Draft minutes of the meeting of Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council held on 10 September 2024 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall

**Present: Isobel hazelwood (Chair; IH); Penny White (PW); Chris Longleather (CL); Jon Holdback (JH); Richard Eedle (RE); Trevor Harvey (SDC; TH); Sue Finlay (Clerk)**

***M24.49: Apologies:*** Jo Barker

**M24.50: *Declaration of Interests*:**  None.

***M24.51. Approval of minutes of last meeting:*** Approved.

***M24.52: Matters arising:***

*Defibrillator: do we need another one?* PW had investigated the requirements for siting a defibrillator and found that although it requires an electric supply, the running costs are very low. It does, however, need to be either in a covered location or have adequate cover provided. PW offered wall space and the electric supply for one on the wall by one of the gates at the Court House.

*Bark for play area:* This was ordered and put down around the end of August. It had cost less than anticipated, but IH had ordered enough to put around all the play equipment.; as it was a new supplier, she wanted to check the durability of the bark before ordering a larger amount. Other suppliers were considerably more expensive.

*Dog bins/rubbish bin:*  The dog bin at the top of the village had been removed by Biffa as it was considered unsafe. The Rubbish bin on The Green was thought to have been damaged by the council grass cutters. She had spoken to Street Scene at SDC (Craig Bourne) and was told that the dog bin would be replaced ‘sometime’. The clerk agreed to follow this up.

***M24.43. Planning applications:***

*New*

24/01791/VARY, for Ms K. Tomkins. Chimneys. Variation of Condition 6 of PP 19/02785/FUL. To allow change from private equestrian use to commercial [Comments made – no objection].

*Ongoing*

24/01430/TREE, for Doswell Sedgwick, Stepping Stone, Stretton-on-Fosse, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9SG. T1 (T6 in the report) - horse chestnut – Fell; T2 (T9 in the report) - common ash – Fell

*Approved*

24/01593/TREE, for Mrs Clayton, Pear Tree House.

***M24.54: Finance:***

1. *Approval of expenditure since last meeting: Treasurers account:* Approved.

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| **Date** | **Supplier** | **Item** | **In** | **Out** | **Balance** |
| 25/07/2024 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp |  | 350.25 | 424.03 |
| 25/07/2024 | From BSA | Top-up | 580.00 |  | 1004.03 |
| 31/07/2024 | Clive Lockton | Grass- July |  | 240.00 | 764.03 |
| 09/08/2024 | HMRC | VAT re4fund | 391.66 |  | 1155.69 |
| 28/08/2024 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp |  | 226.50 | 929.19 |
| 31/08/2024 | Clive Lockton | Grass August |  | 240.00 | 689.19 |

1. *BSA:* Approved

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| **Date** | **Destination** | **Reason** | **In** | **Out** | **Balance** |
| 09/07/2024 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | 9.55 |  | 8584.5 |
| 15/07/2024 | From Play area  | held for interest | 1000 |  | 9584.5 |
| 25/07/2024 | Trs Treasurers | Top-up |  | 580 | 9004.5 |
| 25/07/2024 | From Play area  | held for interest | 1000 |  | 10004.5 |
| 09/08/2024 | Lloyds | Interest | 9.49 |  | 10013.99 |

*(iii) Play Area:* Approved.

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| **Date** | **Supplier** | **Item** | **In** | **Out** | **Balence** |
| 15/07/2024 | Trs BSA | Interest bearing monies |  | 1000 | 3666.49 |
| 25/07/2024 | Dandys Chester Ltd | Playground bark |  | 1669.59 | 1996.90 |
| 25/07/2024 | Trs BSA | Interest bearing monies |  | 1000 | 996.90 |
| 06/09/2024 | Wicksteed | Cradle swing |  | 179.03 | 817.87 |

***M23:55. Any other urgent business:***

*Approval of latest Financial Regulations:*  The clerk had recently supplied a set of revised Financial regulations. IH and CL had looked at them and raised a number of points for discussion that they didn’t feel were relevant to such a small council. CL agreed to review the regulations incorporating amendments approved by the council.

***M23:56***: The clerk and the chair agreed to discuss, over the next 2 months, the reasons for the amount above the predicted budget for the clerk’s salary since April this year, with a view to better forecasting next year’s precept. CL has undertaken to look at income and outgoings as compared to our forecasting for the next (and subsequent) meetings

***M23:57. Councillor reports:***

*Trevor Harvey*

*See Appendix I*

***M24.58. Date of next meeting:*** The next meeting was arranged for 12 November 2024, at 7.30 p.m.

**Appendix I: Briefing re Stratford District Council (Trevor Harvey)**

*1. Funding approved for Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway housing*

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has agreed a multi-million-pound investment that will help to kick-start the regeneration of the important Gateway site in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The WMCA has agreed in principle to provide funding to deliver 118 new homes on the part of the site that fronts Birmingham Road and Arden Street, creating 80 local jobs and providing much-needed affordable homes.

The decision, which will now trigger detailed talks to finalise the agreement, is the latest in a series of WMCA investments focused on breathing new life into the region's town and city centres. The funding will support Stratford-on-Avon District Council to deliver the first element of its recently approved long-term masterplan for a cultural quarter at the northern entrance to the town - one of the region's key visitor destinations.

The WMCA's investment into the Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway scheme is the latest example of the WMCA's brownfield first programme which continues to use a £200m housing funding pot to unlock scores of the region's former industrial sites for new homes and commercial workplaces. WMCA covers the cost of cleaning up such sites to make them ready for developers to build and in return, house builders must make a minimum 20% of the homes affordable.

*2. Stratford-upon-Avon Local Nature Reserve Partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust*

Stratford-upon-Avon Local Nature Reserve is a 71-acre site. It is part of The Stratford Riverside Project to create a green corridor between Fisherman's Car Park and Lucy's Mill Bridge. It is a partnership between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Stratford Town Trust. Grant funding of £1.5 m was secured for the project from the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership via the Government's Getting Building Fund. In October 2023, the northern area was declared a Local Nature Reserve following consultation with Natural England.

Stratford Town Trust and SDC have now appointed Trust Nature Services Ltd, (a wholly owned subsidiary of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust), as partners to assist with the long-term management of the Stratford-upon-Avon Local Nature Reserve. A 30-year Framework Landscape Ecological Management Plan (FLEMP) has been created for the site, allowing for further enhancement of habitats to increase and preserve biodiversity.

*3. Cabinet agrees additional funding for replacement UBUS service*

From 1 September SDC and WCC's joint UBUS service will be replaced by a new Demand Responsive Transport Service (DRT) solely from WCC. As part of this SDC's Cabinet has agreed to release further funding of £70k from its Council Plan and Change Programme to ensure the service remains accessible to as many residents across the District as possible.

This funding will be sufficient for WCC to procure an additional vehicle to cover Stratford-upon-Avon town and the Tiddington area and provide a late afternoon and evening service between 4.30pm and 7pm across the whole District, which had originally been proposed to be withdrawn.

The new proposals include:

* A Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) offer between 10am and 2.30pm and 4.30pm and 7pm across the whole District, subject to demand.
* A significant increase in Stratford-upon-Avon scheduled bus routes capacity, including enhancements to the existing no.19 route, and introducing a new no.6 route between Old Town and Tiddington.
* A new booking centre, retaining existing telephone bookings and providing a web-booking provision and new booking app.
* Introducing more environmentally friendly vehicles.
* Maintaining minimum of one wheelchair user space per vehicle and potentially expanding this to two (subject to vehicle configuration) and more modern and appropriate vehicles.
* Current charges (where applicable) of £4 per single and £6 per return journey will be kept for the first 12 months but may change subject to any charging review.
* Retaining eligibility for free travel on the presentation for those with a concessionary bus pass.