

STOWE BY CHARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

THE ORDINARY MEETING ON 10.7.24

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Mrs Hurdle (Chair), Cllr Coote (Vice chair), Cllr Mrs Alder, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Mrs Finney, and Cllr Ms Harnett plus Borough Councillor Mrs Aspen. There were also approximately 20 residents in the public gallery.

Cllr Mrs Aspen confirmed that there had been one solar farm application which has been accepted – the one at Hanyards which is not in Stowe by Chartley Parish.

115/24 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence: Apologies were accepted from Cllr Rayson

116/24 To receive Declarations of Interest on any item on the agenda: there were no Declarations of interest. At this point The Chair asked Cllr Alder if she was going to declare an interest in item 129/24 – this was concerning the traffic lights in situ following damage to her property some 14 months ago. She refused to do this.

117/24 To receive Applications for Dispensation under the Localism Act 2011: there were no applications

118/24 To adjourn the meeting for Public Participation: before this session started the Chair pointed out that all comments should be directed to her and to no-one else.

Resident 1 wanted to know what progress was on the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device: Both the Chair and the Clerk said that during the next meeting in September, Cllr Rayson (who is also the Head of Highways) will give a presentation on village gateways and after that, the parish council will choose between those and a speed indicator device.

Residents 2 – 4 and one Councillor spoke about the temporary glamping site at a local farm which belongs to one of the Councillors. The basic theme was that local residents were worried about the impact that this glamping site would have and they made the point that they did not appreciate the way it had been handled from the point of view of the landowner in terms of the way he /she communicated with local people. Of note is the fact that this group referred to a planning application which was on the Stafford Borough Council planning web site and yet the landowner said that he/she had never put an application in because one was not required for a 60-day glamping site. This conundrum is due to be

investigated by the Clerk and there will be a report on the results of her findings at the next parish council meeting.

119/24 To consider agreeing the minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 29.5.24 and the ordinary meeting of the parish council held on 7.5.24: It was RESOLVED to accept both sets of minutes. PROPOSED by Cllr Byrne. SECONDED by Cllr Coote.

120/24 To consider previous parish council resolutions and decisions:

105/24 to consider if Stowe-by-Chartley would like to increase its community engagement in terms of what it features on its web site and whether it would like to put a QR code on its agendas etc.: It was agreed that the Clerk should put traffic and crime alerts on the web site and also a QR code on its agendas.

110/24 To consider an update on progress towards full online banking: the Clerk gave the update which was:

Although six Councillors have signed up to become online signatories, due to a clerical error on the part of the bank, only three councillors were accepted for this. At the time of writing these minutes, the issues have not yet been resolved.

121/24 To consider the results of the recent Internal Audit which was carried out by the Internal Auditor: the comments made by the auditor were noted: she had no hesitation about signing off the accounts and the governance statements but she was worried about our low level of reserves.

122/24 To consider appointing the same firm of internal auditors for the financial year 2024/25: the council was happy to appoint the same firm of auditors (Toplis Associates) for 24/25 and they look forward to meeting Kim Squires when the time comes.

123/24 To consider the impact of the new Financial Regulations on Stowe-by-Chartley parish council: the Clerk gave the salient points of the new regulations and asked Councillors to make various choices when there was an option to do so e.g. the date of the review of salaries etc. The new regulations will now be written up ready for the next meeting

124/24 To consider, having made the decision to work in the Cloud on 7.5.24, which partner to choose to help the council achieve this: Company A was chosen

125/24 To consider increasing the standing order for the parish council phone from £26.77 per month to £32.25 per month as phone charges have gone up: it was agreed to increase the standing order to £32.25 per month.

126/24 To consider if we should write to all business owners on the Hixon Industrial Estate to ask them to advise their delivery people and employees to access the estate via the A51. The idea of doing this was raised at the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 29.5.24: it was agreed to do this

127/24 To report on a building control issue concerning a property in the parish. This issue concerns the use of a septic tank: the council noted the issue and since the meeting, the Clerk is happy to confirm that a member of the Building Control team has been out to speak to the landowner and is satisfied that the water treatment plant can emit water into a local stream because, before it get there, it has been treated.

128/24 To consider a report written by the Clerk and Cllr Harnett following a training session that they attended recently about creating more bee-friendly environments and to consider two offers of help that the council has received: both the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Harnett spoke about how useful the session had been and the Clerk explained that the two offers of help consist of:

- the organisers of the session have offered to put on the same training for Cllrs
- The leader of SinCH (Sustainability in Colwich and the Haywoods) has agreed to meet one Cllr and a group of volunteers to explain what this group has been doing in the Haywoods.

It was agreed to put an article into the Summer Newsletter explaining what our plans are for re-wilding the field and to try to gauge local people's reactions.

129/24 To assess progress on addressing an issue that was raised at the Annual Meeting of the Parish and to consider the next steps, if appropriate. This issue concerns the use of a set of traffic lights: the following points were made:

- The Chair said that the parish council was seeking clarification only
- The owner of the damaged property (damaged because a car ran into the house) said that it was nothing to do with the parish council
- The Chair said that after the accident, a set of traffic lights was deployed for safety reasons and she was questioning as to whether they were still required after 14 months. She then said what the Head of Highways response to this question has been
- The Chair said how inconvenient these lights are and that local people and users of the A518 are fed up with the delays caused by them.
- The property owners have commissioned several structural surveys of the property and are now commissioning another one (into the stability of their property and whether lights are still required)
- Councillors are being asked about the lights all of the time and they need guidance as to how to reply
- The property owner said that she was doing everything vto resolve the situation

130/24 To consider swapping an ordinary seat for a cradle seat on the parish council-owned field: It was agreed to do this at a cost of £402.12p plus VAT. The new seat is due to be fitted by the end of August

131/24 To receive an update from the Employment Committee: there had been no meeting recently so there was no report

132/24 To note the latest Financial Statement: the statement was noted

133/24 To authorise the following payments: the payments were authorised. For these payments please see the agenda for 10.7.24 on the parish council web site.

134/24 To note the correspondence which has come in: the correspondence was as follows:

- A request for defibrillator training for the community
- Email on behalf of “Rehab 4 Addiction” – a U.K. based addiction helpline in Staffordshire. They have noticed that on our web site we have “Useful links”. They would like us to consider including a link to their web site which has links to resources for people who are addicted.
- Various pieces of correspondence from a lady who is interested in defining the exact ownership of a piece of land in Hixon. The latest email said that she was sending us an FOI request but she did not say what for.
- A communication from John Blount in which he is encouraging Councillors to attend a planning training course put on by Hannah Barter at “Urban Vision”

All correspondence was noted and the following decisions were made:

1. Establish some possible dates for defibrillator training – the date for the training will be on 4th September 2024
2. The Clerk to contact “Rehab 4 Addiction” to find out exactly what would be on a link for this institution if it was put on our web site under “Useful contacts”.

135/24 To assess progress with the summer newsletter: the Clerk assessed how far we were with this publication and said that it would be really useful if we had an update from the Staffordshire Rural Crime Forum and also from the people who have volunteered for the BKVC Competition.

136/24 To consider planning application 24/39299/OUT at Oak View Farm, Drointon Road, Drointon. This is for a proposed permanent dwelling with matters reserved: as it happens the owners of Oak View Farm were in the audience and they explained that only outline planning permission is sought at the moment. If they get that they may get a clue as to what the SBC planners would accept in terms of a dwelling. Councillors suggested that their response to this application is that they are happy to support the outline planning permission application but they would need more details before they accepted a more detailed application.

137/24 To consider the date of the next meeting: Tuesday 3rd September