**Strensham Parish Council**

**Minutes** of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th January 2016 starting at 19:30 in Strensham Village Hall

## Present: Councillors: N P Guilding (Chairman) J Wescomb L Gough G Sawyer M Gribble P Ellis

**In Attendance:** Rebecca Abunassar (Clerk) DCllr R Davies 1 parishioner

**01/16 Welcome & Apologies** - Cllr Guilding welcomed all present to the first parish council meeting of 2016.

**02/16 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors:** None received

**03/16 Minutes:**  The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2015 had been circulated and the minutes were signed off.

**04/16 Meeting Closed for Members of the Public to Address the council –** No questions from the floor.

**05/16 Matters Arising and Progress Reports:**

New Homes Bonus: Cllr Gribble reported that a bulletin had been distributed to all households within the parish asking them to rank 12 proposals that were being put forward for consideration and also giving them another opportunity to put forward other suggestions. The responses had been collated and the sub-committee were really happy with the number received as it was in excess of 30% of households. From the returned forms a document was produced listing all the proposals, with a description and an estimated cost. The returned forms enabled the proposals to be ranked in order of support from parishioners, and this would form a mandate for the Council to work towards. The NHB statement was discussed and it was clarified that the parish council had £9000 currently available to spend and it was anticipated another £5000 would become available after April. The parish council had previously spend £4000 of the NHB allocated to them. Now that the level of support could be gaged Cllr Gribble and the sub-committee would set to work to get firm quotations for the proposals in order to be able to submit an application to Wychavon for the funds to complete the proposals. Cllr Gough said on behalf of the Parish Council he would like to thank Cllr Gribble for all his hard work as he was the main driving force behind the work undertaken to date. Purchasing a second VAS was one of the proposals but the Clerk advised the existing VAS was set up so that it could be moved to the other end of the village and that Highways had put in a pole by the Mews in the appropriate location. The Clerk advised that to make it easier to move the VAS on a regular basis it would be worthwhile ordering a second clip to enable them to be left in situ. All voted in favour. The Clerk also advised that the charger was being returned to the company for replacement/repair.

**ACTION: Cllr Gribble, Gough & Wescomb to continue to work on the costings of the proposals. Clerk to order clip for the VAS from Westcotec.**

Broadband: Cllr Gough updated the Council on the Superfast Broadband project. The BT website was indicating that Upper Strensham’s cabinet 41 had gone live during the day and therefore earlier than the estimation of March- October 2016. He was going to check with BT that it was operational and it was agreed to inform parishioners via the Village Hall’s committee’s newsletter which was coming out shortly. Once confirmed the Clerk would put a notice on the parish council website. The Councillors were asked to spread the word.

Reported Highway Issues: The village drains are to be jetted in the next couple of months to alleviate the flooding issues. Cllr Gribble updated the Council on the reported fallen drain that was not actually a real drain and had been subsequently replaced by a kerb stone.

Cllr Sawyer advised that there was grass growing in the centre of the road along Church Road. It was agreed that he would take photos and report it via the Worcestershire Hub.

**ACTION: Cllr Sawyer to report state the road.**

**07/16** **Planning:**

1. To consider any planning applications:

15/02995/PP Holly Mount, 6 Hill View Strensham,

Installation of side dormer to garage to facilitate loft conversion

No objections raised

b) Details of decision: None received

c) Details of enforcement action: None Outstanding

**08/16 District & County Councillors Reports:** for information

1. **District Cllr Ron Davis** – Cllr Davis thanked the Council for inviting him to the first meeting of 2016 and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He updated the council on Wychavon’s budgeting for 2016 and that the Council were planning a 2.7% increase in Council Tax. Cllr Ellis asked about the Council’s reserves and Cllr Davis said they were currently £35 million a decrease from previous £40 million but they were being very careful with the money.
2. **County Cllr Adrian Hardman** – Cllr Hardman was not present

**09/16 Highways Matters**

1. Reported problems – The grass growing on Church Road was agreed to be reported.

**10/16 Finance:**

1. Payments of Accounts: The Council approved the following payments of accounts:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Payee* | *Reason* | *No.* | *Amount* |
| Badger Benches | VAT on order | 580 | *43.99* |
| Parish Councillor | Printing costs of NHB Flyer | 581 | *16.00* |
| K Hartell | Grass Cuttings Removal | 582 | *60.00* |
| The Clerk | Nov- Dec Clerk Duties | 583 | *178.28* |
| HMRC | Q3 PAYE | 584 | 34.80 |
| WCALC | Councillor Training | 585 | 30.00 |

1. Receipts: None received

c) To agree the budget for 2016-2017 and required precept request – The Clerk distributed a budget for consideration based on the expenditure of the current year. It was discussed and was agreed that the Parish Council should request a small increase in the precept to cover additional Lengthsman expenditure. By increasing the precept by £125 it would show as a 3% increase and equate to a £1 per annum increase for a Band D property.

**ACTION: The Clerk to complete and send the precept request to Wychavon.**

**11/16 Correspondence**

a) David Francetti’s email regarding Land at the Glebe Solar Farm – Deed of Community Benefit & Bribery Compliance Form to be completed. The contracts had been sent to Cllr Guilding & Gribble for comment prior to the meeting, Cllr Gribble raised the concern that he thought that if the deed was signed then the Council would forego any rights to object to any future changes/alterations to the site in future years. This was debated and it was agreed to seek legal advice from CALC or Wychavon regarding the documents. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact David Francetti and ask whether there was a deadline for returning the deed if it was agreed to sign.  
**ACTION: The Clerk to contact CALC and David Francetti.**

b) Planning Enforcement Questionnaire – The questionnaire had been circulated and it was agreed that there would be a response from the Parish Council and Cllr Gough and the Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council.  
**ACTION: The Clerk & Cllr Gough to complete the survey prior to the deadline.**

c) Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebrations – Wychavon’s Email regarding festivities was circulated.

d) PACT – Cllr Gough updated the Council on his correspondence with PACT and the main thing was getting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme up and running which they would be willing to assist.

**ACTION: Cllr Gough to liaise with PACT, the Clerk to NHW on the agenda for the next meeting.**

**12/16 AOB**

1. Lower Strensham Traffic – As part of the NHB responses an email had been received from a parishioner in Lower Strensham who had asked if some of the money could be used to address the traffic that travels along Bourne/Hill View Road at great speed. The Clerk & Cllr Gribble had met with Gerry Brienza from Highways to look into the possibility of siting a bus shelter in Lower Strensham and they also looked at the existing road markings and signage. They were advised that the current road markings were in a good state of repair and would not be re-painted. The question of reducing the speed limit along that stretch was also discussed and it was clarified that for the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph there was a requirement for a minimum of 20 properties along 600m of the road. Unfortunately, this was not present along the stretch of road. However, it was decided to investigate the cost of changing the existing ‘Lower Strensham’ signs with larger ones that asked drivers to drive carefully highlighting they are driving through a hamlet. It was also agreed to ask Highways if the traffic monitoring strips could be situated in Lower Strensham to get an indication of the volume and speeds of vehicles using the road.

**ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Highways.**

1. Protection at the Bus Stop – Cllr Ellis asked if the council could look into protection for the bus stop as he was concerned about the vulnerability of the children from cars whilst they wait for the school buses.

**ACTION: To investigate possible means of protection.**

**13/16 Date of next meeting:** Tuesday15th March 2016 was the date set for the next meeting.

Signed: *Rebecca Abunassar*  Date: 30/01/2016