

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

Chairman Cllr S Henley

Clerk – Mrs L Carter

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 12 December October at 8.00pm in the Old School Rooms, Church Stowe

Present: Cllrs S Henley (Chair), S Callear, A Brodie D Lane and C Newitt.
Parish Clerk – L Carter

2 members of the public

2086. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sue Overton
WNC Councillors D Smith, R Frost and J M Gilford also sent their apologies.

2087. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

No Declarations were made.

2088. Minutes

Members approved the minutes of the Council meeting on 31st October 2022

2089. Matters arising from previous minutes for update only.

No matters which were not addressed later in the agenda.

2090. Unitary Councillors

The Unitary Councillors had all sent their apologies for the meeting.

2091. Planning Proposal (deferred from May 2022)

Due to the lack of support from West Northants Council Planning Department, particularly in relation to enforcement, and also the personal difficulties recently experienced by Councillors, it is proposed that the Parish Council no longer submits comments on planning applications. Applications would continue to be noted on Council Agendas and listed on the website for residents, who will be encouraged to continue to make their personal responses which now carry the same weight as comments from the Parish Council.

Councillors considered the proposal but, since the Clerk and Chairman had been invited to meet with the Head of Planning Delivery at WNC the following week, it was **AGREED** to defer consideration until the next meeting.

2092. Planning applications

Previous Applications

WND/2021/0668 - Old Dairy Farm, Main Street, Upper Stowe, -Building for agricultural use with vehicular access and hardstanding (retrospective) - Refused

WND/2021/0059 Dairy Farm, Main Street, Upper Stowe – Refused – Appeal against enforcement still not decided

WND/2021/0369 Land at Stowe Hill, - Siting of Caravans.

The reported application for St Alnoth's Barn had still not been validated

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2093. Highways and Footpaths

Lengthsman – Councillors were provided with a list of possible duties for a Village Handyman. Those residents on the newsletter e-mail distribution list had been consulted, along with information on the Facebook page, website and noticeboards inviting comments to gauge the level of support. Although the number of responses were low, the result was 3:1 in favour of the suggestion, despite the increase in precept.

The Council **AGREED** that a sum of £750 be included in the budget to pay for 2-3 hours per month for a trial period of twelve months.

2094. Statement of accounts/accounts for payment.

Councillors **APPROVED** payments to:

CPRE	£36.00
Hire of Old School Hall	£160.00
NCALC - VAT Recovery	£49.40
Clerk Salary (Oct -Dec plus backpay)	£791.05
HMRC	£197.60
TOTAL	£1234.05

Councillors also **NOTED** the national pay increase for clerks amounting to £1.00 per hour and backdated to 1st April 2022

2095. Budget and Precept

- Councillors consider the draft budget and **APPROVED** a budget provision of £5,900
- Councillors **AGREED** to submit a precept request for 2023/24 of £5,900

2096. Community Defibrillators.

Both defibrillators are working correctly, and Mr Bird had been notified that Mr Teague would take over inspection of the Upper Stowe defibrillator.

2097. Historic Memorials

No further information, but the people who maintain the Radar memorial had been contacted to offer thanks for their continued efforts and to ask if any materials were needed. There may be requirement for some gravel and weed barrier in the spring.

2098. Community Breakfast

The breakfast held on 3rd December had been poorly attended and was the last that the WI planned to hold at the moment.

2099. Village Newsletter

The next newsletter would be circulated in January.

2100. West Northamptonshire Council

2101. NCALC.

2102. CPRE

2103. Complaints

2104. Matters for information and discussion

The provision of planters under the village entrance signs – measurements have been provided and a cost estimate for materials was available. The clerk had offered to meet the cost of the materials, and her husband would assemble the planters.

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2105. Future Meeting dates

Meeting dates for 2023 are on Mondays:- 23rd January, 6th March, 17th April, 22nd May (Annual Meetings of Parish and Council), 3rd July, 14th August, 25th September, 6th November, 11th December.

Signed

Date 23rd January 2023

DRAFT