

Strensham Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27th March 2014 starting at 19:30 in Strensham Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: N P Guilding (Chairman) A Truscott D Wallbank
M Gribble L Gough

Apologies: Cllr C White

In Attendance: Rebecca Abunassar (Clerk) DCllr Davis CCllr Adrian Hardman 6 Parishioners

12/14 Welcome & Apologies: Cllr Guilding welcomed all present

13/14 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors
None received

14/14 Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated.
No alterations were requested and they were signed off by the Chairman.

15/14 Matters Arising and Progress Reports:

a) **Roadchef:** The Clerk advised that Steve Thomas had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but he planned to attend the meeting in May.
ACTION: *The Clerk to inform Mr Thomas of the date of the May meeting.*

b) **New Homes Bonus:** The Clerk had met with Gerry Brienza from Highways who approved the use of a vehicle activated sign in the village. He advised for it to work correctly it would need to be located opposite Four Season and therefore the post would have to be moved. He felt the Lengthsman would not be able to do it and that Ringway would have to undertake the task. The cost should be built into the amount submitted to Wychavon. It was agreed to contact some companies to get quotations and submit the NHB application form.
ACTION: *The Clerk to complete the New Homes Bonus application form for the VAS sign and to get a quotation from Highways to move the post.*

c) **Lorries through the Village:** A meeting had been held in the village on the 20th March to discuss the work being undertaken at Strensham Court. It had been organised by the Environment Agency (EA) and Wychavon Enforcement and County Highways were also present and had been allotted time to talk to those present. The meeting was extremely well attended by Parishioners and clearly demonstrated the depth of feeling against the volume of lorries travelling through the village and the disruption they caused. Cllr Wallbank gave a summary of the meeting for those who had been unable to attend. He explained that there appeared to be real confusion over what had been granted by Wychavon Planning and what permission had been granted by the EA. The planning team felt their hands were tied until all the work was completed. A detailed discussion of the meeting then ensued.

Cllr Wallbank advised the Council that the EA had been in contact with him and wished to set up a further meeting, he asked which Councillors would like to attend and it was agreed the Cllrs Guilding, Gough and Gribble would also attend the meeting and proposed a few dates that they were all available to be put forward to the EA.

It was agreed that the main point to raise was the lack of soil sampling that appears to have taken place – their guidelines stipulate a test should be taken

every 25-30 lorries and this was a planning condition from Wychavon so it should be being undertaken.

A parishioner asked if the Council knew when the lorries were likely to start up again. Cllr Guilding clarified that it was entirely up to Mr Reynolds but he must adhere to the operating times outlined in the application and pinned up by the site. It was agreed that if they did start up again and a mess was left on the roads that the police should be contacted immediately. The question of whether the lorries should be covered was raised but the answer was not known.

ACTION: Cllr Wallbank to arrange a date for a meeting with the EA – Cllrs Gribble, Gough & Guilding to attend with DCllr Davis and feedback at the meeting.

d) ROSPA Report/Playground Repair: The playground had been inspected and the report was awaited and would be circulated once received.

e) Broadband: The Clerk did not have an update on the Broadband project.

ACTION: The Clerk to speak to the Broadband Project Team ahead of the next meeting.

16/14 Planning: a) To consider the following application referred by Wychavon for consultation:

a) W/14/00488/PP - The Stables, Boughton Lane, Strensham, WR8 9LL

It was agreed that, as this was a retrospective planning application and the property was not over looked nor had complaints been received from neighbours, that no objection would be raised.

b) Details of enforcement action:

i) **Harbour Wood** – Please refer to Lorries through the village minute 15/14c.

ii) **New build on Court Rd** – Cllr Truscott updated the Council with regards to the property, the tenants had moved out and the cesspit had been emptied. It was understood that the builder had been declared bankrupt so it was unlikely that any further work would be undertaken on the house in the near future.

ACTION: The Clerk to continue to liaise with the Enforcement Officer.

iii) **Rectory House Access Track**– The Clerk read out a letter she had received from the Enforcement Officer advising that they were not going to pursue the case any further as it could not be disproved that the entrance had not always been there but had just been out of use as stated by the appellant.

17/14 District & County Councillors Reports: for information

a) **District Cllr Ron Davis** – Cllr Davis updated the Council on the latest activity at Wychavon. The SWDP was to reach its final stage on the 31st March and it was thought that the number of proposed houses might increase to 27,000 which is an increase of 4,000 properties; however, Malvern Hills and Worcester City were very reluctant to take anymore. He informed the Council of a pilot scheme regarding car parking prices that was likely to be trailed in Evesham. It was looking at the impact on revenue if the price was kept at 20p. He then went on to talk about the meeting held to discuss Strensham Lake; he was very impressed with the turnout. Following the meeting he had spoken to Enforcement to try and get a temporary stop or injunction against the lorries but was advised it would be too costly to do. DCllr Davis said he would be happy to attend the meeting with the EA and asked that Cllr Wallbank inform him of the date when arranged.

b) **County Cllr Adrian Hardman** – Councillor Hardman spoke to the Council about the meeting he had attended on 20th March and told of his frustration that nothing

seems to have been done to stop the lake turning into an 'Inert Tip' that is there without planning permission. It was his opinion the County Council should be taking legal action to put a stop to it but unfortunately there is an issue of costs awarded against the Council if it was lost and that would need to be looked into. He suggested that Harriet Baldwin was written to by the Parish Council and this course of action suggested to her. It was agreed to await the next meeting with the EA before taking this course of action.

Cllr Hardman went on to update the Council on the proposed staff reductions that would be implemented at County over the coming years and are currently in negotiations with Trade Unions. He summarised it was going to be a very challenging year ahead as 10% savings had to be achieved. Road maintenance and care for the elderly were two budgets that had increased but the majority of budgets had been reduced. He confirmed that the main road through the village was set to be surface dressed this year and to check the road maintenance programme regularly to see when it comes up.

He closed his update by discussing the travellers that were currently camped outside the Highways Depot and assured the Council that he was working with the appropriate departments to try and move them on. Once they had moved on he would endeavour to work with the Council to find an appropriate way of preventing them from coming back to that location.

18/14 Highways Matters

a) Report & Works for the Lengthsman –

A summary of the Lengthsman work around the village was provided.

b) The trees lining Twyning Road previously reported had been cut back on the edge of Strensham Court Mews. The Clerk confirmed it had been arranged through the Solicitors for the Estate.

c) The drain opposite Cheeseman's Cottage was required to be reported again but on investigating it with the Highways Officer the issue seemed to be the road was lower on the side opposite the drain and therefore water pooled in the lowest point.

ACTION: *The Clerk to speak to Highways to request the repair work on the collapsed drain is undertaken and report all the issues raised to the Hub.*

19/14 Finance:

a) Payments of Accounts: The Council approved the following payments of accounts:

Date	PAYEE	Description	Cheque No.	Amount
	Mr R Williams	Feb Lengthsman duties	511	£120.00
	Mrs R Abunassar	Jan - March Clerk Duties	513	£494.46
	Mr R Williams	March Lengthsman duties	512	£114.00
	Mr R Williams	Weed Killer Spray	514	£30.00
Total Paid Out				£758.46

c) Receipts: £336 from WCC for reimbursement of the Lengthsman Scheme

d) Consideration of quotation received by Gordon Sawyer for replacement Perspex for the notice board at Lower Strensham – it was agreed that the Council were prepared to pay a maximum of £75 to replace the Perspex.

20/14 Correspondence

a) Email from Julie Pardoe (Police) – The Clerk read out the email from Julie Pardoe which had been previously circulated. The Clerk had also been advised that Julie was going to be on sick leave for a few months but a colleague would be covering whilst she was off.

b) Ceasing of Paper Planning Applications – Wychavon Planning Department had contacted the Clerk to advise that from April paper copies of planning applications would cease to be sent to parish councils. The Clerk was asked to write to planning and ask how they envisaged Parish Councils without access to WIFI to view and discuss planning applications at meetings.

21/14 Topics raised by Councillors, Committees, Clerk & Parishioners:

- a) Cllr Wallbank informed the Council of a meeting he had attended the previous evening at Wychavon District Council Offices. He explained about the Rural Community Programme which was looking at the demographics of the district. The programme offered to provide a folder of information relevant to parish and it was agreed to request one to be kept in the village hall. He also mentioned a presentation given by an oil buying club who administer everything online. The final message from the meeting was about the changing role of parish councillors due to the localism act.

ACTION: *The Clerk to contact the programme and request a folder.*

22/14 Date of next meeting: 1st May 2014 was the date set for the next meeting which would be the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed: *Rebecca Abunassar*

Date: 20/04/2014