

STOKE LYNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Stoke Lyne held on Tuesday 9th May 2017
in the Parish Meeting Room at 8.00pm

1 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Catherine Fulljames

Ali Miller

Martin Miller

Bob Wheatcroft

Pippa Elliot

Elaine Barnes

Chairman Nick Barnes welcomed parishioners and Councillor Corkin CDC, OCC to the meeting.

2 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2016

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
CDC**

- Councillor Corkin thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk and said he was impressed at the amount of work they put in.
- Working with South Northants continues to give benefit to the both Councils. There is a good management team in place, which helps to keep council tax to zero increase with the same services. CDC has 75% satisfaction – this is reduced from last year as more people contributed via social media.
- Chief Executive of CDC has stepped down and a new one starts in July, Yvonne Reese. She wants to get out and meet people and get to know the area.
- Bicester Gateway Retail Park – Opposite new Tesco's has now got planning permission, M&S and New Look are already signed up. Night time economy is going well. Travel Lodge is expanding to another floor and restaurants are doing well.
- Day time economy is a different matter, CDC is giving business rates reductions for empty shops in the town to encourage new businesses into the town centre.
- Graven Hill development – Shop opened, website is live and CDC looking to help with buying new homes.

OCC

- Reasons for standing for OCC - Benefit local community, fundamentally to represent parishioners first and foremost .Still believe County Council not serving Oxfordshire as well as it should, if nothing changes by 2020 then the County will run out of money.
- Believes OCC needs to seek to work efficiently and felt that he could only make changes by being involved, a time for new voices.

Questions

- Is there a decision on Unitary proposal?
Councillor Corkin thing that a single large unitary local council would not be a good thing for parishes as large Councils are not interested in small Parish Councils. There is no decision yet.
- Does everyone get a vote?
The decision is made at Whitehall and the Secretary of State will make the decision.

4 BROADBAND UPDATE

Councillor Davies told the meeting that the June completion date has now gone back to the original date of December 2017, no real reason has been given just busy, problems in the team, 'Way leave' issue (nothing has actually been done on this subject). They are constantly changing their proposed solution on how to get broadband to all houses. Bainton is not included in the Stoke Lyne part and will be a separate issue.

5 VILLAGE REPORTS

Stoke Lyne Diggers – Pippa Elliott wrote a short report on the progress of the allotment site.

‘The Stoke Lyne allotments continue to thrive. All the allotments are let, mostly to people who live in, or with a close connection to the village. We have recently had our AGM with a cheese and wine party afterwards. This was very well attended. There are no serious issues on the allotments and the committee usually easily solves any minor problems with a bit of thought. We have a number of very successful growers and also different methods of cultivation such as compost raised beds. This year some people are going to be trying growing flowers for cutting so hopefully we shall be even more colourful! We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for all their help and support’.

Website – Selina Davies gave a short report on the new website.

‘The new website is not part of Cherwell District Council so it is a lot faster and easier to use. It would be good to have some input from the villagers now it is more user friendly and could be a very useful tool for the village. Please look at the website, use it, give feedback and make suggestions’.

Councillor Barnes thanked Selina for all her hard work.

6 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Grass cutting has been high on the agenda. Richard Reynolds has now gone and he cut the grass in the playing field for many years at cost, so now we have gone out to tender, got prices from three contractors and chose the cheapest one but much more than before so it was needed to increase the precept by £1000 to maintain. Also, we are taking on the ‘urban’ grass cutting (inside the 30mph signs). The Parish council decided to take on the responsibility of the urban grass cutting to keep the village tidy and looking nice. OCC give a grant and we have chosen a contractor to do this within our budget but there is a problem as OCC want Public Liability of £10 million and the contractor can’t do this so we have to look again.

Planning – Lots are small, non-contentious and generally supported. Some are more contentious

- Fields Farm, Bainton – temporary dwelling, opposed by the Parish Council but permitted. Permission expired July 2016 and the Parish Council asked for the dwelling to be removed. Now finally due to be out and the Parish Council are keeping a very close eye.
- MacDonald’s – Parish Council objected to this application and were found in favour 4 times but then went to appeal and lost. The development is going ahead.
- Church Farm, Stoke Lyne – Stabling – The Parish Council was not consulted on this application as CDC sent it to Stratton Audley, so there was no opportunity to respond. The Peyton Arms garden is affected the most but they were not consulted either. The owners of Church Farm agreed to discuss and an agreement to move the site of the stabling up the hill has been made. The expense of moving the footing wall is to be met by Hook Norton Brewery and hopefully CDC will contribute.
- Finally, the Parish Councillors over the last 12 months were Lisa Soper, James Davies, Bob Wheatcroft, Phil Elliott was co-opted on and Greg Billingham came onto the Council but had to resign due to work commitments - thanks for all your hard work.

Kathy Brown has been Parish Clerk for over 10 years and is leaving. We have a potential new clerk who is being interviewed next week. We are grateful for the sterling work Kathy has done and best wishes for the future.

7 QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- Is Pedstock planned for this year? Not this year, it is a PCC decision and perhaps something lower key could be done.
- Shelswell History Day – try to find out more and put on the website.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 9.35pm