

STANDLAKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Standlake Parish Council, held in the Youth Club, Church End, on 14th September 2021 at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr. B. Parnham Chairman
Mr. Rippin Vice Chairman
Mrs. L. Burton
Mrs. J Macdonald
Mr. D. Bevan Clerk

and 2 members of the public - Ms. A. Stribany (Brighthampton) Mr. M. Pettitt (Victorum Developments)

1. APOLOGIES – Cllr. (OCC) D. Levy, Cllr (WODC) Mr. S. Good, Cllr (WODC) L. Nicholls, Mr. D. Jeffcoat, Mrs. A. Knipe, Mr. T. Ward. Mr. Parnham offered the council's thoughts and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs Good at this difficult time.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – there were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC ITEMS – Ms. Stribany spoke about the proposed 'First and Last Bus' service connecting Standlake to Eynsham. The proposal has now obtained funding from OCC and will, hopefully, start on 1st November with a 2 hourly service. Apart from providing a general service, this will allow the transporting of students from Standlake to and from Bartholomew School. There will be 3 buses with 2 operating during the day and one spare. It is hoped that an integrated ticket system will be in use to allow single ticketing between Standlake and Oxford, changing at Eynsham. Volunteers are required and a competition for children to name the minibuses is to be advertised. Mr. Parnham thanked Ms. Stribany for her presentation and the clerk will distribute the information she provided on the website and social media.

Mr. Pettitt said he was at the meeting to answer any question councillors may have regarding the application for 2 dwellings at 61 High St. Councillors expressed concerns regarding the height and general appearance of the proposals; that they were not in keeping with the rest of the High St.; it was overdevelopment of a small site; building 3 storeys by placing one below ground level would adversely affect local drainage and sewage due to the prevailing high water table in Standlake. Mr. Pettitt's response was that this was the kind of development encouraged by the government and that a water engineer had no problems with the water table situation. Mr. Parnham thanked Mr. Pettitt for his attendance and Mr. Pettitt left before the application was discussed.

4. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

OCC – Cllr. Dan Levy has forwarded, by email, a wide-ranging report to the council; it is attached to these minutes.

5. PLANNING -

21/02779/FUL Demolition of existing engineering workshop and erection of two detached dwellings with associated parking, private amenity space and landscaping: 61 High Street Standlake Witney: Victorium Developments Ltd. Object: overdevelopment, overbearing, not in keeping with other properties, drainage/sewage.

21/02776/S73 Removal of condition 4 of planning permission 20/01120/FUL to allow dwellings permitted development rights: 20/01120/FUL: Erection of two detached dwellings and associated operations: Land East Of 90 High Street Standlake: Butler and Duke Ltd. Object: no obvious reason to remove planning condition.

6. MINUTES - Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 13th July 2021, copies of which had been previously circulated to all members, were agreed as a true record and were signed by the chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Sewage/Flooding. Mr. Parnham gave a comprehensive report on a meeting he attended between Thames Water and the MP, Robert Courts; the full report has been circulated to councillors and distributed via the website and social media. TW confirmed that the work referred to in the household letter sent to all properties is progressing as planned and this means more tanker activity with traffic control on High St. and Abingdon Rd. Mr. Parnham said he stressed to TW our frustration with TW's standard replies to planning applications without considering our local knowledge. Furthermore, there seems to be little, if any, coordination between the various agencies – TW, OCC and WODC when dealing with flooding, drainage and sewage issues. Mr. Parnham has not yet received any further response from Robert Courts' office as to any

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further actions. Finally, there has been no response to recent requests to OCC for information regarding the proposals to alleviate the surface flooding in Woodlands. Mr. Parnham will continue to press all the agencies on drainage, sewage and flooding issues.

Roads/Traffic/Speeding/Traffic Calming – Mr. Parnham (reporting for Mrs. Knipe) said there were now 12 volunteers, and a retired police officer (Mr. Robert Maxwell) has volunteered to be coordinator and lead the group. A meeting has been arranged for Thursday 16th September and it is anticipated that training and deployment will soon follow.

Playground/Recreation Ground & Maintenance – The RoSPA annual inspection has been completed. There were no items requiring immediate action but some minor repairs have been carried out. Mr. Parnham said that it is intended that more detailed refurbishment of some items will be carried out in the early spring.

Environment – Mrs. Burton made the following report: Many thanks to Mark Pascoe for the mowing of the mound which the Parish Council has kindly offered to us for wildflower sowing. The scarifying is in progress. The school have organised a legacy pond for year 6. The reptile survey at the church and at the allotments are still ongoing; We did find a grass snake in one of the refugia; No bats were found at the church. Lucy Kennery from the Lower Windrush Valley Project has helped us submit a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire Environment. At Standlake Green Weekend we are working with Eco Church, Standlake in Wildlife, and the Hedgehog Society to stage an exhibition at the church from Thursday 30th Sept to Sunday 3rd October.

Hornsway Bench – Nothing further to report at this meeting. Agreed that this item be removed from Matters Arising until such time progress is made.

Village Gates – Mr. Parnham has nothing further to report at this meeting.

School Traffic Lights – these are now working, and OCC have confirmed the operating times as: 8 – 9am and 2.45 – 3.45pm.

Bus Shelters – The clerk has received an estimate for replacing the panel in the shelter on The Downs. Glass replacement - £137.80; Perspex - £78.50; labour - £175. The Perspex option was selected, and it was agreed to proceed with the work. The clerk said that further investigation revealed that the shelter on Heyford Close was still in use. In addition, with the possible re-introduction of a bus service to Eynsham this would be one of the stops; it was agreed to retain this shelter.

8. CORRESPONDENCE: *Request for dog bin in Brighthampton (Calais Lane)*; Mr. Parnham said that this request had been made before and rejected on the grounds of cost. The clerk confirmed that, while still awaiting an updated estimate from WODC, the cost was more than £300 for purchase and installation with ongoing costs of approximately £7 per week for emptying. Mrs. Macdonald commented that there were two routes used by dog walkers in that area and granting one request would inevitably lead to another. It was agreed that this was excessive and rejected the request. *Emails from Cllr. Good re electric vehicle charging*; It was agreed that there was not enough information available about providing public charging points by Parish Councils. Furthermore, there was the question of need in the village and a location for the charging point. *WODC invite to Section 106 seminar*; Mrs. Macdonald will attend the seminar. *Email request for hedge cutting at St. Giles church*; The hedge bordering the new burial ground needs lowering to encourage thickening of the growth. The clerk said that the hedge was planted by the Parish Council as part of the new burial ground and therefore it should take responsibility; the cost to come from the Community Fund budget. It was agreed that this should be done later in the year and the clerk will obtain an estimate.

9. ACCOUNTS – The clerk reported that the overall financial situation had not changed in the past month, but, depending on the weather, the mowing budget may be overspent by year's end.

For approval/payment:

Absolute Solutions – mowing/repairs	£405.00*
Playsafety – p'groud inspections	£282.20*
C. Cleland – c'yard mowing	£352.50*
L. Burton – seeds	£42.50*
Absolute Solutions – mowing/repairs	£365.00*
PWLB – car park loan repayment	£2142.96*
C. Cleland – c'yard mowing	£352.50*
Absolute Solutions – mowing/repairs	£405.00*
D C Bevan – Microsoft 365 renewal	£79.99*
D C Bevan – clerk salary/expenses	£1519.50*

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10. WAR MEMORIAL CLEANING - The clerk said that the War Memorial needed professional cleaning (last done 2018) to remove algae and dirt and he has tried to obtain quotes. Of 4 firms, only one has formally replied, with an unacceptable quote of over £900, and another has promised to look at the Memorial but has not yet quoted. It was agreed in principle to have the work done (ideally before the Remembrance service on 14th November) and the clerk will continue to look for solutions.
11. VILLAGE HALL DEFIBRILLATOR PADS - The Village Hall committee has informed the clerk that the pads will need replacing at the end of September. The council has responsibility for the consumables as it originally supplied the unit, and it was agreed that the pads be purchased at a cost of £88.19 including VAT and shipping.
12. HEDGE ON PATH TO YOUTH CLUB - the hedge separating the Old Rectory from the path is overgrown and needs trimming. Mr. Rippin is in contact with the Old Rectory owner and will report back.
13. WILLOWS ON RIVERBANK - the clerk noted that the willows need pollarding; they have been trimmed in 2019 but they now need pollarding. This was agreed and the clerk will obtain an estimate for the work.
14. ZOOM RENEWAL - Mr. Parnham said that he felt we should keep the Zoom subscription (due in October 2021) for the coming year. There was no guarantee that further COVID restrictions would not be imposed in the coming Winter and, also, it was a very useful facility for arranging non - public meetings without having to book a venue. The clerk said the cost was in the current budget and it was agreed that this be done.
15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th October at 7.30pm. Unless government guidelines change, or Mr. Parnham considers it would not be safe to do so, the meeting will be held in the Youth Club, Church End.
16. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman Date

OCC news 14 September 2021- Cllr. Dan Levy

As you would expect, things slowed down during August as people took a well-deserved rest.

Nonetheless, the new administration at County Hall continues to shape a different approach to the county, albeit constrained by inheriting an inadequate budget.

The scrutiny committees at the County Council have been increased in number and designed to be able to focus more closely on particular areas of focus. So instead of one overall scrutiny committee, there are now ones for Place (including roads), Education, and People, as well as continuing Audit committees and joint committees for Health. One of the things that was underperforming in previous years was the ability to ensure that the council's leaders were held to account, and we saw a number of questionable decisions.

I sit on the Audit and Place committees.

We are committed to addressing the Climate emergency and encouraging active travel. A trial in 5 villages for a new way of introducing 20mph zones is underway, with the hope that this will make it easier for those villages and towns that want 20 zones to have them. I would be extremely supportive if Standlake wanted such a zone, and I am very aware that there is some appalling driving in parts of the village.

The school bus situation has been partially resolved. You will be aware that a letter went out at the end of last term which told some parents of Year 6 pupils that there wouldn't be school transport to Bartholomew when they started Year 7. I managed to get this unfortunate situation resolved so that everyone who wants school transport should have it. However, for many parents, this transport is not free, despite Bartholomew being the normal school for Standlake residents. We will undertake a review of school transport arrangements for the whole county - Standlake and Brighthampton are not unique in having this problem.

The "First and Last" bus service to Eynsham and Hanborough should be up and running by the end of this year, supported financially by the County Council, and I hope it will be of use to residents wanting to get to Oxford, and help people who don't have access to cars, or who want to reduce their car usage.