

Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council

Meeting of the Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council held in The Solstice Rest, Winterbourne Stoke on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.00 pm

In Attendance: Parish Councillors: Dr A Shuttleworth, I West, T De Jonge
R Watts, A Zacks-McGoldrick,
Apologies: Nil
Parishioners: Two
Clerk: J Carr

1	Opening Statement by the Chairman.
	<p>The Chairman made the following statement:</p> <p>“Congratulations to all the newly-elected members of Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council. Thanks also to all who stood as candidates, as an election provides a mandate in a way that a Council of co-optees can never have. The fact that all those incumbent councillors who stood for election were re-elected is a public affirmation that the courses of action they have adopted over recent months and years was seen to be in the best interests of the community as a whole by the electorate.</p> <p>There is one new council member: Tom De Jonge. I am sure he will contribute much to the life of the community through his involvement. I would like to offer a voter thanks to Sara Zacks-McGoldrick for her sterling efforts over the last few years; she has worked hard to improve the lives of villagers and shall be much missed counsellor.</p> <p>Of course there were two elections last week the second of which was from the Till and Wylve Valley Unitary Division of Wiltshire Council. Ian West, who stood as the Liberal Democrat candidate, was beaten into second place by Darren Henry, representing the Conservative Party.</p> <p>I think we should reflect on the fact that Ian West has represented this area so many years. He first became a parish councillor at the tender age of 21. He joined the Liberal Democrats (or at least what was then the Liberal Party) over forty years ago in 1974. Over the last 22 years as a councillor, he was both leader and Chairman of Salisbury District Council and he served four years as a member of the Wiltshire Police Authority. He has served the community as the Wiltshire Councillor for the Till and Wylve Valley and has sat on the Southern Area Planning Committee and the Amesbury Area Board.</p> <p>Over the years he has Invested an awful lot of time and effort in the local community and not just our own small village. This part of south Wilshire owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ian for all he has accomplished over the years and those accomplishments have been many.</p> <p>Ian will be a very hard act to follow and no doubt Darren Henry, his successor, will be measured against the yardstick of Ian. We wish Ian the best for the future, knowing we still have his services for the next Parish Council term. We also wish Darren Henry the best of luck and we hope that Ian has left him, somewhere in the recesses of County Hall, a halfway decent pair of shoes in which he can walk his first mile.”</p> <p>All Councillors completed their Declaration of Office Statements and swore their oath of office in front of the Clerk.</p>

	<p>The Clerk called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Cllr T Zacks-McGoldrick proposed Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth and was seconded by Cllr R Watts; Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth accepted the nomination. The Clerk called for a vote of agreement from those present and it was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Cllr I West proposed Cllr T de Jonge; however, Cllr T de Jonge declined the proposal stating that, as a new cllr, he does not wish to be considered. Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth proposed Cllr T Zacks-McGoldrick and was seconded by Cllr R Watts; Cllr Dr T Zacks-McGoldrick accepted the nomination. The Chairman called for a vote of agreement from those present and it was agreed unanimously.</p>
2	Adjournment for Parishioners' Questions.
	No questions were raised by the parishioners present.
3	To confirm the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 20th March 2017.
	The minutes from the previous Parish Council meeting were agreed by all present and signed by the Chairman.
4	To report, for information only, any matters arising from the minutes.
	<p>The following actions were outstanding from the previous meeting:</p> <p>a. (09/15-02) Contact has not been made with the Wiltshire Council “lighting man” (Stuart Brown); however, things may have moved on with Wiltshire Council now driving the issue. The action is now to establish where Wiltshire Council stands with respect to street lighting. Informal contact with Wiltshire Council has led to the understanding that Wiltshire Council will be leading towards measured light reductions across the county. Official notification is awaited though the Clerk will continue to push for a reply.</p> <p>b. (07/16-03) Cllr Dr Shuttleworth noted that many villages had “village gates” at their speed limit entry points and these both enhanced the presence of the speed limit sign and informed drivers that they were entering a possible area of conflict with other road users. The Clerk had established that Highways England (as the “owner” of the A303) would install “village gates”; however, they will not fund the installation. The following discussion it was decided that the Clerk would approach the Area Board for a grant to fund installation. See also Section 7.</p> <p>c. (09/16-02) The Environment Agency had written to parish and town council Clerks seeking information on historic groundwater flooding to allow them to extend their groundwater flood warning service to areas that currently do not benefit from it. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write back asking what the service actually offers.</p> <p>d. (01/17 - 02) The Parish Council is prepared to underwrite the reasonable cost of materials (circa £200) to refurbish the telephone box but it requires a written condition report and estimate first – this would have to be received and agreed ex-committee to allow renovation to progress as soon as possible. Mr Fair was present at the meeting and agreed to carry out the assessment and to provide the report.</p> <p>e. (01/17 – 01) Cllr West commented that the use of a private contractor to maintain the area surrounding the telephone box / speed camera should be considered and all cllrs agreed. Cllr West provided the Clerk with details of a contractor he had cognisance of, through his previous Wiltshire Council connections. The Clerk would contact them for a quote.</p>
	Action: Clerk - on-going
	Action: Clerk - on-going
	Action: Clerk - on-going
	Action: Cllr Dr Shuttleworth - on going
	Action: Clerk - on-going

	<p>f. (01/17 – 03) The Clerk had attempted to find a legal and viable way to get the play park bin emptied. The best option would appear to involve the Wiltshire Council “caged van” collection service - enquiries continue.</p> <p>g. (01/17 – 04) Enquiries are ongoing regarding whether or not to find a replacement bin-liner or to replace the bin. Finding a replacement liner is proving difficult, as the bin is old, so the option to source a new bin will be followed.</p> <p>h. (01/17 – 07) The Clerk will discuss the Parish’s Emergency Plan with Mr Rennie.</p> <p>i. (03/17 - 01) The stile at the southern end of Church Street is in need of maintenance; the Clerk will contact Druid’s Lodge.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk - on-going</p> <p>Action: Clerk - on-going</p> <p>Action: Clerk - on-going</p> <p>Action: Clerk - on-going</p>	
5	Planning Applications.		
	<p><u>Planning Application 17/00280/VAR</u></p> <p>Stonehenge Visitor’s Centre, Winterbourne Stoke, SP4 7DE</p> <p>Variation of the pedestrian and cycle route scheme agreed under Condition 27 of S/2009/1527 for the proposed permissive pedestrian and cycle path on the grassed over section of the former A344 to now be open to the public by 1st October 2017 (allowing a further year from the original agreed scheme to enable the proposed permissive path to establish itself prior to it being opened to the public)</p> <p>Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council have considered the planning application and consider that the lack of progress is wholly unacceptable and, consequently, Councillors are minded to object to the application. However, Councillors appreciate that it is not sensible for the public to be given access to an unsuitable surface because that would only result in more problems, and additional planning applications in the future to repair the surface; therefore, Councillors support the application with the understanding that any future resubmission will not be supported.</p> <p><u>Planning Application 17/04138/TCA</u></p> <p>Barn Owl Cottage, 2 Brook Close, Winterbourne Stoke, SP3 4SR</p> <p>Work to trees in a conservation area. Willow – pollard by a third.</p> <p>The application was considered by cllrs and it was unanimously agreed that Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council SUPPORTED the application.</p>		
6	Services including Recreation Facilities.		
	<p>Play Park. The diary of maintenance is overdue; the Clerk is to expedite. Cllr West stated that it should be the responsibility of a Cllr to overlook the maintenance; Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth accepted the responsibility as his house overlooked the play park.</p> <p>The lottery labels are still missing the Clerk and Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth agreed to get together to get them attached.</p>		<p>Action: Clerk(05/17-01)</p> <p>Action: Clerk (05/17-02)</p>

	<p>Cllr West raised the [old] topic of the St Peter’s Close pedestrian gate closure issue. This has long been tolerated as the benefits have outweighed the perceived problem; Cllr T De Jonge agreed to survey the gate to see if the problem was indeed a problem</p> <p>Broadband. The Chairman reported that Wiltshire Online had reported that the mole plough has arrived and the current delay is due to three outstanding wayleaves. The fibre will now be set into the verge and broadband delivery is on track for the end of June.</p> <p>Website. The Chairman reported that there had been a major hacking attempt by the Russians and it was probably due to our links to Stonehenge and websites with Stonehenge in their names and content; the security has been increased.</p> <p>The Clerk informed Cllr T De Jonge, as a new cllr, of the agreed policy that all Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council email correspondence was to be carried out using his Winterbourne Parish Council email address as this assured the Parish Council’s responsibilities under the Transparency Code and protected the Cllr from potential intrusion into his personal email account. Cllr West informed the meeting that he did not want, and refused to use his assigned Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council email address, contrary to the agreed policy. He was reminded that this was a policy issue and his refusal to accede to this policy left the Parish Council with little option other than to invoke the relevant procedures. The Clerk would investigate the next steps.</p> <p>Telephone Box. A condition report is awaited before any further action is taken (see paragraph 4d).</p> <p>Defibrillator. The defibrillator is housed in a substantial box and requires a 240v power supply. The Clerk is carrying out enquiries for a location in the heart of the village – the garage is a favoured location and negotiations are ongoing with the owner. Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth agreed to write to the owner requesting his involvement is such a worthwhile cause.</p>	<p>Action: Cllr T De Jonge (05/17-03)</p> <p>Action: Clerk (05/17-04)</p> <p>Action: Cllr Dr A Shuttleworth (05/17-05)</p>
7	<p>Highways & Byways.</p> <p>General. Cllr West met the Parish Steward (Simon Simms) to direct him on work required with in the parish; potholes were filled on the Shrewton Road / A303 junction and the ditch on the north end of Church Street was cleaned out. It was agreed that Cllr West, at his instigation, would remain as the point-of-contact for the Parish Steward. The Clerk reminded cllrs that the Clerk must also be told of work required, after which Cllr West vociferously informed the meeting that he would no longer be the point-of-contact. There were no volunteers to cover the requirement; therefore, the sole point-of-contact would be the Clerk. The Clerk would inform Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>Dog Mess. Dog mess on Church Street remains an issue; cllrs are asked to be vigilant.</p> <p>A303. Cllr West suggested that, instead of village gates being erected at the 40 mph speed signs on the A303, flashing speed signs should be considered; as Shrewton has recently installed them, the Clerk would contact Shrewton Parish council for an indication of cost. Others issues such as siting them on a trunk road would be addressed once it is known of the option is financially viable.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk (05/17-06)</p> <p>Action: Clerk (05/17-07)</p>

	<p>The Clerk had received several emails from parishioner Dave Hillier on the Stonehenge footpath planning application (See also Section 5). In the first of these emails, Mr Hillier criticised Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council and its Councillors for not having responded to the planning application and labelled the Parish Council as “appearing very unprofessional”. The Clerk responded and pointed out that Mr Hillier had appeared to overlook two facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the permissive path is not in the parish of Winterbourne Stoke, so there is no actual requirement for a comment to be made by Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council; • the closing date for comments was 27 April so I there were four days [from the date of writing the response] in which to pass on the comments received from Councillors. <p>The Clerk also retorted that he took offence that Mr Hillier should think that the Councillors and Clerk of Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council were unprofessional in any way and that he, the Clerk, would appreciate a retraction of that statement. The Clerk pointed out that the work that Councillors do voluntarily is far from easy and they rarely receive any praise for the difficult and time-consuming tasks they carry out in addition to holding down full-time employment; indeed people are all too ready to criticise without being in full receipt of the facts. No retraction or apology was received. Mr Hillier did, however, ask for clarification of the following queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Was your email response to me [Mr Hillier], on behalf of the Winterborne Stoke Parish Council's Chairman/Council members or was it your own personal reply, as the Parish Council's clerk?” • “At What date was this application discussed within the Parish Council, and at what stage were you, / Winterborne Stoke Parish Council,,,,, prepare to make a response, to the above planning application? As I believe, Winterborne Stoke's Parish Council were consulted on the 23 March 2017 on the above planning application?” <p>No further correspondence was entered in to.</p>	
14	Items to be discussed at the next meeting	
	<p>The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 17th July 2017 in The Solstice Rest at 7:00pm. The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.</p>	<p>Action: All cllrs.</p>

J H Carr
Clerk of the Council

17th July 2017

A Shuttleworth
Chairman of the Council

17th July 2017