**Strensham Parish Council**

**Minutes** of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd November 2017 starting at 19:30 in Strensham Village Hall

## Present: Councillors: N P Guilding (Chairman) J Wescomb M Gribble G Sawyer C White L Gough & R Kendal

**In Attendance:** Charlotte Harris (Clerk) 1 parishioner

**53/17 Welcome & Apologies:** The Chairman welcomed all present.

**54/17 Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Requests from Councillors:** None received

**55/17 Minutes:**  The minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th September 2017 had been circulated. The minutes were signed.

**56/17 Matters Arising & Progress Reports:**

1. Play Area Improvements – Cllr Gribble continuing to look into quotes and will contact a company in Worcester

 **ACTION: Cllr Gribble to continue to request quotation for a new surface.**

1. New Homes Bonus – Cllr Wescomb and Charlotte met with Jerry Brienza regarding signage in Lower Strensham. Jerry was very open to the possibility of ‘Slow down’ signs, and gates on the grass verge (provided they are a specified distance away from the road), and is happy for the council to proceed with these. He was also open to the possibility of reinstating ‘Slow down for Horses’ signs, which were previously on Baughton Lane. He provided a contact address for Kieran Hemstock, who will be able to advise on the possibility of vehicle activated signs. The Council is keen to put these items in place before the end of the financial year.

**ACTION: Charlotte to liase with Kieran Hemstock and report back to subcommittee.**

 **Subcommittee to investigate slow down signs, gates and VAS if allowed.**

1. Trees in Strensham Court – Cllr Gough wished to re highlight his concerns, due to him not being present at Septembers meeting. Concerns were raised regarding possible abuses of planning (especially highway access and the track that has been created through the woods). Cllr Gough believes that access to the field should not have been created and wishes this to be investigated further. Cllr White also had concerns about the ice house in the woods, and believes that this should be preserved. He has evidence that there are bats resident.

**ACTION: Charlotte to email Wychavon Planning Enforcement for clarification.**

1. Flytipping – Cllr Guilding reported the mattresses on Mill Lane to Wychavon Council. They were removed within two days.

e) Lottery License – A cheque has been received from the Village Hall Committee for payment of the Lottery license.

**57/17 Planning:**

a)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [17/02106/FUL](https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=92486) | Severn Trent Water Plc Reclamation Works Mill Lane Strensham Worcester WR8 9LB | Installation of a Polymer Dosing Kiosk and a Coagulant Dosing Kiosk on operational land within Strensham Water Treatment Works, Worcestershire. | Pending decision  |

b) Details of decisions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**17/01888/HP**](https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=92268) | 4 Hill View Road Strensham Worcester WR8 9LJ | Single storey rear extension, first floor side extension and change of existing roof tiles | Approved |
|  |  |  |  |
| [**17/01743/CU**](https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=92123) | Bournewood Lodge Park Bourne Road Defford Worcester WR8 9BT | Installation of additional six holiday lodges on existing caravan site. | Approved |
|  |  |  |  |

**Application Ref:**    [09/000085/CM](http://e-planning.worcestershire.gov.uk/swift/apas/run/WPHAPPDETAIL.DisplayUrl?theApnID=09/000085/CM&backURL=%3ca%20href=wphappcriteria.display?paSearchKey=25828%3eSearch%20Criteria%3c/a%3e%20%3e%20%3ca%20href='wphappsearchres.displayResultsURL?ResultID=37612%26StartIndex=1%26SortOrder=APNID%26DispResultsAs=WPHAPPSEARCHRES%26BackURL=%3ca%20href=wphappcriteria.display?paSearchKey=25828%3eSearch%20Criteria%3c/a%3e'%3eSearch%20Results%3c/a%3e) **Grid Ref:**    (E) 391608, (N) 239248

**Applicant:**              Cemex UK Materials Limited

**Proposal:**               Extraction of Sand and Gravel with Subsequent Restoration of Land to Agriculture use and Woodland

**Location:**                Land Adjacent to Strensham Water Treatment Works, Mill Lane, Upper Strensham, Worcestershire

**WITHDRAWN**

c) Details of enforcement action and updates: None received

 **58/17 Highways Matters** – Condition of footpath over M5. Cllr Sawyer reported that both ends of the footpath on the bridge over the M5 are in extremely poor condition. The tarmac is cracked and is collapsing. This issue was raised approximately a year ago, and it is believed that a reply was received from Highways, but the issue has not yet been resolved. It was felt that they should be contacted again for an update.

**ACTION: Charlotte to review correspondence and contact Highways for an update.**

**59/17 District & County Councillors Reports:** for information

1. District Cllr Ron Davis – Not present
2. County Cllr Adrian Hardman – Not present

**60/17 Finance:**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Payee* | *Reason* | *Amount* |
| L A Garden Services | September & October | **230.00** |
| HMRC | Q2 PAYE |  **26.60** |
| John Barrett | Sept & Oct Lengthsman | **198.00** |
| Charlotte Harris | Sept & Oct Clerk Duties | **140.00** |
| Charlotte Harris | Clerk expenses | **40.46** |
| Malcolm Gribble | Remembrance wreath | **25.00** |
| Grant Thornton LLP | Audit cost | **240.00** |

1. Receipts –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parish Hall Committee | Lottery License | **20.00** |

1. Internal Auditor had approved the account, paperwork received.
2. Cllr Guilding has begun the process of adding and removing signatories to the Lloyds Bank account
3. Both the VAT reclaim of £4,093 and the second half of this year's Precept of £2,674 have been received.
4. Parish Council Precept – this will be considered in the next meeting, and needs to be completed by 3rd February.

**61/17 Topics raised by Councillors, Committees, Clerk & Parishioners:**

1. Flytipping garden waste in Strensham Woods - Cllr Guilding was approached by workmen in the woods, who pointed out that there was a large amount of tipped waste. The owner of the woods considers that it may be necessary to limit public access to the woods if tipping continues, although he appreciates that the woods are used by many of the villagers without issue. Cllr Gribble feels that they Parish Council should get involved, so that the woods can continue to be used. Cllr Gough suggests drafting a letter from the Parish Council to be distributed to nearby residents.

**ACTION: Charlotte to draft letter.**

1. Robberies in Strensham – Two shed/outbuilding robberies have happened recently with holes being cut in the chain link fence around the play area to access garden sheds. Cllr Guilding and Cllr White have both repaired these holes using cable ties. It is suggested that this might be a suitable solution, or possibly new pieces of chain link fence may be required. Cllr Gribble suggested that this may be covered under the village insurance, and if so, it might be sensible that we claim for this.

Cllr White suggested that he was not happy with the way that these incidents have been handled by the Police, and that further action needs to be taken, possibly by involving other Parish Councils and contacting our MP. Cllr Gough thought that maybe contacting the Police in the first instance may be better, to voice concerns, and give them a chance to make suggestions.

**ACTION: Charlotte to investigate whether insurance will cover fence repairs, and what the policy excess is.**

**ACTION: Charlotte to liase with local Police to invite them to meet with the Council and Parishioners.**

1. Land/Units for sale near Highways depot – It was requested that the Council finds out if there have ever been any Planning Applications made with regard to this site

**ACTION: Councillors will phone contact the agents.**

1. Building work at Southbound Service Area. Cllr Sawyer reported that having spoken to someone working in the Service area, he had found out that it is undergoing a major refurbishment, with £5 million having been invested. He was told that land adjoining the south east corner of the site has been bought by Roadchef, and it is their intention to expand the lorry parking area. Cllr Sawyer has been concerned by flooding on Church Road, which is believed to be due to material being dumped in the back corner of the services. Kerbing has been installed on Church Road, and it is believed that work to improve the drainage is ongoing. Cllr Sawyer suggested that it may be a good idea to invite a representative from Roadchef to a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss ongoing plans.

**ACTION: Invite Roadchef representative to meeting.**

1. Council Correspondence – Due to most of the planning application comments being submitted online by the clerk, the information is not always seen by the Councillors in the format that it is sent. Cllr Sawyer requested that any information submitted as a comment on a planning application should be copied to all the Councillors for information purposes. It was also noted that due to Cllr Kendall not having email access, it may be difficult for him to be provided with Council information, or be included in discussions.

**ACTION: Charlotte to provide Councillors with a copy of any information submitted regarding planning applications on an ongoing basis.**

**ACTION: All Councillors and clerk to make attempts for provide information to Cllr Kendall as necessary.**

1. Dog walking on Burial Ground – Cllr Wescomb was concerned by a letter that was received by residents of Lower Strensham regarding dog walking on the green burial ground. She believes that this is not necessarily nearby residents, as many arrive in cars and park in the car park. It was felt that as this is private land, the owners of the land may make the request as they wish, however the tone of the letter was a little unsuitable.
2. Track to Rectory House belonging to John Hill – Numerous Digaway & Clearaway tipping lorries have been seen taking soil and rubble to Rectory House along a track created from Bourne Road. Members of the Council expressed concern that the entrance had been created onto Bourne Road where one had not previously existed. It is unknown whether there is permission for entry and exit from the land onto the drive. Cllr Sawyer reported that he had spoken to the owner, who believes that he does have permission, but not for access by multiple lorry loads. This is thought to be a Highways issue, rather than planning. It was agreed that clarification needs to be sought as to whether permission has ever been given. Cllr Gough suggested that the owner may also be requested to carry out cleaning of the road due to the muddy lorry tracks that have been left.
3. **ACTION: Charlotte to email Highways to request clarification regarding the status of the track.**

**62/17 Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 31st January is the date set for the next meeting.