meeting note – request for more details and extension not acknowledged by WNC, therefore request for details submitted as an objection

- (b) Decision Notices
None
- (c) Enforcement / Appeals
None
- (d) Press Notices
None

11. Finance

(a) Current State of Finance at 1st July 2023

Current a/c	£12,241.99
Business Inst a/c:	£ 52,426. 00
Earmarked Reserves:	£41,160.55
Available Capital:	£54,398.44

***Resolved to approve**– Proposed by Cllr Pateman seconded by Cllr Fitch > unanimously agreed.

(a) To Approve Accounts for Payment

CHQ No	Payee	Detail	Value
3860	N Laurence	Clerks July Salary £846.02 + expenses £479.25	1325.27
DD	Nest	Clerks Pension	77.8
3861	HMRC	PAYE	221.02
3862	E.ON Next	Memorial Hall Electricity	35.49
3863	NJ Blackwell Garden Services	Mowing and OS maintenance	940.5
3864	DNH Contracts	Dog and litter bin emptying	270
3865	Odell & Co Ltd	Paint equip and Plant food	109.85
3866	NPower	Electricity for street lighting	2325.1
3867	Anglian Water Business Ltd (t/a Wave)	Memorial Hall Water	56.38
3868	C Woodyard	Tree work Falcon Drive Path	525
3869	R&S Barnwell	Summer planting for OSIB	581.28
3870	M Holloway	OSIB purchases	36.79
3871	L Peach	Memorial Hall Cleaning	160
3872	A Pateman	Playing fields Naming Plaque	180
3873	AJGIBL GBP Client NST Account	Gallaghers - annual insurance policy	3932.7

Total = £10777.18

12. Street Lighting
None

13. Highways
- Vegetation at entrance to the village / egress from roundabout obscuring pedestrian crossing point – *Clerk to write to Helen Howard to ask why not done with the other traffic islands and roundabout?

14. Councillor Questions and Items for Next Agenda, including
- (a) Cllr Fitch – Update on LAPs presentation (see appendix)

KP observed biggest problem for the Parish is that services come from Bucks rather than northants

Councillor Murgatroyd left the meeting

- (b) Cllr Smith – Deanshanger Road No entry violations. Use of engineered road solution?
*Email to Helen Howard –

- (c) Cllr Carey
Three lecturns being delivered on Thursday – in the back of memorial hall

17. Date of Next Meeting
Tuesday 8th August 2023 commencing 7:30pm

Meeting ended at 21:20

Nicky Laurence
Clerk
07767 854983 Clerk@oldstratford.org.uk

Dated: 13th July 2023

Old Stratford website www.oldstratford.org.uk

Local Areas Partnerships briefing attended by Mike Fitch

Background

There are seventeen LAPs in Northamptonshire: eight in the north and nine in the west. Each one covers a population of around 40,000 – 60,000 people. Over the past two months, Northants CALC has been exploring the question “What is the role of parish and town councils in the new LAPs”. Meetings on the topic have been held with the west and north “Place Directors”.

To work out where parish and town councils fit, we have considered the three key functions of an organisation: governance, management, and engagement. In the context of a LAP, governance is about who controls and directs the LAP, how it is organised, how its resources are applied, and what its strategy is. To give a practical example, who chairs a LAP meeting and how is that person elected? The governance of the LAPs is yet to fully crystallise but is likely to rest with the relevant unitary council. In other words, the LAPs themselves will not be formal, decision-making bodies.

The next thing is management, and here the answer as to whether parish and town councils should be involved is a definite no. For the LAPs to be a success, each one will need a dedicated officer resource, a person probably employed by the relevant unitary council, and assigned to a specific LAP. The LAP manager’s job would be to organise LAP meetings and implement actions agreed at them, which will require identifying and engaging with all the relevant stakeholders in the LAP area.

And there’s that last thing – engagement – and this is where we believe that it is vital that parish and town councils are fully involved. A LAP, through its LAP manager, should engage with all the parish and town councils (and parish meetings) in its area. As with any engagement process, one size doesn’t fit all. For example, if we look at LAP DSN4, which covers Bugbrooke down to Deanshanger, there are 38 councils in that LAP area. With 8,481 electors, the largest by far is Towcester Town Council, then Grange Park Parish Council (2,994 electors), Deanshanger Parish Council (2,943 electors) and Roade Parish Council (2,604 electors), then a dozen or so medium councils, then some teeny tiny ones, with Upper Heyford Parish Meeting and its 59 electors being the smallest. The LAP manager must engage with all 38 parishes but will have an entirely different relationship with Towcester Town Council than they will with Upper Heyford Parish Meeting.

We don’t yet know precisely what engagement will look like, what it will be about, and how parish and town councils will be involved. What we do know is that parish and town councils know their patch, know its needs and challenges, and know what already exists in terms of services and facilities that might contribute to health and wellbeing.

We are in the initial stages of exploring a potential Health & Wellbeing Representative Scheme, which would work in a similar way to the successful Police Liaison Representative (PLR) Scheme. The basic concept is that each parish and town council would appoint one person (could be a councillor, an officer, or a volunteer) to take special responsibility for matters related to health and wellbeing and act as a single point of contact (SPOC) for the LAP managers and others.

The future of local government may depend on the success of the LAPs. Their focus is on addressing the underlying causes of bad health (e.g., poor housing, obesity, smoking, lack of exercise, loneliness) and preventing, or delaying, people becoming ill in the first place. It is referred to as “left shift” and the principle is that it is more cost effective to prevent health conditions developing than it is to deal with them after they already have. Parish and town councils play a critical role, even if that role is not yet well understood. A good example is a play area. Ask the council what it is for, and they will probably say “for kids to play in”. Ask someone in public health what it is for, and they might say “it’s a vital local service to encourage active lifestyles, reduce childhood obesity, lessen social isolation, and reduce the number of children and adults needing to access expensive health services in the future.”