

**Minutes of the meeting of the Steeple Aston Parish Council held on
Monday 15th January 2024**

Present: Angharad Lloyd Jones (AL-J) [chair], Martin Lipson (ML), Stuart Ferguson (SF), Charlotte Clarke (CC), Mat Watson (MW)

Members of the public : Julia Whybrew, Cllr Arash Fatemian

In attendance: Cathy Fleet (Clerk)

01.24.01 Apologies were received from Peter Dammermann

01.24.02 Declarations of Interest: Mr. Lipson declared an interest in SAVA. Mat Watson declared an interest in MCNP and Agenda item 6 regarding the petition,

01.24.03 Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th November 2023 were read and it was **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record of the meeting subject to clarification of the 20mph limit between Steeple Aston & Middle Aston and they were signed by the Chair. The minutes of the additional planning meeting held on 27th November were also approved and signed subject to amendments which were made at the meeting.

01.24.04 Public Participation
Cllr Fatemian's, report was discussed as below.

01.24.05 Clerk's Report and Actions from previous meeting

NO	ACTION	Update	To be Actioned by :
Oct23.01	Waste bins – Clerk to order to be delivered to PD	In hand . PD will fit in January so bins with lids will be ordered then	CF to order
Nov23.01	White Lines on Southside - Clerk to respond to David Palmer indicating that lines will be going ahead after consultation with others.		CF to contact David Palmer
Nov23.02	PD to ask Nicholsons to quote also for crown lifting the trees on Heyford Road		PD meeting with Nicholsons on Thursday
Nov23.03	VH/SART sub lease – ML to chase lawyer		ML – in hand and progressing

01.24.06 Petition

- The petition regarding development at the Old Quarry House had been received and previously acknowledged.
- It was agreed that a Petitions Policy is needed. **ALJ to write a policy for review at the next meeting .**

01.24.07 Reports from OCC/CDC

- Cllr Fatemian had submitted a report prior to the meeting and mentioned the handling by OCC of the tree which fell on Heyford Road during the recent gales. The owner of the tree had to clear the tree; she had engaged a contractor but was told by OCC to stop the work, the police told her she must get the road cleared, so she then had to employ another contractor. OCC didn't close the road and there was no signage. AF confirmed that the owner should be reimbursed by Highways,
- Also mentioned survey re spending gap which expired on 10th January
- OCC budget will be finalised on 25th February

01.24.08 MCNP

The Reg 14 consultation started on 2nd Jan finishing 23 Feb with a steady stream of comments being received. The forum is made up of 12 PCs and Heyford Park has resigned from the forum and wishes to set up a separate Neighbourhood Plan of their own. This will be disruptive due to the legislative process and will cause further delays to the MCNP consultation on policies.

01.24.09 Highways, footpaths/grasscutting

Nothing to report

01.24.10 Play Area/Teenage Facilities

Nothing to report

S106 money is now available and consideration must be given to the Pocket Park project. To be an agenda item for the next meeting,

01.24.11 Village Hall

An accident report had been received involving a lady who had an accident when exiting the village hall. She was not seriously hurt and did not require medical treatment. It was suggested that better signage is required in the hall.

CF to respond to M Bullement suggesting better signage regarding exit buttons in the VH. ML will inspect external of VH to see if there are any hazards.

Options are being researched to improve safety when exiting the VH car park

01.24.012 Sport & Rec

CC had spoken to the SART committee about providing a list of equipment which may be available for hire, e.g. speaker, projector etc but SART did not show interest.

01.24.13 Toilet

The soap dispenser had been damaged and has now been replaced. Thanks to MW.

01.24.14 Almshouse Trustee

The PC has to nominate a Trustee for the Charity. There is no need to nominate a trustee at present, but should be borne in mind for the future. **ALJ to request sight of the Almshouses Constitution.**

01.24.15 Website/Facebook

There will be a website meeting next month

01.24.16 Correspondence

- This matter was raised up the agenda. An email had been received from a former resident regarding Blandford flies. Mat Watson has researched the fly problem and has spoken to researchers at Bournemouth University who have come up with a solution which has reduced fly population by 98%. His report included:

1. Research and development of process and agent carried out by Bournemouth University. It's a non profit making organisation that does the work and is the only place in UK carrying out the work.
2. Has reduced population of Blandford fly by 98% in affected areas from Stour River
3. Was funded by County Council due to incidents of bites and escalating problem actually affecting house prices.
4. Cherwell River known to be a Blandford fly breeding ground.
5. He's been contacted by various doctors in Oxfordshire to help but as yet no joined up or organisation pushing a joined up action plan.
6. Cost for county wide treatment would be... £20k initial survey, £30k first year treatment and testing and the £15k a year after. This is based on figures from Dorset.

Treatment would need to commence March/April.

ML has contacted members of MCNP to see if other areas have a similar problem to SA and if any other PCs would be interested in joining forces.

Cllr Fatemian joined the discussion and reported that Deddington is particularly badly affected by the flies. He will make enquiries and see if any funding may be available from OCC. **MW will forward him details of his contact in Bournemouth.**

ML will write an open letter to local GPs to find out the extent of the problem.

MW to speak to his contact regarding using Cherwell as a testing area and costs involved

- Sale of the land behind the war memorial is progressing and the transaction will complete soon.

01.24.17 Environment & Sustainability Committee

Meeting will be held next week.

01.24.18 Planning – The following planning applications had been circulated and no objections raised :

23/03516/F	Old Post Office South Side Steeple Aston Bicester OX25 4RR	Remove existing conservatory. Erect two storey extension to rear.
23/03095/F	The Nook Cow Lane Steeple Aston Bicester OX25 4SG	Removal of existing wooden garage and shed. Building of new wooden garage/studio
23/03332/TCA	Barcheston House North Side Steeple Aston Oxfordshire OX25 4SE	T1 x Magnolia - re-reduction to a height of up to 5 metres.
23/03298/TCA	Westfield Fenway Steeple Aston OX25 4SS	T1 x Multi stemmed Cotoneaster- Between Fenway and Westfield. It has outgrown its space and now extends into the road inconveniencing traffic, blocks one of our gates, one stem is pushing against the boundary wall and it is also now nearly touching our house wall. See sketch and photo. The tree is approx 18 feet high. We anticipate that to produce a balanced end result it will be necessary to reduce the overall height to around 9 feet and the spread accordingly to stop the tree projecting into the road and across the gate.

Bladebone House – building work is continuing and no action has been taken by Planning enforcement. **ML to chase up**

01.24.19 Finance – The following accounts were approved for payment:

Payee	Detail	Total Amount	VAT	paid
Cathy Fleet	Clk Sal Dec	391.89		11/12/23
Community Heartbeat	19471	424.20	70.70	
Community Heartbeat	19143	56.34	9.39	
Community Heartbeat	19548	11.94	1.99	
Seldram Supplies	177722	85.64	14.27	
HMRC	PAYE	346.98		
Cathy Fleet	Clk Sal Jan	391.89		
SAVH	Hall hire	20.00		

The quarterly report was accepted

The precept demand for 2024/25 has been discussed at a meeting on 10th January and the figure of £36893.00 recommended to this meeting. This figure was approved.

Date of next meetings

Dates for 2024 - 3rd Monday of the month

19 Feb
18 March
15 April
20 May
17 June
15 July
16 September
21 October
18 November

Dates of AMPC & APM TBC

Signed Date

ACTION LIST SUMMARY

NO	ACTION	Update	To be Actioned by :
Oct23.01	Waste bins – Clerk to order to be delivered to PD	In hand . PD will fit in January so bins with lids will be ordered then	CF to order
Nov23.01	White Lines on Southside - Clerk to respond to David Palmer indicating that lines will be going ahead after consultation with others.		CF to contact David Palmer
Jan24.01	Petition – ALJ to write policy for review at the next meeting		ALJ
Jan24.02	Pocket Park – all to consider refurbishment of Pocket Park for next meeting		All
Jan24.03	Village Hall accident report – Clerk to respond to M Bulleyment suggesting better signage regarding exit buttons in the VH. ML will inspect external of VH to check for hazards.		CF ML
Jan24.04	Almhouses Trustee - ALJ to request sight of the Almshouses Constitution.		ALJ
Jan24.05	Blandford Flies - MW will forward Cllr Fatemian details of his contact in Bournemouth. ML will write an open letter to local GPs to find out the extent of the problem. MW to speak to his contact regarding using Cherwell as a testing area and costs involved		MW ML MW
Jan24.06	Planning - ML to follow up enforcement on Bladebone House		ML