

Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council

Meeting of the Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council
held in The Village Hub, Winterbourne Stoke, on
Tuesday 17th December at 7:30 pm

In Attendance:

Parish Councillors: P Smith, T Pywell, T Ewart, A Shuttleworth, A Parkin
Apologies: K Daley
Parishioners: 2
Others: Nil
Clerk: S Bailey

1	Chairman's opening statement
	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said the following:</p> <p><i>The village seems to have got off fairly lightly following Storm Bert and Storm Darragh, and with rising ground water levels causing Flood Alerts to be issued. However, there was a tree down on the Shrewton Road that caused delays, a road traffic collision on the B3083/A303 junction, and the campsite fence was down over the footpath again.</i></p> <p><i>The Revamp Your Tank process is ongoing in the village. Throughout Wiltshire 277 projects have been referred to contractors by Wiltshire Council and 27 of those have been approved, so far. Surveys are taking place in the village, and survey reports are being sent to households, and to Wiltshire Council for approval. The aim is to improve the water quality in the Hampshire Avon Catchment of which we are in the North West corner. The River Till is a blessing for those who live near it, who can enjoy it and the wildlife it brings; however, it is a curse to those threatened by groundwater flooding. Therefore, if he was here the first ask of the evening would have been to Councillor Daley, is to urge Wiltshire Council to approve all the Revamp Your Tank applications for Winterbourne Stoke, as rising ground water can cause old septic tanks to "back up" and flood toilets and bathrooms. This project is an ideal opportunity to defeat this threat to peoples' homes.</i></p>

	<p><i>Wessex Internet have started work in the village near Manor Farm to bring fibre into the village. It seems a while ago that we had 1Mb via an 2.4 km long aluminium cable from the Shrewton exchange. The new solution offers a minimum of 250 Mbs.</i></p> <p><i>Communications with National Highways and Wiltshire Council regarding the A303 and other roads continues, of which more later in the Agenda.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council has had a busy 12 months. We have had 2 well-attended village meetings. The cancelled A303 scheme has been the focus for the latter part of the year. Specifically how we may mitigate the situation for those villagers living on the High Street, and all those whose children have to cross the A303 and wait for their buses on the edge of a trunk road in order to get to school. This leads me to what would have been the second ask of the evening to Councillor Daley; we will talk about the A303 and local roads later in the agenda, but we would have implored him to use his influence with Highways to improve the road situation in Winterbourne Stoke and at Longbarrow Roundabout.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, we have new councillors and a new Clerk in 2024, and I am confident that our work together is all aimed at improving the lives of the residents of the village. Hopefully we will see some results in 2025.</i></p>
2	To receive, consider and accept apologies for absence
	Cllr Kevin Daley, of Wiltshire Council, agreed to attend but unfortunately failed to do so for an unknown reason.
3	To confirm the Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 19th November 2024
	The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 19 th November 2024 were accepted and signed by the Chairman, P Smith and Clerk, S Bailey.
4	To report, for information only, any matters arising from the minutes (by exception)
	<p>Action: PS - (11/24-09) The Chairman has spoken to Chris Hilldrup regarding the concrete bollards blocking the view out of the petrol station. He advised that they are on private land, so it is a matter for the landowner.</p> <p>The Chairman will speak with the landowner to see if anything can be done.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: PS (12/24-01)</p> <p>All other Actions completed.</p> <p>Cllr Parkin arrived at 7:36pm.</p>

5	Motion 1: Election fees
	<p>The Clerk explained that in the 2025 election Wiltshire Council will be charging an administration fee whether it is contested or not.</p> <p>Wiltshire Council has not yet informed the Parish Council how much this fee may be, but as we are a smaller parish it should be on the lower end of the estimation, approximately around £300.</p> <p>The Parish Council decided to put £300 onto next years expected expenditure, but felt there was no need to increase the precept.</p> <p>The Clerk will add the £300 election fee to the precept decision and publish it on the website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk (12/24 – 02)</p>
6	Motion 2: Advertising for the election
	<p>The Clerk went through important election dates: Nominations open on 12th March, nominations close on 2nd April, and the election will take place on 1st May.</p> <p>The Clerk also discussed what resources are available for potential candidates and advertising material provided by NALC.</p> <p>The Chairman and the Clerk noted that the devolution plan for Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset may affect the election, but it is too soon to know.</p> <p>The Parish Council decided that they would start advertising the election in March.</p> <p>The Clerk will put together all of the information potential candidates may need ready to be put on the website in March.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk (12/24 – 03)</p>
7	Motion 3: Events committee’s request for the telephone box
	<p>The Chairman explained that he has spoken to Chris Brain (a building contractor and resident), about moving the telephone box and he said that he has moved many of them before, and doesn’t think it would be a problem. However, the Chairman was concerned about closing the A303 to move the telephone box.</p> <p>The Parish Council were uncertain whether the Parish Council owned the telephone box outright, or if they are holding it in trust for BT.</p> <p>Afternote: The Parish Council does own the telephone box outright.</p> <p>The Clerk read out the email she received from BT regarding the telephone box:</p> <p><i>Dear Sarah,</i></p> <p><i>Thank you for your email.</i></p> <p><i>I do not believe that this is a listed kiosk so it can be relocated.</i></p> <p><i>However, I should explain that it is not possible to simply lift a red kiosk from one location and use it at another; this is because the structure can become damaged</i></p>

while being lifted from the ground. The K6 is made of cast iron and extremely heavy weighing 770kg, BT uses a seventeen-ton lorry with H.I.A.B crane for transportation. The kiosk is also prone to hairline cracks upon removal. Before a kiosk can be installed at a particular location it undergoes a restoration process and is subjected to rigorous stress testing. When a red kiosk is removed for any reason, it is sent to a restoration company where it is refurbished.

Should you decide to relocate the kiosk you would need to ask us to arrange for the disconnection of the power supply.

Our contractors however may be able to carry out the works (including the power disconnection) you may like to contact them for an estimate of works. I have placed their website address in the subject field above.

Additionally, if you are intending to relocate the kiosk onto the public highway you would need to apply for the relevant planning consents beforehand.

Cllr Shuttleworth noted that he is happy for the Events Committee to have the telephone box, but we need to know what it will cost to move and renovate it, as he estimates that it could cost a minimum of £5200.

Cllr Ewart asked if the Parish Council needs to be involved in the cost of moving and renovating if they sell it to the Events Committee.

Cllr Shuttleworth explained that the Parish Council needs to be indemnified, because if the telephone box breaks whilst being moved/refurbished then the Parish Council has lost the village asset. Additionally, the Parish Council has indemnity insurance that covers the telephone box, so should someone be injured whilst moving/refurbishing they are not at risk of claims.

A parishioner commented that the Events Committee only wanted to know if the Parish Council would hand it over, the Events Committee would then decide whether to move it or refurbish in situ. Furthermore, the parishioner was not certain if the Events Committee had indemnity insurance.

The Parish Council agreed that they need more information on the legality of selling the phone box to a third party before they are willing to hand it over.

The Clerk will find out how/if the Parish Council can sell the telephone box to a third party.

Action: Clerk (12/24 – 04)

A parishioner asked if the telephone box should be disconnected whether it's moved or not.

	<p>The Chairman explained that the Events Committee may want electricity to power a light or CCTV equipment.</p> <p>A parishioner questioned who would pay for the electricity and how much having it disconnected would cost.</p> <p>The Clerk will find out who would pay for the electricity and the cost of disconnecting the electricity.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk (12/24 – 05)</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed that they are happy for the events committee to start refurbishing the telephone box, subject to confirmation of insurance status, whilst they look into the issues of ownership.</p>
8	Update 1: Roads – A303, B3083
	<p>The Chairman said the following regarding the A303:</p> <p><i>I have spoken with Chris Hilldrup, the National Highways Route Manager.</i></p> <p><i>The safety inspection of the A303 from Countess Roundabout to Berwick Down has started. Chris has visited the route on a number of occasions and will be in Winterbourne Stoke with his manager again tomorrow (Wednesday 18 December). Much of the current work is to gain approval within National Highways in order to win the funding that will enable the improvements that are sought.</i></p> <p><i>Chris confirmed that his 4 priorities remain as:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Winterbourne Stoke. Namely: Reducing the speed limits; signing the weight restrictions; installing rumble strips to slow traffic entering the village; relocating the bus stops to improve safety; and managing the lay-bys so they are not used as car parks that block visibility.</i> <i>2. Longbarrow Roundabout. Redesigning the roundabout so it is not one to 2 to 3 lanes, to 2 to one lane.</i> <i>3. Improving traffic flow on the A303 by the stones. He is considering a 1.5m grass bund each side of the roads to partially obscure the view to the Stones. He is also investigating a signed three-lane solution so that, say, on a Friday 2 lanes would be open Westbound and on Sunday, 2 lanes would be open Eastbound.</i> <i>4. Countess Roundabout. The main issue is the flooding of the underpass. A pedestrian footbridge may be required to stop pedestrians crossing the A303 at the roundabout. This seems to be the highest priority.</i>

In summary, Mr Hilldrup is on our side, he is fighting our corner, and all the issues raised with him on his visit to Winterbourne Stoke on 29 October are in his planning. To put this in context: he is the route manager for Wiltshire, there are 47 other English Counties. There are 4,500 miles of road on the Strategic Road Network, the A303 from Berwick Down to Amesbury is 6 miles. Mr Hilldrup is well aware that what we really need is a bypass. However, the Government is more interested in “net zero” and WCHRs (walkers, cyclists and horse riders) or NMUs (non-motorised users). As always, the key issue will be government funding to National Highways; and their prioritisation thereafter. I said I would speak to Chris in the New Year for an update on progress.

Cllr Pywell wanted to know if the bus stop had been discussed with Chris Hilldrup.

The Chairman stated that Chris Hilldrup had seen the bus stop and was horrified by it. He wants to make it a proper layby bus stop.

Cllr Pywell also wanted to know what is happening with the layby.

The Chairman explained that when people park in the layby, they obstruct the view for people pulling out of their driveways.

Cllr Pywell noted that the layby provides a good refuge point for broken down vehicles.

The Chairman discussed that Chris Hilldrup’s intention is for the layby to be solely used as a refuge point and not as extra parking for houses.

The Parish Council then discussed the FOIAs regarding the bridge over the River Till and Winterbourne Stoke being classed as an urban area.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council let these FOIAs be as we have made our point and are making good progress with Chris Hilldrup/National Highways.

The Parish Council agreed to not pursue the FOIAs any further.

Cllr Shuttleworth explained that a big part of setting a speed limit for a road comes from how many collisions there have been on said road. However, when he checked the Maverick database that is used to compile collision data, he found it to be grossly inaccurate. For instance, since 2019 it had recorded nine collisions in Winterbourne Stoke, however 1 was in the petrol station, and thus on private property and should not be considered, 2 were recorded as happening in a 30-mph zone, 4 in a 60-mph zone, and only 2 in a 40-mph zone. The database had only recorded 2 out of 9 collisions correctly.

	<p>Unfortunately, there is nothing the Parish Council can do about this, but it is worth being aware of going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Shuttleworth explained how he had attended a meeting where the B3083 was discussed. The main issue that arose was that a parishioner is worried that a hedge on the B3083 is too high and obstructs the view of pedestrians/cyclists/horse riders for oncoming vehicles, particularly tractors who are over the centre median going around the corner.</p> <p>The believed owners of the hedge have agreed to cut the hedge by 2ft in the spring, however land registry currently shows that the hedge is not owned by anyone so the believed owners are consulting their lawyers to attain formal ownership.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that he would have liked to ask Cllr Kevin Daley questions regarding the roads, but as he is not here these questions will have to wait.</p>
9	Update 2: Playpark grants
	<p>The Clerk explained that the Parish Council could possibly attain a community grant to help refurbish the playpark. In order to do so the Parish Council would need to speak to their Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager, Graeme Morrison and their local Wiltshire Councillor, Cllr Kevin Daley.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed that this is worth pursuing.</p> <p>The Clerk will email Graeme Morrison and Cllr Kevin Daley to find out about playpark grants, and will also email the company who installed the playpark to find out the typical lifespan of the equipment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk (12/24 – 06)</p>
10	Update 3: Existing Parish Council policies
	<p>The Clerk went through all of the Parish Council policies that needed reviewing and explained that the only changes needed were updating the domain, email address, clerk's detail, and a couple of old links.</p> <p>The Parish Council were happy with these updates and wished for the updated policies to be put on the website.</p> <p>The Clerk will put the updated policies on the website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk (12/24 – 07)</p>
11	Update 4: Bank account signatories
	<p>The Clerk explained that she has successfully added Cllr Smith, Cllr Ewart, and Cllr Parkin as signatories on the Parish Councils bank account.</p> <p>Additionally, the signatories who are no longer apart of the Parish Council have been removed.</p>

12 Correspondence received

The Clerk discussed how Wiltshire Council had gotten back to her regarding the missing litter bin by the bus stop and the status of the bin by the layby.

Thank you for contacting Wiltshire Council regarding the public litter bin that was located at the bus stop on the A303 westbound carriageway.

The original bin sustained damage after being struck by a vehicle and was replaced on 25 April 23. The new bin was then reported as missing by our contractor in January 2024.

Due to the width of the pavement being insufficient to safely accommodate a public litter bin which does not cause an obstruction to pedestrians or risks vehicle damage the decision was taken not to replace. It was also noted that the neighbouring bin provides sufficient litter capacity to service this location.

I note your comments regarding the neighbouring bin and can confirm this bin is emptied weekly on Tuesday and according to our emptying records is typically half full when emptied.

The operative has reported this bin is in a serviceable but damaged condition, therefore I would propose bringing forward the replacement of this bin and relocating to a new location on Wiltshire Council land to service both sites – details below:

Proposed new location marked “X”:



Should you have any feedback or comments on this new location then please do not hesitate to contact me, otherwise I will arrange the replacement in due course.

Cllr Pywell was concerned that this new location is a common crash point.

	<p>A parishioner noted that the reason the bus stop bin went missing was because it wasn't secured so it was stolen, and fears people won't walk to the layby bin when waiting at the bus stop.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that he doesn't think Wiltshire Council will be willing to put a new bin by the bus stop.</p> <p>The Parish Council were unclear on where exactly Wiltshire Council want to put the new bin.</p> <p>The Clerk will email Wiltshire Council for clarification on the new bins location.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Action: Clerk (12/24 – 08)</p>
13	Adjournment for Parishioner's questions / comments.
	<p>A parishioner asked for clarification on why we need to compete with 47 other counties to get road improvements and if there is any way to boost ourselves up the list because we are the busiest.</p> <p>The Chairman explained that this is just a general term, and Chris Hilldrup is having a meeting with his manager tomorrow (Wednesday 18th December) so we will see what comes of that.</p> <p>A parishioner wanted to know if the Parish Council had looked into building a village hall on the playpark.</p> <p>Cllr Shuttleworth noted that the land the playpark is on is held by fields in trust who only look favourably upon things that fulfil the fields in trust values, like a playpark for under 12's. Subsequently they won't support anything else on that piece of land.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 8:32pm.</p>
14	The Next Meeting
	The date of the next meeting to be confirmed.

S Bailey
Clerk of the Parish Council

P Smith
Chairman of the Parish Council