Minutes of a meeting of Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council held on 11 September 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall

**Present: Isobel Hazelwood (IH), Penny White (PW), Chris Longleather (CL),Jon Holdback (H), Richard Eedle (on Zoom, RE), Trevor Harvey (SDC, TH), Sue Finlay (Clerk)**

**Members of the Public: Andy Rutley (AR), Hugh Elson, Holly Elson, Richard West (RW), Lesley Longleather**

***M23.10. Apologies:*** Jo Barker (WCC).

**M23.11: *Declaration of Interests*:** CL declared an interest, being a neighbour of Planning application 23/02179/FUL, and following advice from TH he agreed he would not comment on this application.

***M23.12. Approval of minutes of last meeting:*** Approved.

***M23.13: Matters arising:***

1. *Local history:* CL reported that a log of material was needed and that he would arrange this. Geoff Dalton now had all the material but wanted it all to be stored in the Village Hall (VH). This would require an additional fireproof cabinet and it was agreed that this could be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting.
2. *Climate change and Stretton Sustainability Initiative*: CL said there was nothing to report at the moment. He, Tony Fuller and JH have been working on improving the website
3. *Allotments:* CL reported that two allotments were in a very poor state, in breach of both the tenant agreements and the general lease agreement. These tenants would have to be given notice by the end of the month. There are also maintenance issues with the paths and orchard. The paths had been poorly set up in the first place, before the allotments had been taken on by the PC. He said that, of the initial £1000 committed to the allotments by the PC, together with the rent meant there was a theoretical balance of about £400. He suggested that a sub-committee be set up to take responsibility for the allotments and to handle the finances. The clerk said there were formalities to be observed in setting up a sub-committee, and gave CL a guide to the management of allotments. However, CL said he didn’t envisage anything as formal as that.
4. *Grass cutting:* IH had been contacted by Mrs Dawes who had said, due to poor health, Mr Dawes would not be able to continue with the grass cutting. However, he had taken on an assistant, who was willing to finish off the season to the end of October. Thereafter, the council will have to find an alternative contractor.

***M23.15. 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. The property had been viewed by IH and PW. IH felt the proposed picket fence reduced the parking on Belcony, which was already very narrow. She agreed to investigate the parking issue further.CL and RW pointed out that neither had received neighbour notifications, nor did a notification appear to have been posted by the council in the vicinity, both a breach of procedure. IH agreed to follow this up.

*The Plough*: AR came to the council to explain his planned for the pub, which he had recently purchased with a business partner. He felt that it had previously begun to fail and he wanted to have it open as a pub 7 days a week. The new manager starts 18th September and he aimed to have it open that day, subject to staffing levels. His plan is:

* Initially, to generally tidy the place up, improving cleanliness and quality.
* Change the front lean-to to an orangery style of stone and glass (enclosed).
* It was hoped to extend the beer garden round the back of the building
* The outside bar may be incorporated into the orangery.
* Possibly change the internal layout.

He wanted to retain it as a village pub and was happy to work with the village and the village hall on community events.

IH said the PC was keen to keep the pub going. PW asked if there would be enough covers, to which AR replied he hoped more could be provided by redesigning the layout. IH said that the PC cannot offer financial help but would help with promoting it through the website, etc.

TH pointed out that the two notable resurrected pubs locally had become destination pubs, although in Armscote many locals now felt it had become a restaurant with a bar rather than a village pub. Both also offered accommodation. AR hoped to be able to extend to include accommodation and there is already planning for 1 Airbnb room.

CL suggested his publicity could include the availability of the EV chargers on the village hall.

*On-going*

*Pitstop*: The owner is still Mr Guest. He put it up for auction on 13 July, but it failed to sell.

23/00472/HRN, for Mr C. Knight, Buildings At Badgers Poor North And South Tredington Shipston On Stour, CV36 4PW. Removal of a section of hedgerow, located to the west of an entrance track to farm buildings, Badgers Poor, North and South, Tredington, off the B4035 highway.

*Approved*

 23/01608/LDP, Glebe Cottage Church Lane Stretton-On-Fosse Warwickshire GL56 9SD. To remove the existing door to be replaced with an infill panel and window, as drawing K2302-02. Works are reversable.  Certificate Lawful Development-Proposed

***M23.16: Finance:***

1. *Approval of expenses since last meeting:* Approved.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Supplier** | **Item** | **Income** | **Outgoings** | **Balence** |
| 08/07/2023 | Trs from BSA | Top-up acc | 1500.00 |  | 2035.47 |
| 25/07/2023 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. |  | 190.34 | 1845.13 |
| 31/07/2023 | Mrs Dawes | Grass cutting July |  | 240.00 | 1605.13 |
| 25/08/2023 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & exp. |  | 206.55 | 1398.58 |
| 30/08/2023 | Mrs Dawes | Grass cutting August |  | 240.00 | 1158.58 |

1. *Interest account:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Source** | **Item** | **Income** | **Outgoings** | **Balence** |
| 08/07/2023 | To Treasurers | Top-up |  | 1500 | 8500 |
| 10/07/2023 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | 4.81 |  | 8504.81 |
| 09/08/2023 | Lloyds Bank | Interest | 6.29 |  | 8511.1 |

JH said he had now submitted the new mandate to the bank, with his proofs of identity.

***M23.17. Council reports:***

*SDC:* TH reported that waste recycling had increased, while landfill quantities had decreased. 5000 Tons food waste had been collected so far. The new recycling unit will be in operation from October and this will take soft plastics as well.

*The Council had developed a new concessionary car parking system, available to over-*65’s only, whereby parking would only be permitted in the Bridgefoot car park, for a maximum of 4 hours, £50 per annum

*Planning applications for Public Houses:*  It was felt that using the criteria of profitability alone was too low a bar for decommissioning of pubs and this was being reviewed.

*Ellen Badger:* Nothing to report.

***M23.18. Any other urgent business:***

*Hoppers Lane:* IH had reported the matter of rear access to the properties on Belcony from this and sent photos to Highways, who had agreed to come and look at the issue

*Age Concern Grant:* IH had posted information on this on the noticeboard.

*Footbridge at play area:* RW suggested a gate be installed on the far side3 of the bridge to deter livestock and solve this issue of accessibility. IH said the footbridge came under the jurisdiction of the village hall and that she would raise the matter with them.

*Allen Scythe and Chipper: service and training:* The clerk had obtained a quote from Dorn Hill for servicing the chipper and the Allen Scythe (£90 +VAT for each one); she had also found a course of safe use of the Chipper through Lantra (£195 + £62 City & Guilds certificate, all plus VAT). CL asked if removing these items from the PC insurance was a solution to needing the servicing and training. The clerk said definitely not.

***M23.19. Date of next meeting:*** The next meeting was arranged for 6 November at 7.30 in the village hall.