

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Steeple Aston Parish Council held on Monday 22nd July**

**2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Committee Room**

**Present:** -Mrs Mason, Mr Coley, Mr Kewley, Mr Ferguson, Mrs. McKinley, Cllr Kerford Byrnes, Cllr Fatemian, Mrs Whybrew,

**In attendance:** Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

**Apologies** were received from Mr. Preston, Mrs. Trinder and Cllr Macnamara

**Declarations of Interest :** Mrs Mason declared an interest in the Village Hall and Sport & Rec

**Minutes of the last meeting** held on 24th June 2013 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chair.

**07.13.01 Public Participation :**Some concern was expressed over the trampoline in the playground which is still to be repaired. Clerk to contact Trevor Stewart **ACTION : CLERK**  
Cllr Kerford-Byrnes reported that there is no need for the PC to retain planning application documentation but that other PC documentation should be held on record, with minutes and agendas being retained indefinitely.

Cllr Kerford-Byrnes is in contact with Bob Duxbury with regard to 4 Paines Hill but as yet has had no positive response and will continue to pressurise him. .

### **07.13.02 Clerk's Report**

- Salt Bag Proforma returned - bins will be filled in addition to free tonne being supplied. Salt volunteers to be contacted before salt is delivered to village. **ACTION: CLERK**
- Grasscutting - Mark has done 1st cut
- Water fountain in playground not working - reported to Lawrence White and has now been turned on again
- STILL can't find a carpenter to box in pipework - placed ad on website R.P. Has contact with possible carpenter. **ACTION: CLERK**
- Playground repair/maintenance has been carried out
- Notice forbidding dogs placed in Pocket Park
- 4 Paines Hill is receiving some attention regarding maintenance

**07.13.03 Matters Arising** - A further letter had been received by the Clerk from CDC regarding the Conservation Area appraisal which will go to public consultation in September. Mrs Mason had spoken to Martin Lipson who has agreed to consult SAVA and provide information to submit to the review.

**07.1.04 Highways/Footpaths** - Response has been received from Hugh Potter regarding the Rifle Plank Bridge but at present there is no progress. Cllr Fatemian confirmed that it was intended that a temporary bridge will be in place by the end of the year but that it could take some time before a permanent structure is built. A permanent structure is however programmed as No.2. In the OCC capital programme.

**07.13.05 Grasscutting** - It was agreed that Mark Probbitts had done a good job on the recent grasscut and that he should continue to the end of the season, (although no cut is necessary at the moment due to the hot weather), and be offered a contract for the next 2 years . The existing contract to be checked and the form of words covering payment of invoices to be agreed. **ACTION : CLERK /CLLRS.**

**07.13.06 Meetings** - Mr. Coley had attended an OCC meeting regarding broadband, the notes of which are attached to these minutes. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Preston had attended a Community Transport meeting.

**07.13.08 Play Area** - Trevor Stewart has carried out maintenance in the playground including replenishing sand and bark, providing new surface on the mound and attending to the zip wire seat. The trampoline is to be monitored and an estimate obtained from T.S. For a new mat.

**ACTION: CLERK**

Ryan to be asked to re-stain the pagoda with Mrs. Mason to provide materials. There was concern raised regarding a young biker who rides his bike in the playground in an appropriate manner. Mrs. Mason to attempt to identify him and speak to him and/or his parents.

**07.13.09 Village Hall** - The History Centre extension is progressing well and on budget. Clerk had provided a spreadsheet showing income and expenditure and reclaimable VAT.

Dr. Radcliffe's Trustees' grant has been received but to date no funds have yet been received from Virldor.

**07.13.10 - Parish Council Representative nomination to OALC** - Mr. Coley had expressed interested in being nominated to represent Cherwell at OALC meetings and it was unanimously agreed he be nominated and Mrs. Mason duly completed the paperwork.

**07.13.11 Toilets/Cleaner** -Following a request from Julia an order had been made for supplies.

**07.13.13 School Transport consultation-** Cllr Fatemian reported that he had spoken opposing the proposals at the recent OCC cabinet meeting. He said that the leader was intending to defer but that the Consultation rules had been changed by the government and the Consultation will now need to be re-run. OCC intends to re-think the transport zones which should mean that Warriner will become the designated school for this area. The County Council are working on avoiding multiple busses to the same destination. Cllr Fatemian will keep the PC informed as to progress.

**07.13.14 - Correspondence** - Correspondence lists were circulated and discussed

**07.13.15 - Sycamore Stone** - The Sycamore Stone fund is now at nearly £1000. The stonemason is sourcing material and will provide a design in due course. Mrs Mason had written to SAL in response to Roderick Nicholson's querying of the cost and concept of a Sycamore Stone.

**07.13.16 - Village Apple Press** - Various displays and demonstrations of the apple press have been made. The committee is arranging two village 'pressing' days and the PC will pay for hire of the hall for these.

**07.13.17 Planning -**

13/00341/F Aston House Cow Lane - APPROVED

13/00652/F 5 The Crescent - APPROVED

Clerk had not received back the application for Mr. & Mrs Henney's proposed garage. Clerk to chase Mrs. Trinder for its return

**ACTION : CLERK**

**07.13.18 Affordable Housing** - The contract has now been signed. There has been a need for a second contamination report which has now been done and the anticipated start date is 27th August. Sovereign is to arrange a 'Meet the builders' meeting, provisionally for 9th or 10th September.

**ACTION : MM**

**07.13.19 Finance** - It was **RESOLVED** to accept the following Accounts for payment :

Finance - It was agreed to approve the following accounts for payment :

Cheque No	Payee	Detail	Amount
200671	Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses (June)	£24
200672	SAL	donation	400
200673	SAVA	donation	200
200674	PCC	donation	600
200675	Humidity Control Systems	dehumidifier (VH)	2160 **
200676	Bob Bickley	final grasscut	285
200677	KJ Brookes	VH building	30630.66 **
200678	PG Fabrications	VH building supplies	131.10
200679	Viking Direct	office supplies	31.51
200680	Mark Probbitts	grasscut	285
200681	Ryan Kilby	playground maintenance	156.98
200682	Julia Joyce	toilet cleaning	TBC
200683	Cathy Fleet	reimbursement audit fee	100
200684	Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary	217.82
200685	Cathy Fleet	Clerk expenses	21.00
200686	Cathy Fleet	Clerk salary	217.82 (postdated)

\*\* cheque signed outside meeting

Income Dr Radcliffes Foundation £10,000

It was **RESOLVED** to approve, subject to final confirmation the end of year accounts, annual return and governance statement which will be submitted to BDO for external audit.

07.13.20 - AOB - Lewis Anson had leafletted Councillors with proposals for an outdoor gym as part of his GCSO project. R.P. Had spoken to him and it was agreed that we should monitor his progress with the project and give him our support.

Diana Gardner had reported to Mrs. Mason comments made to her about the shrubs to the right of the village hall entrance and the rubbish collected under them . Clerk to ask Ryan to tidy up under the bushes.

NB During the meeting news came that Royal Baby had been born and the Clerk was called away to ring the church bells in celebration to make the village aware of the event! She was only absent for a period of 10 minutes during which time Mrs. Whybrew continued with taking the minutes.

**Date of next meeting : 17th September 2013**  
**The meeting closed at 9.30pm**

**Signed .....** **Mrs M Mason** **Date .....**

This was the subject of an OCC lecture at OALC on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The speakers were Lisa Michaelson, Better Broadband Programme Engagement Lead and Graham Shaw, Deputy Director for Customer Services, the senior officer responsible for the programme.

There are 2 Central Government funded schemes at the moment. The first is Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) which aims to give at least 90% of all premises in the UK Superfast Broadband of at least 24Mb per second. The second initiative is via DEFRA who aim to give the remaining 10% between 2 and 24Mbps. Being our government, the two schemes are not interlinked and each one needs the approval of its own board before it can go ahead. The DEFRA scheme is slower to get underway and also started before anyone knew where the remnant 10% was geographically. There has additionally been a recent government announcement that the 90% will be 95%, but OCC have received nothing to confirm this nor has there been any enabling legislation. OCC has received just over £4m from Whitehall and contributed another £10m of its own match funding to make £14m available for the schemes. This will be used to invest in places where commercial broadband suppliers have not yet targeted, probably because for them it would make no profit. So, for example, Oxford City will not be included, nor Deddington which was used as a trailblazer by BT.

OCC are close to signing contracts and hope to have them in place by July/August so fibre optic cabling can start at the beginning of 2014, completion being due in early 2016. Once contracts are signed, a map will be produced showing who will be provided with cable at what date. There are expected to be between 65,000 and 70,000 premises receiving superfast provision. A further 25,000 to 29,000 will be in the 2Mbps to 24Mbps group (the remaining 10%)

Now the legal stuff. OCC are very keen to make it clear that they will not be providing broadband. They will issue a contract to a supplier (who might be a broadband supplier, or an industrial cabling company) and that supplier will deliver the contract. OCC will have no input into what the charge to individuals or businesses who access the broadband will be, and who the broadband provider will be. There was some discussion about BT not upgrading local exchanges which might delay supply - OCC said this would be the negotiating responsibility of the supply contractor. They are quite hopeful that they will be able to exceed the 90% with the fastest broadband. Other advice from the floor indicated that some suppliers are touting for business and offering to cable whole villages, but without quoting any prices. Obviously they will be at a commercial disadvantage once the whole UK is cabled up so want to try to get in now. OCC advice is to wait, sign nothing, and see when your village is due to be supplied.

John Coley