

Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council

Meeting of the Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council held in St Peter's Church, Winterbourne Stoke, on Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.00 pm

In Attendance: Parish Councillors: Dr A Shuttleworth, T Pywell, Mrs O Dutton, P Smith
Apologies: Nil
Parishioners: Nil
Clerk: J Carr

1	Opening Statement from the Chairman
	<p>Another year rolls round and we move into the Christmas Season. It's been encouraging to see that the Village Preservation Society has, once again, been very active in organising events for the village that are inclusive and both adults and children. The wreaths that were made a couple of weeks ago are now adorning many doors around the village. That said, I'm not sure how many of the cupcakes decorated last Saturday are going to make it as far as Christmas week - if, indeed, any survived long enough to get home. That spirit of collaboration and fun has been the zenith of activities in the village since our last meeting. It was also impressive to see the number of villagers who rallied round to clear the fallen tree from the Churchyard; many of whom rarely, if ever, visit the Church.</p> <p>Sadly, all too often, a zenith seems to be followed by a nadir. There are those who, sadly, seem to gain more pleasure from negativity than making an active and positive contribution to community life. This is a malaise that affects villages, towns and cities around the UK and one of the drivers behind the National Association of Local Councils' initiative, to promote civility and respect. This is an initiative that I hope we as a Parish Council will feel able to support.</p> <p>We recently heard that Grant Shapps, Secretary of State in the Department for Transport had written to National Highways, asking for more information on which to base his redetermination of the application for the A303 Stonehenge to Berwick Down project and his decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Development. It is worth noting his final caveat that nothing in his letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be. The next milestone is the 11th January 2022, which is the deadline for National Highways to respond. At that point, the Parish Council may choose to make a submission.</p> <p>Finally, COVID-19 continues to impact on us, even at the local level. It is perhaps worth noting that, currently, our area has one of the highest rates of incidence in the UK - worse than many large urban areas. It is tempting to point the finger at the Larkhill and Bulford Garrison's and that may indeed be the case. However, at a superficial level, that isn't mimicked by Tidworth and Warminster. Regardless of the cause, the statistical risk of contracting COVID-19 whilst spending an hour shopping at Tesco, or Lidl, In Amesbury (920/100,000) is three times greater than spending the same time at Tesco or Lidl in Salisbury (372/100,000); all other things being equal.</p>
2	Apologies Received
	No apologies received.
3	To confirm the minutes from the previous Parish Council meeting
	The minutes from the meetings held on 18 th October 2021 were accepted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

<p>4</p>	<p>To report, for information only, any matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>The following actions were outstanding from the previous meeting:</p> <p>a. (01/20-01) Wiltshire Council has published a Harassment Policy that will be adapted to the needs of Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council. <u>ACTION CLOSED</u></p> <p><u>Although Action 01/20-01 was closed in the 18th October 2021 meeting awaiting a policy from Wiltshire Council NALC subsequently produced a Harassment Policy. This document been reviewed by Cllr Dr Shuttleworth and seen by all cllrs. Cllr Dr Shuttleworth proposed adoption and this was unanimously agreed.</u></p> <p>b. (01/21-02) The single “toddler” swing requires refurbishment. The Clerk will engage the services of a professional contractor to carry out the refurbishment.</p> <p>There is currently nil stock at our usual supplier. The Clerk will shop around for a suitable replacement.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk – on going</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Motions for Approval</p> <p>Motion 1 - To approve the FY 22/23 Precept</p> <p>The FY22/23 budget was discussed, and it was noted that a modest increase to the precept is overdue as there has been no increase since FY19/20. It was unanimously agreed that there would be no increase for FY22/23; however, the Council must be prepared to increase the precept in future years if only to match inflation; noting this, it was unanimously agreed that the precept for FY22/23 would be £9.090.</p> <p>Motion 2 - To discuss and agree a position on the three Manor House planning applications</p> <p>The three applications were discussed, and it was unanimously agreed that the Council would support them.</p> <p>Motion 3 - To discuss and agree a position on the Parish Council paying an annual amount for the use of the Village Hub for the benefit of all parishioners</p> <p>Cllr Dutton, as a member of the VPS Committee declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Motion. She participated in the discussion but not the decision.</p> <p>The payment would permit access to the Village Hub for village events including Parish Council meetings, the Book Club, the Meet, Make and Mend group and the VPS Committee’ plus others yet to appear. Cllr Dutton commented that it costs approximately £15 a day to heat and light the church. A payment of £500 per calendar year was proposed and a counter proposal of £520 was made - £10 per week; this was unanimously agreed.</p>	

	<p>Motion 4 - To discuss and agree a position on donating money towards the VPS Christmas presents for children of primary school age and younger</p> <p>Cllr Dutton, as a member of the VPS Committee declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Motion. She participated in the discussion but not the decision.</p> <p>There are 27 children in the village of primary school age or younger. The VPS propose to spend a maximum of £10 per child, therefore a maximum spend of £270. Cllrs agreed that the Council would be prepared to donate a maximum of £135 (50% matched funding) and the VPS would have to submit receipts to justify the final amount.</p>	
6	Closed Session – No Public Permitted	
7	The Next Meeting	
	The meeting closed at 8:15pm. A date for the next meeting was not set.	

J H Carr
Clerk of the Council

Dr A Shuttleworth
Chairman of the Council