**Strensham Parish Council**

**Minutes** of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 26th May 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 C White

**In Attendance:** Rebecca Abunassar (Clerk) CCllr A Hardman 6 parishioners

**25/16 Election of Chairman 2016/17** **& signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office** Cllr Guilding welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Cllr White and Sawyer proposed Cllr Guilding who accepted their nomination. Cllr Gribble seconded the proposal and all Councillors voted in favour. Cllr Guilding thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for 2016/17.

**26/16 Apologies:** Apologies were received from DCllr Davis

**27/16 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors:**

None received

**28/16 Minutes:**  The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2016 had been circulated and the minutes were signed.

**29/16 Matters Arising and Progress Reports:**

 **New Homes Bonus:** Cllr Gribble updated the Council on all the New Homes projects. The Kitchen work had been completed and everyone commented on how good it looked. Everything was in place for the work to start on the play area and the contractors were booked to start work on the 13th June and it would be completed in time for an official opening day event on the 18th June.

Cllr Sawyer explained that the Village Hall Management Committee were organising an opening event and inviting parishioners and their families to attend. He asked if the Parish Council would consider donating £50 for to prizes. Cllr Guilding proposed the donation and Cllr Ellis seconded it and all Councillors voted in favour of the proposal and agreed to donate £50 for prizes.

**Broadband:** Cllr Gough updated the Council on the Superfast Broadband project. Broadband was now being utilised by several parishioners and was working well. Cllr Sawyer and Wescomb said that it was still not available in Lower Strensham this was thought to be due to the distance of the properties from the Defford exchange.

**30/16 Planning:**

1. To consider any planning applications: None received but an update on the following application was given: 16/00383/PN Rectory House, Church Road,

After the last meeting it had been agreed not to seek professional representation against the application. Cllr Hardman advised that the application would be being passed over to the County Planning team for consideration.

1. Details of decision: None received

 c) Details of enforcement action: None Outstanding

**31/16 District & County Councillors Reports:** for information

1. **District Cllr Ron Davis** – Cllr Davis had submitted a report which was read out.
2. **County Cllr Adrian Hardman** Cllr Hardman apologised that he had not been able to attend the last few meetings. He spoke about the Rectory House planning application and the County view that it was a waste disposal application. He explained that it is not in the County Waste and Mineral Plan so is unlikely to be looked on favourably. He also mentioned that Cemex had not revitalised their application for gravel extraction within the parish and it has to go to the Secretary of State so hopefully it would go no further. He then went on to say that the footpaths outside the village hall will be resurfaced on both sides and will probably be done over the winter.

**32/16 Highways Matters –**

a) Lengthsman - The previous lengthsman had stood down from the role but John Barrett had agreed to take over the work. Previously Geoff Russell had asked if something could be done regarding the pavement towards the Services as it was getting narrower and narrower. The Clerk had confirmed that siding out of pavements was the type of work the lengthsman would do and a request would be made.

b) Gates – Worcestershire County Council had confirmed that they would pay for replacing the gates with plastic ones and would liaise with the Clerk. The Clerk ask the Council to decide what they wished to do with the wooden gates. It was agreed that they would try to sell the gates and Cllr Gribble would make the appropriate arrangements. A safe location for storage was agreed upon.

**ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with Highways contractors regarding the replacement.**

c) Lower Strensham Traffic – A letter had been sent to Highways regarding the increased volume of traffic going through Lower Strensham. It was discussed with Cllr Hardman and the frustration regarding the inability to reduce the speed limit was shown. Cllr Hardman said he would arrange for counting strips to be put in place to monitor the volume of traffic on Bourne Rd/Hill View Rd. The Clerk would also chase Highways for a final quotation for replacing the sign.

**ACTION: The Clerk & Cllr Hardman to arrange for monitoring strips and finalised quotation from Highways.**

**33/16 Finance:**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Payee* | *Reason* | *Amount* |
| The Clerk | Stamps | 15.60 |
| Westcotec | clip | 60.00 |
| Lengthsman | duties & expenses  | 336.34 |
| L A Garden Services | March & April | 230.00 |
| Playsafety Limited | Rospa Annual Inspection | 79.80 |
| Worcestershire CALC | Annual Affiliation | 154.23 |
| The Clerk | April Clerk Duties & Stationary | 344.48 |
| AON Insurance | Annual Insurance Policy | 357.67 |
| The Clerk | AGM Refreshments | 46.31 |

1. To receive the annual financial statement and sign the External Auditors Governance statement: The annual financial statement along with spreadsheets of all receipts and payments had been circulated to all Councillors ahead of the meeting and was agreed to be accurate. The Governance statement was read out and completed accordingly. A meeting with the Internal Auditor had been arranged for the 24th June.
2. Receipts: The 1st instalment of the Precept had been received.

**34/16 Election of Vice-Chair** – Cllr Guilding asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair, he said he would like to nominated Cllr Gribble, Cllr Gough seconded the proposal and all voted in favour. Cllr Guilding thanked Cllr Gribble for his continued support in the role.

**35/16 Correspondence**

1. David Francetti’s email regarding Land at the Glebe Solar Farm – Deed of Community Benefit & Bribery Compliance Forms – NALC had contacting the Clerk advising them to be wary of signing. Cllr Hardman was updated on the issue and agreed to look into the matter for the Parish Council.

**ACTION: The Clerk to send across all the relevant documentation to Cllr Hardman.**

1. **PACT & Neighbourhood Watch-** Cllr Gough had received an email from PACT asking if there was anything that the parish would like included in their report. The question of Neighbourhood watch campaign was raised and Cllr Gough said he would write for further information as he had received very little on it to date.

**ACTION: Cllr Gough to gather information on NHW.**

**35/16 Date of next meeting:** Thursday28th July 2016 was the date set for the next meeting.

The Annual General Meeting was concluded and the Parish Meeting Opened.

**THE PARISH MEETING**

1. The Chairman’s Annual Report for 2015/2016 was read out

Reports were received from:

 a) Local Policing Officer PACT

 b) Parish Council Finance Rebecca Abunassar

 c) Village Hall VHMC

All are available to read on the myparish website.

5 ***Open Forum*** – The meeting was opened up to all present.

i)The issue of Drones being flown around the village was raised and several parishioners had concerns about them especially as there were instances of the being launched from land close to the Air Ambulance. Cllr Gough offered to contact PACT and ask them about the parishioners’ concerns.

**ACTION: Cllr Gough to raise the issue with PACT.**

ii) The date for the Conservation Church’s Tea Party was 23rd July

iii) A request for a dog litter bin was made.

**ACTION: The Clerk to speak to Wychavon to find out about the cost of emptying the contents.**

iv) The problem of dog mess being left in different areas of the parish was discussed and the Clerk was asked to find out more about the ‘We are watching you’ and the ‘Dog-Poo Fairy’ campaigns being run by Keep Britain Tidy.

**ACTION: The Clerk to contact Keep Britain Tidy.**

Signed: *Rebecca Abunassar*  Date: 26/06/2016