

The minutes of Stoulton Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm.

Present Cllrs Mr Lee, Mr Whitehurst, Mr Callaghan, Mr Hartnell and Mrs Lewis.  
In Attendance Ms Shields (Clerk), C K c Fell, CSO A Fogwill, Bob Adams (County Cllr) and Paul Middleborough (District Cllr).

### **Stoulton Parish Council – Annual Parish Report**

#### ***Composition of the Council***

This is the annual report for Stoulton Parish Council for the year to May 2008. This year has seen a significant number of changes to the Parish Council. Long standing members of the Council stood down – Tim Dixon, Diana McLaughlin and, in particular our Chairman, Tony Wilks. In addition, Wendy Steward our Parish Clerk left. I would like to, again, extend our thanks for all their service and commitment over the past years.

During the year, two further councillors – Jenny Osborne and Bob Marchant have also stood down. However, we also have new members of the Council – Richard Callaghan, Richard Hartnell and Val Lewis. Jackie Shields has joined as Parish Clerk and is providing expertise from her work in other parishes. Nick Lee has taken on the role of Chair of the Parish Council, with Mallory Whitehurst Vice-Chairman.

This leaves the Council with two places for Councillors vacant and we will continue to look to find individuals who can be co-opted to these positions.

The Parish Council would also like to thank our local Wychavon District Councillor Paul Middlebrough and Worcestershire County Councillor Rob Adams for their regular attendance at meetings and useful feedback on District and County news.

#### ***Finance***

The income to the Parish Council for this year has been £6,972, which was comprised of the precept of £5,000, a flooding grant of £1,000 from Wychavon and the reclaim VAT. The balance of Parish Council funds brought forward from 2006/07 was £8,557 and the balance carried forward is £7,336. The reduction in the reserve was due to one-off costs, including parish hall heating and playground maintenance.

#### ***Flooding***

The major event within the village in the past year was the serious flooding which took place in July 2007 and affected over 20 properties across 3 separate areas of the village. There was serious damage to these properties and in at least one case repair work is still proceeding.

This was particularly distressing since the flood alleviation works carried out by Wychavon through Hawbridge/Claverton and along Haw Brook were unable to cope with the level of flood water. A national record level of rainfall for one day of 5½ inches fell in Pershore on one day and the alleviation scheme had not been designed to cope with this level.

Wychavon are currently negotiating with the local landowner for the purchase of a strip of land between Haw Brook and the flood alleviation work. Wychavon requested to wait until this is complete before meeting with the officers concerned to discuss any further potential improvements or maintenance.

Wychavon have also provided the Parish with a grant for £1,000 to spend on any flood related repairs or schemes (e.g. sandbags). The council has sought local views on how this should be spent and will agree its use.

### ***Planning***

All councillors have been involved in the review and comment on planning applications. These have been returned promptly and efficiently. Main planning applications included the redevelopments of the garage site and barns on either site of Froggery Lane.

### ***Co Mingled Plant at Norton***

Planning approval had previously been given for the recycling plant in Norton and Parish Councillors have attended regular meetings with other local parishes, the contractor and County Council to monitor progress in the planning stage. This has ensured that no waste vehicles will travel through the Parish on the B4084.

### ***Village Hall***

The Parish has continued to support the village hall, with councillors on the committee. The central heating system has been replaced and the toilets improved, with further improvements to the kitchen being undertaken.

### ***Footpaths***

The Parish's footpath officer has walked and checked access to all the footpaths through the village. In addition, the County Council has reviewed the footpaths and produced a list for landowners to make required improvements. This has been very useful, although liaison with the Parish minimal. Councillors will monitor the required improvements.

### ***The Playground***

The Parish has continued to maintain the playground, carrying out checks and repairs to the swings as recommended in the Rospa report. Further maintenance will continue, with additional bark to be provided. The District Council have indicated that they may increase the current "peppercorn" rent the parish pays to Wychavon, but have not indicated the level of this increase.

### ***Newsletter***

The Parish has started to include a section in the Villager magazine and is contacting the editor with a view to providing some sponsorship in return for a regular ½ page to be included.

### ***Lengthsman***

The parish has signed a contract with a local contractor to provide a Lengthsman service. This is funded (to the Parish) by the County Council and the parish then pays the Lengthsman to provide a regular maintenance service to carry out work such as verge cutting and gully cleaning.

*Areas of Future Interest*

The Parish Council has started to consider a number of other areas that will be continued into the next year. These include:

- the development of a Parish Plan, which will identify those areas that local residents would like the Parish Council to address;
- carrying out a litter pick within the village, funded by the District Council;
- putting picnic benches in the Millennium Wood (which will require liaison with Wychavon and Drakes Broughton Parish);
- putting notice boards outside the village hall and Hawbridge bus shelter.

**1. To Elect A Chairman.**

Nick Lee was elected Chairman

**2. To Elect A Vice Chairman.**

Malory Whitehurst was elected Vice Chairman

**3. Apologies****4. Declaration Of Interests****5. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008.**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

**6. To Assess Risk Assessment And Insurance.**

It was agreed there was no need for any changes.

**7. To Consider Any Amendments To The Financial Regulations And/Or Standing Orders.**

It was agreed there was no need for any changes. The application form for the savings account with the Alliance and Leicester will be completed by Cllrs Lee, Hartnell and Callaghan and posted.

**8. To Approve the Accounts for Year Ending March 2008.**

It was agreed by all to accept the Accounts for the year ending March 2008. Cllr Hartnell and Lee agreed to approach possible internal Auditors.

**9. To Appoint Representatives to The Following Working Parties.**

- a) Village Hall Committee - Cllr Hartnell, Callaghan and Whitehurst.
- b) Footpath Officer – Cllr Hartnell.
- c) Playing Field Officer – Cllr Lee and Whitehurst.
- d) Flood Warden – Cllr Lee,
- e) The News Letter – Cllr Hartnell and Lewis.
- f) Local Council Association (CALC) – Cllr Whitehurst.
- g) Planning Working Party – Cllr Lewis, Hartnell, Callaghan and Whitehurst.
- h) Financial Officer – Cllr Whitehurst.

**10. Planning.**Certificate Of Lawful Existing Use or Development.

Brickbarns Farm, Evesham Road, Egdon. Manufacture, storage and distribution of chemical toilets.

Approved by Wychavon

W/07/02859/CU Land off Windmill Lane Stoulton. Change of use to equestrian and construction of a ménage and fodder storage. (Retrospective).

Consultation.

W/08/00940/LB. The Old Vicarage, Church lane, Stoulton. Temporary change of use, for three years, of existing office and play room to office including toilet provision and a tea station.

**11. Correspondence for Information. (Listed on the Clerk's Report.)**

Dog Control Questionnaire completed, Action Clerk to post. The resignation of Mr R Marchant as a councillor. Action Clerk to notify Wychavon. Action Clerk to confirm un-metered supply to Eon. Action Clerk to investigate positioning of notice at Windmill Hill.

**12. Invoices to Be Paid.**

N Power. 000236 £28.27, S Gwilliam (Lengthsman) 000237 £160.00, T D Hemming (Grass Cutting) 000328 £160.00, J Shields (Clerk Salary and Expenses) 000329 £220.06.

**13. Progress Reports for Information.**

J Shields  
Clerk

- a) Clerk.
- b) Footpaths Officer.  
Awaiting meeting with F Argyle. Action Clerk to chase.
- c) Playing Field Officer.  
ROSPA report – Agenda item next meeting.
- d) Flood Warden.
- e) Finance Officer.
- f) Village Hall Management Committee.  
Chairman report (Copy Enclosed)
- g) County Councillor.

Wychavon will not be joining Worcester City and Malvern to form another tier of local government. A bridle way will be made on the eastern side of the Millennium Wood on Council land. Cllr Middleborough was an excellent District Councillor respected with in Wychavon and the County Council. Difficult with the Flood, which had used resources when the Council is constantly reducing its expenditure. The Cllr has £3,500 to be donated to Youth organisation within his area.

- h) District Councillor.

The Cllr advised of a further self help flooding grant off £250.00 (£500.00 if you have been flooded more than one in the past 10 years) being given by Wychavon. Severn Trent has meet with Mr Hegaty regarding a scheme, where by alarms can be placed on a water course to give advance warning of them breaking their banks. Extra 3,000.00 homes to be provided in the ‘Spacial Strategy’ will be South and East of Worcester contained by the motorway. Stoulton will receive their wheelie bins with instructions during the months of July/August for the new scheme to start in September.

- i) Co Mingled Plant at Norton.

Cllr Adams reported there was a forth coming meeting being held, as the 50 conditions set by Worcestershire had not yet been met by the contractors. Cllr Callaghan agreed to attend the meetings after the resignation of Mr Merchant.

- j) Lengthsman. Application for Lengthsman Scheme has been approved.

k) PC Fell – Advised that she is not involved in the Neighbourhood watch scheme. Because of the guidelines required for speed enforcement the 30 mph stretch through the village is not suitable for mobile enforcement. CSO and she are attending a cycle course which will enable them, with the aid of a bike rack, to drive to a village and patrol a larger area. A concern is the Telephone Box by the playing fields being used by children to make unnecessary 999 calls. Action Cllr Hartnell with put an article in the Villager alerting parents, he will also contact BT regarding the possible removal of the phone box.

#### **14. To Consider A Parish Plan.**

The Council agreed to discuss this item in the future.

#### **15. To Consider Litter Pick Bursary.**

It was agreed for the litter pick to take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr Callaghan to collect equipment for Wychavon Action Clerk to notify C Pugh.

#### **16. To Discuss The Flood Grant.**

Ongoing.

#### **17. To Consider Providing Picnic Benches For The Millennium Wood.**

Cllr Middleburgh will supply benches from his grant.

#### **18. To Discuss the Clerks Hours.**

It was agreed to increase the clerk’s hours and for the salary to be paid by standing order.

#### **19. To Consider Applying To Become A Quality Parish.**

It was agreed not to apply.

#### **20. Items for Future Agenda.**

Cllr Adams was asked to provide a speaker on Speeding for the nest meeting.

#### **21. Date of Next Meeting.**