

Minutes of Strensham Parish Council

7th March 2013

Present: N P Guilding - Chairman
C White
A Truscott
D Wallbank
L Gough
P Ellis
R Davis - District Councillor
R Abunassar - Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gribble.

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. No alterations were requested and they were signed off by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

Escape of sewage into ditches

The Clerk will continue to liaise with Paul Saunders to encourage them to investigate the issue.

Action: RA

Trees by War Memorial & Twyning Road

A request for the trees to be crowned was resubmitted to the Worcestershire Hub.

Main Road

The potholes outside Cheeseman's cottage and by Baughton Bridge had been reported to the Worcestershire Hub and repair work would be monitored.

Action: RA

PACT

The Clerk had contacted PC Williams and he confirmed he would be attending the Annual meeting but would be happy to submit crime reports when requested for other meetings.

Action: RA

Broadband

The latest communication issued highlighted that Strensham had one of the highest percentage survey completion rate and that only an additional 33 houses were required to complete the survey to achieve the target of 50% . Councillors were urged to ask people to complete the survey even if they were happy with the Broadband service they currently received. Cllr Gough updated the Council on a phone conversation he had had with BT surrounding the costings of a new fibre optic cabinet within the village and will contact Pauline from the Broadband Team to discuss possible options for the village.

Action: RA/LG

ROSPA Report

The contact details had been passed to the Clerk by Cllr Gribble and the Contractor would be contacted after the annual ROSPA report due in the next month had been received.

Action: RA/MG

5. Finances

- a) The Clerk summarised the Receipts and Payments in the period since the last meeting:

Payments

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Mr Williams | January Lengthsman's Duties | £ | 84.00 |
| Mr Williams | February Lengthsman's Duties | £ | 66.00 |
| Mrs Abunassar | Jan & Mar Clerk Duties | £ | 373.86 |
| | | | |
| | Total Payments | | £ 523.86 |

6. Planning

- a) **Wind Prospects – Full Application.**

The application was refused by Tewkesbury Borough Council in February but it is anticipated that they will appeal against the decision and the other refusal by Wychavon and Malvern Hills. The Wychavon appeal period will be at an end by the end of March so the Council will monitor the application to see if Wind Prospects do lodge an appeal.

Action: RA/DW

- b) **New build on Court Rd -** Cllr Wallbank read out an email he had received from South Worcestershire Building Control regarding the property and the drainage issues which stated that the property would now be serviced by a cesspool. A long discussion ensued and it was agreed to write to Planning Enforcement advising that the Parish Council is not in favour of the proposed solution as it is a very small site in close proximity to neighbours and a cesspool would need frequent emptying. It is also contrary to the drainage condition attached to the application which required the property to be attached to the main sewerage system within the village. It was also noted that the footpath surrounding the property has not been completed but that the property was being marketed for sale.

Action: RA

- c) **Rockeridge Farm** – The application had been considered by all Councillors and a response submitted by the Clerk advising the Council had no objections to the

application but requested a condition was attached to prevent it being changed to a residential property in the future.

7. District & County Councillors' Reports

District Council – Cllr Ron Davis

Cllr Davis advised the Council that Wychavon had finalised their budget and approved to freeze council tax. Any shortfall in funding Parish Precepts will be subsidised this year but it cannot not be confirmed that it will be subsidised next year.

The Council were updated on the latest developments of NHS reforms and West Mercia Police and Crime Panel.

Cllr Davis also advised the Council on Wychavon Community Development Grants and urged them to think of projects and apply for funding.

8. Correspondence

Mrs Abunassar advised Councillors of relevant documentation received since the last meeting.

- a. Section 106 – Councillors were advised that Wychavon wished any to collate a list of any possible projects that would use section 106 money for funding to assist them with organising the best deals for Parish Councils.
- b. Wychavon Switch – Wychavon are asking all parishioners to sign up to an initiative they have launched to arrange deals with energy suppliers. People who sign up are under no obligation to go with the supplier found by Wychavon but they are hopeful that if the number of people who sign up are large enough they will be able to secure competitive rates for parishioners.

Action: RA

9. Any Other Business

- **New Homes Bonus** – The latest figures for the New Homes Bonus had been released and Strensham was entitled to £19,000 over the next six years. The Clerk updated the Council on a meeting she had attended that explained what action was required to be able to claim the money. It highlighted that in order to access the money projects must demonstrate community involvement/backing so it was agreed to start publicising the money and ask for ideas from the parishioners. It was agreed that a flyer would be designed to publicise the New Homes Bonus and ask parishioners for ideas and suggestions.
- **Email From Mr Sawyer** – An email had been received by the Clerk from a parishioner complaining about the state of the service area and litter that was escaping from Roadchef's premises. It was readout to the Council. After a discussing the problems highlighted in the email it was agreed that Cllr Guilding would contact Mr Sawyer and respond to the queries raised.

Action: RA

The meeting adjourned at 21.15

**Date of next meeting – Thursday 23rd May 2013
At 19:30**