Draft minutes of a meeting of Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council held on 6 November 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall

**Present: Isobel Hazelwood (Chair, IH), Penny White (PW), Chris Longleather (CL), Richard Eedle (RE), Jon Holdback, (JH), Trevor Harvey (SDC, TH), Richard West (Footpath Officer, RW)**

***M23.20. Apologies:*** Jo Barker (WCC)

**M23.21: *Declaration of Interests*:**  None.

***M23.22. Approval of minutes of last meeting:* Approved**

***M23.23: Matters arising:***

1. *Climate change and Stretton Sustainability Initiative:* Nothing to report. CL thanked JH for his work on the new website. It is hoped that training can be provided to people to be able to update their own particular pages on the site.
2. *Allotments:*  CL had been in discussion with IH. It has been agreed that a rent increase to £30 will apply from 1 January 2024. It was proposed that this is to be collected by the allotment sub-committee, who will use this as a working balance. It was agreed that, as a sub-committee, the group would have to present accounts to the PC by the end of the financial year. The balance of money from the original start-up donation from the PC and subsequent rents will be held by the PC to cover emergencies such as water rates, repairs, etc. IH proposed approval. [Approved.]
3. *Water at allotments:*  No information is available on the meter reading. The PC had not been allotted an account or meter number. The supply has been allocated to Water Plus, but without the account number it is not possible to contact them online and the is no contact phone number, so the council is left in limbo.
4. *Grass cutting:* Stan Dawes is retiring at the end of November. IH reported that quotes could be sought for the job as a whole or as two separate jobs: Playing field and other. J. Codd had expressed an interest and IH was to speak to another contact she had been given (Clive Stockton). The clerk agreed to approach Lawns2Mow for a quote.
5. *Hoppers lane:* The problem with this being to wet to allow access to the rear of properties on Belcony has still not been resolved. IH sent photos to Michael Rodgers 6 weeks ago, but has had no response. The issue arises because the pond was filled in some years ago following issues with lorries following satnavs ending up in the pond.
6. *Footbridge at play area:* Richard Barnard (WCC footpaths, RB) has been contacted on this matter but will not fund a new gate. He suggested adding blocks to aid climbing over the bars. IH contacted David Sipthorp (DS) offering to share costs of a new gate, but DS does not see an issue there. He suggested if anyone has a problem they are welcome to use one of the other access gates to the field to rejoin the footpath. RB suggested enforcement action, but the WCC do not want to go down this route. RW said that Cotswold wardens would be willing to install a gate if we supplied it. IH asked if the council would be willing to make a donation towards this and asked RW to obtain a full quote for the work. CL suggested using some of the apple juice money, subject to approval, by the other members of the group. IH proposed the PC donate a half towards it. [Approved]
7. *Allen Scythe and Chipper: service and training:* IH, in discussion with CL came up with the following suggestions:
8. Whoever is approved to borrow it be asked to sign a disclaimer and be given instructions by Rod or Bob. TH doubted whether the disclaimer would be regarded as legally binding.
9. The chipper is owned by the PC village hall, Apple juice group and the gardening club. A buy-out by one person is suggested, then treat it as an item for Stretton Share.
10. Sell the chipper, then hire one when needed and let the village know it is available for them to bring their wood to.

CL liked option (i). PW felt the legal position should be checked. RE agreed to ask a solicitor he know, as did IH.

***M23.24. Planning applications***

*New*

23/02179/FUL, for H. Elson, 1 Belcony. Reinstatement of canopy over front door, erection of picket fence, refurbishment of existing windows, conversion of ground floor to habitable rooms including alterations to rear window & door, construction of single storey garden room with glazed link and construction of detached home office in garden.

*On-going*

*Pitstop*: The owner is still Mr Guest. He put it up for auction on 13 July, and again on 17 September, but it failed to reach its reserve. IH has heard of interest by a local in the site, but has heard nothing definite.

*Approved*

***M23.25: Finance:***

*Approval of expenses since last meeting:* Approved.

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| **Date**  | **Supplier**  | **Item**  | **Income**  | **Outgoings**  | **Balence**  |
| 13/09/2023 | Namesco | Email renewal via IH |  | 32.38 | 1126.20 |
| 21/09/2023 | SDC | Precept | 3150.00 |  | 4276.20 |
| 21/09/2023 | Trs BSA | Savings acc |  | 2000.00 | 2276.20 |
| 25/09/2023 | HRMC | VAT refund | 123.62 |  | 2399.82 |
| 29/09/2023 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. |  | 288.37 | 2111.45 |
| 02/10/2023 | Stretton Village Hall | Hire of hall |  | 10.50 | 2100.95 |
| 02/10/2023 | Stan Dawes | Grass cutting September |  | 240.00 | 1860.95 |
| 27/10/2023 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. |  | 129.08 | 1731.87 |
| 30/10/2023 | Yell | Website renewal via IH |  | 86.40 | 1645.47 |
| 30/10/2023 | Stan Dawes | Grass Oct |  | 240.00 | 1405.47 |

*Interest account:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Source**  | **Item**  | **Income**  | **Outgoings** | **Balence** |
| 11/09/2023 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | 7.95 |  | 8519.05 |
| 21/09/2023 | To BSA | Surplus | 2000 |  | 10519.05 |
| 09/10/2023 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | 9.14 |  | 10528.19 |

*Play area account*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Source** | **Item** | **Income** | **Outgoings** | **Balence** |
| 23/10/2023 | Wicksteed Leisure Ltd | Swing paints |  | 112.80 | 3568.49 |

***M23.26. Council reports:***

*SDC:* AS TH had originally not been able to attend he had supplied written information:

*1. Consultation on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement.*

The Council has just (3 November) concluded a consultation exercise about how, as the local planning authority, it will engage stakeholders, including PCs, about:

• Development Plan Documents;

• Supplementary Planning Documents;

• Neighbourhood Plans;

• Community Infrastructure Levy;

• Planning Applications; and

• Permission in Principle.

Further details are available via relevant the website: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138063

*2. Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) 2022/23*

The IFS brings together information about approved, received, allocated and spent S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) developer contributions for the 2022/23 financial year. It effectively provides a framework for decisions about how the accumulated payments will be allocated. In the financial year 2022/23, SDC received £1.8 million through CIL payments and over £550,000 of this was passed on to Parish Councils.

Further details are available via relevant the website: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138070

*3. Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan Framework - Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation*

The Council has prepared a draft Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) setting out how the Gateway area could be re-developed. It is holding a six-week consultation, to which PCs can contribute, that ends on 1 December.

The SPD proposes a mix of uses including visitor attractions and accommodation, retail and commercial uses, residential, leisure, community and educational facilities, and an improved public realm.

The Gateway site has been identified by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as a suitable location for a new museum and visitor attraction celebrating the life, works and times of William Shakespeare. The proposed World Shakespeare Centre (WSC) would anchor a broader mix of town centre uses on the Gateway site and provide a complementary addition to Shakespeare's birthplace and his other family homes in the town, the RSC, and other cultural attractions

around the town.

Further details are available via relevant the website: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/news/press.cfm/current/1/item/138074

*4. Energy Efficiency Grants*

The Council is delivering the second phase of the Home Upgrade Grant scheme – also known as ‘HUG2'. This provides energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating to low-income households living in the worst performing, off-gas grid homes in England.

Eligible households could receive free energy efficiency improvements or clean heating (such as air source heat pumps) for their homes, following a home assessment. Households could be eligible if they:

• Don't have gas central heating;

• Have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of D, E, F or G;

• Have a combined annual household income under £31,000 (gross).

Further details are available via relevant the website: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/green-home-grants.cfm

*5. Cabinet Meeting – 6 November 2023*

The principal items on The Cabinet’s agenda at this meeting are:

• A proposal setting out how the funds which have been earmarked to finance climate change associated projects can be assess as to their eligibility and a process for allocating funds to them.

• Routine financial reports providing management accounts and commentary on financial results to the end of September 2023 i.e. the first half of the year. Arguably the most important outcome so far is the over budget interest earnings from the Council’s balances due to the prevailing levels of interest.

• A paper setting out proposal for the allocation of SDC’s 2022/23 CIL funds of £1.6m to five projects of the forty-seven applications submitted.

*6. Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)*

At its meeting on Friday 3 November 2023, the OSC had invited representatives of the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to answer questions concerning the future of the Ellen Badger Hospital, not only from members of the OSC, but also those received as a result of all councillors being asked to submit questions. Four questions were submitted on behalf of the residents of Tredington Ward – see the attached paper.

The session yielded a better understanding amongst OSC members about the inter-relationship in decision making between the proposals to be put forward by South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) and the ICB which has responsibility for commissioning service in Coventry and Warwickshire as a whole.

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**3 November 2023**

**Questions to the Integrated Care Board**

*Question 1*

Amongst its facilities, Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust has seven community hospitals. The North Cotswold Hospital in Moreton in Marsh offers inpatient and outpatient services, a minor injuries unit, x-ray and ultra-sound services and physiotherapy services. The population of Shipston on Stour is larger than that of Moreton (5,849 v 5,015 – 2021 Census). Can you explain why it is not possible or practicable to provide the residents of Shipston with a community hospital that provides a similar range of services and facilities as the North Cotswold Hospital, please? What are the obstacles tosuch an approach to health care provision?

*Question 2*

Can you provide data to show what range of services were previously provided at the Ellen Badger Hospital (EBH), what frequency of use was made of these services and what proportion of service users were Shipston residents, please? How does this range of services compare – more, less, different - with what it is intended to be provided in the future based at the EBH site?

*Question 3*

Given the answer to the previous question, for those services that will no longer be provided in Shipston, where will they be provided in future i.e. where and how far will Shipston residents need to travel? Similarly, what are the services that were not previously provided in Shipston but will be provided at the EBH in future? To which alternate facilities and in what numbers would Shipston residents have had to have travelled in the past to access these services? Where does the net balance of advantage lie?

*Question 4*

What options does the ICB still have to provide practical and financial support to the partners of the Shipston Medical Centre to enable the building of the intended new medical centre on the EBH site? What is the realistic prospect of the Medical Centre being located on the EBH site?

*Cllr Trevor Harvey,*

*Tredington Ward*

*17 Oct 2023*

*WCC:* None

***M23.27. Any other urgent business:***

IH reported that she hoped to disseminate information regarding help with insulation and energy efficiency. JH suggested putting it on the website

JH reported that the children Xmas party and film had been arranged.

PW reported that a white van and two men behaving suspiciously had been seen in the village and that residents should be vigilant.

IH reported an issue with the noticeboard in the bus shelter, where information notices were being removed on a regular basis. She asked the council to suggest solutions to this.

***M23.28. Date of next meeting:*** 8 or 9 January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. Date to be confirmed depending on when the insulation of the village hall was likely to commence and other bookings.