

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

Chairman: Mrs Sharon Henley


Clerk: Mrs Julie Francies
Meadowcroft
Main Street
Church Stowe
Tel: 07747 690557

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th April 2018

Present: Chairman S Henley, Vice Chairman D Lane
Cllr A Brodie, Cllr T Sanderson, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr J Hillyard
Clerk & Proper Officer Mrs J Francies
Cllr A Brown, Cllr J Amos
4 Parishioners

Minutes:

1218. Apologies for absence.
Cllr T Teague – Sickness.
1219. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda.
None.
1220. Resolution to sign and approve the minutes of the Interim meeting in 3rd March 2018.
Resolved. Cllr T Sanderson signed the minutes dated 3rd March.
1221. Resolution to sign and approve the minutes of Ordinary Meeting dated 5th March 2018.
Resolved. Chairman signed the minutes dated 5th March.
1222. Matters arising from previous minutes for update only.
- i. Transparency Code Claim.
Clerk advised that the claim had been successful and that £881.81 had been banked in the Lloyds account. A new laptop and software had been purchased.
 - ii. Litter Pick.
Twelve residents from the two settlements helped with the litter pick on Saturday 15th April. Asbestos and tyres were found during the litter pick. The Parish Council would like to thank all those who volunteered and to Cllr J Hillyard for collecting the litter picking equipment.
*** AP. Cllr A Brodie to report the issue of asbestos being found to DDC.**
 - iii. Wyndham House site visit.
Chairman and some Councillors visited Wyndham House to hear about proposed plans for a new storage facility. In principle, they saw no issue with this proposal and await full details in a planning application.
1223. Planning applications received.
None.
1224. Planning approvals – Review of past planning applications.
- i. DA/2018/0123 Shire Barn, Francis Row, Upper Stowe
Permission granted by DDC.

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1225. Planning application update.
- i. DA/2017/0460 - Jasmine Cottage appeal, Church Stowe.
Ongoing.
DA/2018/034 - Land At Main At Street, Church Stowe.
Planning application withdrawn.
1226. Village Design Statement.
Chairman and Cllr T Teague are meeting week commencing 15th April to bring together information provided by each group and remove duplication.
1227. Statement of accounts/accounts for payment.
- i. Statement of account at Nationwide Building Society.
Clerk confirmed that the account was closed on 21st March and the balance of 1740.50 moved to the new Lloyds Bank account on the same day.
 - ii. Statement of account at Lloyds Bank.
Balance at 21st March 2018 - £2113.43, which represents the year end closing balance.
Clerk explained that both she and Vice Chairman D Lane are full signatories, but when either request a payment, the other has to authorise it for payment to be released. Payments would be scheduled in advance wherever possible to reduce admin time.
 - iii. Payment requests:
 - i. Clerks Salary (Mrs J Francies) – £1162.90 covering hours worked between 14 January to 1 April 18, which includes reimbursement for the Parish Council laptop, software and domain/domain privacy renewal.
Approved. Proposed by Cllr J Hillyard. Seconded by Vice Chairman D Lane.
 - ii. Clerks Salary (Heidi Carascon) – Payment 5 £170.08 & 6, £170.08, to be paid on 20 April & 20 May by bank transfer. This will be set up w/c 16 April, but paid on the relevant date.
Approved. Proposed by Cllr A Brodie. Seconded by Cllr A Taylor.
 - iii. NCALC membership - £317.02
Approved. Proposed by Cllr T Sanderson. Seconded by Vice Chairman D Lane.
 - iv. Budget update from the Clerk.
Closing balance of the bank account was £2113.43 less Radar memorial reserve was £1776.43. This balance is ahead of budget, largely due to receipt of two transparency claims during the financial year. Income was overbudget by £1412.52. Expenses were over budget by £98.09. Variance against budget, including the radar memorial reserve was up by £977.43, however, a laptop and software has been purchased from the transparency claim which was purchased on the Clerks credit card in the financial year and is being claimed back, which will be paid back in the next financial year. In addition, there are still two payments to be made for the previous Clerk in the next financial year.
 - v. Internal Audit will take place on 8 May.
Clerk explained that the process has changed and it has been time consuming so far. Chairman and Cllr T Teague will accompany the Clerk for the Internal Audit on 8th May.
1228. Community Defibrillators.
- i. Training.

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A training session has been booked for 5th June at 7pm in the Old School Rooms.

AP. Clerk to add two residents on to the training.

1229. Radar memorial – Decision on the way forward.

Chairman led a discussion to decide how the Parish Council wish to take this matter forward. There were two arguments; the desire to promote this iconic memorial versus concerns about ongoing costs which are likely to fall upon the Parish in future. In a vote 4 to 1 against pursuing this matter in the current vein, with 1 councillor abstaining, the Parish Council agreed to promote the memorial through other means such as social media instead.

AP. Clerk to look at options available for promoting the Radar memorial, to include information posted on the Parish website and village Facebook page.

AP. Cllr A Brown to put the Clerk in touch with 'Love Daventry' and 'Northamptonshire's Best Kept Secrets'.

AP. Clerk to write to Dr Judkins with an update.

AP. Cllr T Sanderson to continue attending Daventry Tourism Forums to ensure the Radar Memorial is kept as a high-profile site.

1230. Northants County Council.

Cllr A Brown gave an update of the current financial situation and explained that although no firm plans have been made, NCC is likely to merge with surrounding councils in future.

1231. Daventry District Council.

Cllr Johnnie Amos gave an update of current press releases including information for the new waste/recycling system, Self-Builders and the OVO Energy Women's tour. Concerns raised regarding increased fly tipping and Daventry tip not being open every day. Much confusion over the waste and recycling future process and the costs involved. Chairman asked if a member of DDC could come to the Parish Annual meeting to give a presentation on the new waste/recycling process to help alleviate confusion.

AP. Clerk to post press releases on the Parish website and Facebook page.

AP. Clerk to request electronic waste/recycling flyers to post on the Parish website and Facebook page.

AP. Cllr J Amos to request a presenter for the Parish Annual meeting for a waste/recycling presentation.

AP. Cllr A Brown to send Clerk the consultation papers for the new waste and recycling process.

AP. Clerk asked Cllr J Amos to feedback concerns raised over the formatting of press releases to the press office.

1232. Footpath Warden Report provided by Mr C Ripper.

Due to the very high rainfall, fields generally in the Parish are very wet and not good for walking at the present time. The Gravel Path (FE2), the path at the back of Church Stowe (FE3) and the path across the field before Stowe Heights (FE4) are all in good condition if rather wet in places. The two paths to Litchborough (FE 4/5), the Path to the Radar memorial (FE6), the path to Weedon (FE1) and the path to the A5 leading to Bugbroke (FE7) have not been checked. No doubt path treatment will be required in some cases as the weather improves. A further report on these paths will be provided at the next meeting.

1233. NCALC.

i. Training courses.

AP. Clerk to send training course dates to Councillors.

ii. GDPR.

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Clerk explained that we need to get ready for this change, however we will be focusing on the audit first. She asked if any other Councillors had any training in GDPR, would they be willing to help get the Parish Council ready.

1234. Complaints.

Cllr T Sanderson explained that a person had been seen shooting pheasants on his drive. In addition to concerns of danger to residents, this is out of season and therefore illegal. The incident has been reported the Police.

AP. Clerk to ask the Wildlife Officer to visit the site.

1235. A5 – Accident prevention.

Chairman explained that there have been a number of fatalities on the A5 and in the past there has been limited support to try and tackle this issue. Clerk has been speaking to Weedon PC regarding concerns over the number of accidents on the A5. Weedon PC are willing to work together to try and work towards improved road safety. Concerns raised regarding the potholes and collapsing drain covers.

AP. Cllr A Brown will write to the A5 Partnership asking them to put this issue on the agenda for the next meeting in June and will raise this on our behalf.

1236. Broadband.

Cllr T Sanderson advised that funding for Superfast broadband is from central government and therefore financial issues at NCC will not affect this. Gigaclear is now due to start at the end of 2018 and suggested that if there is no evidence of work commencing by the Autumn, we should raise this issue again.

Fibre broadband comes to the box near The Narrowboat Pub and a resident in Upper Stowe found that his fibre broadband service was no better using standard broadband service. He was sold broadband infinity, which goes as far as the box near the pub and then uses the normal copper service through to the village.

AP. Clerk to add an update request to the September agenda.

AP. Clerk to speak to Norton PC regarding the letters that were sent to push for Broadband.

AP. Clerk to write to Chris Heaton-Harris.

1237. Meeting dates for 2018.

21 May – AGM , Annual Meeting of the Parish Council & Ordinary meeting

25 June

6 August

17 September

29 October

10 December

AOB Concerns raised over stones placed on the verge next to the defibrillator in Church Stowe.

AP. Clerk to contact the Highways agency.

A large number of beer bottles and tins have been dumped in Northfield Lane in Upper Stowe.

Meeting was closed at 9.20pm.

Handwritten signature and date: 10.5.18.