**Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council Draft minutes**

A meeting of Stretton-on-Fosse Parish Council was held on Zoom on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 7 pm

*Present:* Isobel Hazelwood (Chair), Penny White, Chris Longleather, Keith Finlay, John Holdback, Richard Eedle, and Sue Finlay (Clerk)

*M21.1. Apologies*Apologies were received from Councillor Barker, due to being unwell.

*M21.2. Approval of minutes of last meeting*The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

*M21.3. Matters arising*

*Co-option of 2 new parish councillors:*The Chair welcomed two new councillors, recently co-opted, Richard Eedle and Jon Holdback

*Allotments and water supply*: The water supply has managed to obtain funding of £680 from a County Council grant, and £250 from Martin Lawrence. This will leave the Parish Council to pay approximately £10. Councillor Longleather wished to acknowledge the work done by Bob Field on the allotments.

*Climate change and village sustainability group (Chris)*: Councillor Longleather reported that the sustainability group had held one meeting and had circulated a form on climate change around the village, although he was a little disappointed with the response. It had been decided that they would produce a quarterly newsletter, covering waste, biodiversity, transport, and food. He reported that there had been a good return from the sale of apple juice this year, due to the heavy apple crop -£940 – and had been restricted by the number of bottles that had been returned. £160 of this had been set aside for the newsletter; £300 for trees for the orchard; and £100 for Community Awareness, a charity which helps local families with young children.

*Website and Newsletters:* Councillor Hazelwood thanked Councillor Holdback for updating the website. It was felt that the use of the website should be encouraged. Councillor Holdback suggested the information needed to be updated regularly and perhaps the village newsletter could be included on the website. He said it should be tidied regularly.

*Laptop and Microsoft Office for Parish Council:* Councillor Hazelwood explained that the Parish laptop was very out of date and when the clerk had tried to add some basic programmes, it was not possible because the basic laptop was not able to accept these. After taking advice it was decided that the laptop should be replaced, with all the programs need to run the files the clerk produces. She proposed that a basic laptop should be purchased at an allowance of £300. This was approved.

*M21.14. Finance*

*Expenditure since last meeting:*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Supplier | Item | Amount | Balance |
| 01/12/2020 | Sue Finlay | Clerks salary & expenses | 115.12 | 10,438.82 |
| 03/12/2020 | WCC | Councillors grant | 680.00 | 11,118.82 |
| 09/12/2020 | Stan Dawes | Grass cutting 30/09, 14/10 | 220 | 10,898.82 |
| 17/12/2020 | MA Lawrence | donation to allotment water supply | 250 | 11,148.82 |
| 21/12/2020 | J. Potter | Allotment rent | 26 | 11,174.82 |
| 22/12/2020 | D. Whittaker | Allotment rent | 26 | 11,200.82 |

*Petty cash*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01/12/2020 | SPO | Stamps | 7.8 | 122.41 |

*Play area*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 19/06/2020 | Balance carried fwd | 1821.25 |

*Money Manager*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 01/04/2020 | Balance brought fwd | 20.01 |

Approved

*Proposed precept for 2021/22*

The council examined the forecast prepared by Councillor Longleather (Appendix 1). Councillor Hazelwood felt a few items need a higher allowance—the website figure was increased to £110; the cost of servicing and repairs to the village equipment was increased to £100; in view of the current situation it was felt that £100 should be put aside for donations to CAB and VASA. Councillor Hazelwood also pointed out that the village hall would probably need support as it had received no income this year, but was still expected to pay business rates and other bills. She also felt that in view of the possibility of having to take over some aspects of the churchyard maintenance in the next 2 or 3 years and the forthcoming formation of Unitary Councils and the expenses involved there, some increase should be made now. Councillor Finlay agreed, feeling it was better to increase a little at a time, rather than finding ourselves needing to add a large amount to the precept in one go.

Councillor Hazelwood proposed the increase should be to £5800; Councillor Finlay thought £5850; the other councillors felt that £5800 should be sufficient and this was approved.

Councillor Hazelwood asked for approval for immediate transfer of the £600 bark money for 20/21 to the dedicated play area account and proposed that a sum of £800 for bark and play area repairs be made as soon as the first tranche of the 2021/22 precept was received. Both proposals were approved.

*M21.5. Planning applications*

*New*

20/02892/FUL, Court Farm Lodge, extension

3 The Green, rear extension

*Approved*

20/00931/LBC and 20/00930/FUL, Conversion of outbuildings to form one dwelling, for C. Longleather: No objections.

21/02334/VARY Rowborough Filling Station, variation of landscaping, approved with conditions.

*On-going*

*Pitstop*: Mr Guest had applied for and been granted, a further 2-month extension (Now January 12). Ron Goodyer – the enforcer – had reported that if , as stated by the purchaser, the sale had now gone through, the enforcement notices would have passed to the new owner and would come into effect after 12 January, unless Mr Guest proposed to continue with the appeal. At the moment he appears to be renting the site back, so it was a moot point as to whether it would be the responsibility of the new owner to insist he complies.

*M21.6 Correspondence*

Clerks and Councils.

*M21.7. Council reports*

Councillor Barker reported that vaccines had started now in the Shipston area, but didn’t have any information available as to where the local hubs are – possibly Wellesbourne. Councillor Hazelwood agreed to contact her further about this. It was also reported that a low flow test centre had been established in Stratford in the car park behind the leisure centre.

*M21.8. AOB:*

*Meals from Blackdowns Farm during lockdown*: Councillor Hazelwood reported that 2 sets of free meals had been provided to the village by Blackdowns farm, which she had sorted delivery/collection of. It was decided that a letter of thanks on behalf of the PC should be sent

The Chair reported that the public footpaths were not being kept in a good state of repair and that no response had been obtained from Highways on this matter. They do not answer phone calls or respond to emails. She was having the same problem reporting blocked/collapsed drains and the problem was becoming serious. She agreed to contact Councillor Barker about this.

*M21.9. Date of next meeting*

The next meeting was arranged for 30 March 2021 at 7.30 p.m., presumably by Zoom.