

**STOKE LYNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Stoke Lyne held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**  
**in the Parish Meeting Room at 8.00pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr N Barnes (Chairman) Cllr J Davies, Cllr Mrs L Soper, Cllr P Elliot, Cllr B Wheatcroft and Cllr R Keeping.

**ALSO PRESENT:** 11 Parishioners

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr I Corkin

Chairman Nick Barnes welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

**1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

The Chairman read out the minutes from the last meeting and it was agreed that they were a true record

Proposed: Rena Andrews

Seconded: Julie Adams All in favour

**3 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CORKIN CDC/OCC (read by the Clerk)**

The full report is attached. Salient points so far as Stoke Lyne is concerned are:

Major infrastructure issues locally (East/West Rail. HS2 and the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway)

Cllr Corkin is also concerned about the lack of bus services in rural areas. He has recently met representatives of rural parishes in his Division ( including Stoke Lyne) and OCC are now trying to arrange a 3 month trial of a bus service one day a week taking residents into Bicester.

He also reminded the Parish of the availability of his Community Fund - £15000 to be split around the Division to support Parish priorities.

**4 BROADBAND UPDATE**

Cllr Davies reported that broadband installation in the Parish had been further delayed, owing to difficulties in negotiating consent from the land owner for the new cables to pass under his property. The negotiations currently appear to have reached an impasse, and the broadband team are looking at an alternative (fibre) solution – which could delay the project by over 6 months. He advised the meeting that he had recently subscribed to mobile broadband, which was producing excellent results at minimum cost, although down load speeds can vary from 40Mb/s in some parts of the village to 20 Mb/s in other parts. He was also obtaining unlimited downloads of Netflix etc. This is more easily available as the mast at the Cherwell Valley Services has recently been upgraded. OCC are still reviewing the project, new dates are awaited, and Cllr Corkin is working to persuade the land owner to change his mind. Bainton however is probably not affected by the Wayleave delays and the project there will go ahead from a different source location. The need for a new route may mean that broadband is supplied from Bicester rather than Fritwell.

Q Is the land owner in question affected by the lack of fast broadband?

A No as he lives in Bucknell

Q If an approach is made to a mobile service provider will they give an estimate of broadband speeds to be achieved?

A Yes

Q Could mobile broadband be cheaper than fibre

A yes

## **5 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman updated the meeting with a synopsis of activity since the last Parish Meeting:

The Parish had co-opted Cllr Rex Keeping onto the Parish Council  
Grass cutting had remained a major issue, and a significant area of expense since the Parish Council took on responsibility for grass cutting within the 30mph zone of the Village from OCC. This means that the grass is cut regularly instead of the once a year cut provided by OCC. The cost was partially offset by a small grant from OCC to recognise the money that they are saving. The Parish Council would have liked to consider cutting a larger area of grass, but regretfully this was too expensive.

Potholes in and around the village remained an issue – residents were urged to report these to OCC, as liability for damage and accidents can arise once OCC are aware of them  
The Parish Council had achieved a substantial saving in the insurance it pays for its playing field – this will mean that the Council has options to support other projects or reduce the precept in the future.

The Parish Council has been concerned about the boulders on the verge outside Lone Barn. These were reported to OCC, were once removed, but have now reappeared.  
As Parishioners will have heard, Broadband has been, and in fact remains, a roller coaster ride, but the Parish will try to keep residents updated with progress.

Fields Farm – the eco pod has now been removed, but a number of requirements of the Enforcement Notice remain outstanding and CDC have confirmed that they are dealing with these.

The Parish has an ongoing dialogue with OCC about clearance of the storm drains.

### **Planning**

The Parish effectively considers three types of planning application

1. Regular applications relating to Cherwell Valley Services
2. Applications from properties in the village
3. Applications at Baynards Green. The Parish had a long battle about the provision of a McDonalds at the filling station there, which was eventually granted on appeal. The latest application is the one received a few days ago to build warehouses/offices on the field behind the filling station on the Aynho road.

(The Clerk explained that the Parish Council are consultees in the planning process and will be responding to CDCs consultation. The matter will then be considered by CDC's Planning Committee. If the Committee reject the application the applicant has the option of an appeal – if the application is granted the only course of action for objectors would be to take Judicial review action in the High Court, which can be very expensive).

## **6. FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk had circulated copies of the end of year finance report to all Parishioners. She explained that the accounts showed the increase in maintenance charges due to the new grass cutting contract, and also reflected the savings following the change in insurance arrangements. There was an excess of £816 income over expenditure, which could be used to support other village projects.

## **6 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Q. the developments of HS2 and East/West Rail will require the haulage of stone – what are the proposals ?

A We await sight of HS2's proposals – East/West Rail currently propose routeing their HGV's along the B4100, and then some will also travel along the A4421 to turn down to Poundon .along the "top road" at Stratton Audley.

Q Why are some minutes missing from the website?

A This was probably due to the change in Clerk and the possibility that minutes were being identified as "spam" and not reaching their recipient.

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Could the Parish Council please chase OCC to replace the sign to Bainton off the Stratton Audley Road, and also ask OCC to resurface the roads in the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm