Draft minutes of a meeting of Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council held on 24 July 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall

**Present: Isobel hazelwood (IH, Chair), Penny White (PW), Chris Longleather (CL), Jon Holdback (JH), Trevor Harvey (TH, SDC councillor), Sue Finlay (clerk)**

***M23.01. Apologies:*** Richard Eedle, Jo Barker

**M23.02: Declaration of Interests:** CL declared an interest in the Hoppers Lane item as it affected the rear entrance to his property.

***M23.03. Approval of minutes of last meeting:*** A slight amendment was made by CL and the amended minutes were approved.

***M23.04: Matters arising:***

1. *Gated road:* IH had received a reply from Michael Rogers at Warks Highways (WH), saying her information regarding the poor state of the gated road had been passed on to WH structural engineers. He felt a realistic time scale for any repairs was 18-24 months, but asked her to keep him appraised of any changes in the condition of the road.
2. *Local history:* CL reported that nine people had expressed an interest in joining the History Society at the recent cream teas? IH said that all the photos that had been kept in the Fireproof Safe at the village hall had been moved to Geoff & Naomi Daltons GD & ND). The main issue now is what is to happen to all the material. IH suggested digitising the phots then storing the originals in the Fireproof safe again. CL felt there needed to be a record of exactly what was there, but GD thinks they have already been catalogued. IH thought there might be grants available for the preservation of such records. Donald Holdsworth had approached County Records to see if they wanted them, but they refused. CL wanted the SSI to co-ordinate the collection and display, but GD has asked for a meeting to discuss ideas.
3. *Climate change and Stretton Sustainability Initiative*: CL reported that the History presentation at the last cream teas went well. He was pleased with how the soft plastics collection was working TH reported that a new facility was being built by WCC, which would be able to deal with soft plastics in with the general recycling.
4. *Village Car Park renovations:* IH reported that she had been waiting for Rod to repair the fence on the car park, but he has said it is in too poor condition to repair. It is owned by Orbit Housing, who are unlikely to repair it.
5. *Stan Dawes grass-cutting*:  IH reported that, due to poor health, Mr Dawes seemed to be struggling with some of the heavier aspects of the mowing now, as he cannot manage Hoppers Lane or the car park. She thinks it will probably be the last year he does the grass in the village, but she intends to speak to Mrs Dawes. Any alternative will probably be considerably more expensive. CL reported that he had mown Hoppers Lane recently, but that it need to be kept under control, being mown, perhaps, every month over the summer. He asked if there was a possibility of buying Mr Dawes equipment if he retired.

***M23.05. Planning applications***

*New*

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, 102metres in length, located to the west of an entrance track to farm buildings, Badgers Poor, North and South, Tredington, off the B4035 highway.  O.S. grid reference SP 2275 3982. There was concern over such a long stretch of hedge being removed. This application has now been withdrawn and a new application is to be submitted, following a survey of the hedge. The new proposal is to plant a new hedge a few metres behind the old hedge, reducing the height of the old hedge, then removing it once the new hedge is established and the wildlife has migrated to the new hedge. Meanwhile Mr Knight proposes a permissive path be given to allow safe passage from the path from Stretton to the Darlingscott road. IH suggested reducing the speed limit to 50 mph. TH said this would be too expensive to be considered. IH had rung Compton Scorpion on this matter but had yet to receive a response. No new application had been submitted as yet.

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 [No neighbour or PC consultations appear to have been sent and there is no date for consultations. Decision date 11/08/2023]

*On-going*

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

*Approved*

***M23.06: Finance:***

1. *Approval of expenses since last meeting:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Supplier**  | **Item**  | **Income**  | **Outgoings**  | **Balence**  |
| 26/04/2023  | SDC  | Precept  | 3150.00  |   | 12326.24  |
| 17/05/2023  | ICO  | Subscription  |   | 35.00  | 12291.24  |
| 26/05/2023  | Sue Finlay  | Clerks salary & exp.  |   | 201.92  | 12089.32  |
| 31/05/2023  | Stretton Village Hall  | Rent  |   | 21.00  | 12068.32  |
| 19/06/2023  | Trs to Inst savings Acc  | Opening balance  |   | 10000.00  | 2068.32  |
| 19/06/2023  | Stan Dawes  | Grass April/may  |   | 480.00  | 1588.32  |
| 26/06/2023  | Sue Finlay  | Clerks salary & exp.  |   | 197.95  | 1390.37  |
| 30/06/2023  | Stan Dawes  | Grass June  |   | 240.00  | 1150.37  |
| 30/06/2023  | I Hazelwood  | Jubilee coin sale  | 132.00  |   | 1282.37  |
| 08/07/2023  | Zurich Insurance  | Insurance  |   | 746.90  | 535.47  |
| 08/07/2023  | Trs from BSA  | Top-up acc  | 1500.00  |   | 2035.47  |

The clerk reported that Zurich had not sent a reminder this year, just a final demand so she had paid the premium before it expired. It had gone up by nearly £80, but this was cover for the EV chargers. The council were content with this.

1. *Interest account:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Source**  | **Item**  | **Income**  | **Outgoings**  | **Balence**  |
| 19/06/2023  | From Treasurers  | Opening balance  | 10000  |   | 10000  |
| 08/07/2023  | To Treasurers  | Top-up  |   | 1500  | 8500  |

 After several attempts to set up the Interest account, following problems with Lloyds website, the clerk reported that she had finally managed to set up the Interest account. CL asked what the current interest rate was. On 25/07 it was 0.90% gross.

***M23.07. Council reports:***

*SDC:* TH suggested the council sign up to a publication – Parish & Partners Briefing – which contained useful and up-to-date information.

A cabinet meeting in July had reviewed a Supplementary Planning application for the Vegetable Research station, now a campus for Warwick University.

A concessionary car park permit is being considered by SDC. It wi8ll cost £50 and will only be valid in the multi-storey car park in Stratford for a maximum of 4 hours. It will only be available to pensioners and will not be associated to a specific vehicle. There are still a number of technical issues to sort out, however.

Opportunities for Veterans and the In-patient bed review were referred to at said cabinet meeting, but not discussed.

*Planning applications for Public Houses:* Following the refusal of the planning application for the Fox and Hounds at Great Wolford, TH reported that it had been refused on the grounds that the Conservation Officer had found the proposed changes to be unacceptable, rather than the viability study. The Cabinet has asked the Planning department to write a report on what is happening elsewhere. It was felt a higher criteria for ‘viability’ was needed other than purely financial considerations.

***M23.08. Any other urgent business***

*The green lane, Hoppers Lane:* IH had received comments from residents affected by the poor state of the top end of Hoppers Lane, which provides rear access to some properties on Belcony. It is an unclassified county road and the PC had been asked if it could do something about it. IH had contacted WH, but had no response. TH asked her to email him the details of this problem, but to copy in Jo Barker, whose remit it comes under, but who is currently in hospital, and he would look into it. He suggested IH ask Environmental Health (Paul Reid), about the problem with water flowing down the track.

*Path behind new houses:* There have been complaints that this is becoming overgrown. The agreement with Grevayne was that, when the title to the allotments were handed over to the PC, the council would take over this footpath, but as Grevayne later refused to give the council the allotments, the footpath remains their responsibility.

*PC machinery: training and maintenance:* The clerk had noted that, when reading through the new insurance documents the council was required to keep records and receipts of any maintenance to the PC-owned machinery. The clerk suggested arranging maintenance at the end of the season. There are similar requirements for training of operators. The council will follow this up.

*Allotments: new arrangements:* CL reported that the allotments were fairly productive at the moment. He had tried to get the allotment holders to help with the tidying up, but had had limited response. He felt the paths needed some work.

He reported that the Horticultural Society was more or less defunct now, but still had quite a lot of money in their fund. He proposed setting up a separate allotments committee (AC) to administer the allotments and transferring £1000 of this money to fund improvements.

He proposed that the AC lease the allotments from the PC, removing the problem of the upkeep from the council. IH had checked the lease from Grevayne and found it did not permit sub-letting. The clerk suggested setting up a sub-committee of the council, which could function as an independent unit, handling finance, etc., but would still be covered by the council insurance, and be able to recover VAT, etc.

*EV chargers:*  IH reported that a change of software from Vend-Electric to Mondar is to happen. This will be cheaper for the Village Hall, but will hopefully be easier to use. The servicing contract will be transferred to the new company.

***M23.09. Date of next meeting:*** The next meeting was fixed for 11 September at 7.30 p.m., in the village hall.