

# Old Stratford Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at the Memorial Hall, 2 Deanshanger Road

### Present:

Cllrs Mr R Whittaker (in the chair), Mrs P Bowdidge, Mrs B Bucknell (Min:3), Mr B Clayton, Mrs S Harris, Mr D MacDonald, Mr P Plummer & Mr T Stretton

Also present were Cllrs Mrs L Mobaraki (SNC)(part) and 3 members of the public

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Dr L Ward (prior engagement) & Mr T Searle (work)

### 2. Two Casual Vacancies – to be filled by co-option

Mrs Brenda Bucknell - co-opted unanimously

### 3. Declaration of Acceptance

Cllr Bucknell signed the Declaration of Acceptance and Financial Declaration

### 4. Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda)

None

### 5. To Sign and Approve Minutes of the Meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Minutes of the meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007 were signed as a correct record subject to the cancellation of Chq. No 001405 (£79.10 already paid Chq.No.001390)

### 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes (for information only)

#### (a) The Mill, Passenham Minute 6(e)

Latest E-mail update from NCC > noted

#### (b) Silverstone Draft Development Plan Minute 10(a)

Circulated for comments > discussed and response approved

#### (c) Minerals Plan Minute 11(c)

Response submitted for approval > with Chairman

#### (d) Falcon Drive S38 Agreement Minute 11(d)

OSPC Response and replies read > NFA required

*Cllr Mobaraki arrived during this item*

#### (e) Cosgrove Road resident Minute 11(j)

Complaint about traffic and turning traffic > latest E-mail waits response < Atkins/NCC Highways

#### (f) Boundary Bridge London Road Minute 14(d)

Outstanding issues about the boundary bridge > awaits further review now issues raised again (+ speed survey required) > the clerk to chase

#### (g) Passenham Local Liaison Group Outstanding

The liaison group will now meet Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008 @ 4.30pm in the MH > for diary

**(h) Oxfield Park Outstanding**

Update on latest move to resolve + info from SNC and OSPC Solicitors

**7. To consider proposed closure of OS Post Office**

Discussed - Cllr Mobaraki gave her opinion on the issues and commented on the PCs handling of the proposed closure. A robust exchange of views followed, especially as she was not present when the Sub-postmaster addressed council. The complaint that the PC failed to secure a lay-by outside the PO was also discussed which provoked further comment on the PCs position

\* The PC was right to Q the PO closure and with village support would contact Postwatch. The clerk would check previous corres and give full explanation to Mr Patel re parking

**8. Public Speaking Time**

*Meeting closed for this item*

**9. District and County Councillor Reports**

**(a) Cllr Mobaraki (SNC)**

Reported that the Stock Transfer had been agreed and would take place 17 March 2008 > SNC Homes. Affordable Housing forecast. SNC Budget to rise 4.9%? Also spoke about the two Appeals 39 Manorfields Road and enforcement consideration re the failure to replace TPO trees cut down. (A recent SNC audit had cleared the PC of a complaint of bias towards the applicant family)

**(b) Cllr Walker (NCC)** not present

**10. Planning**

**(a) Applications Received**

**S/2007/1478/P** Change of use from house to house and three flats (Retrospective). Knotwood Farm, Towcester Road, Old Stratford

\* We note the retrospective application and question whether generated traffic justifies approval

**(b) Permission Granted / Refused**

**Permit** – 2no. dormer windows to front at 1 Old Stable Yard

**(c) Enforcement / Appeals**

**Appeal** – A/2007/1114/P against refusal, for the demolition of existing bungalow, construction of 5 houses, three detached and one pair of semi-detached. 39 Manorfields Road

**(d) Press Notices**

None

**11. Correspondence (list at meeting)**

**(a) SNC Revenues Team Leader**

Changes in empty property rates from 1 April 2008 > for file

**(b) South Northants Volunteer Bureau**

Voluntary & Community Sector Priorities 2008/12 (Not PCs) > Strategy for file / Linkup circulated

**(c) Passenham United Charities**

Letter re small grants to local residents > circulated for info

**(d) SNC Administration Officer**

Review of MH as a Polling Station compliance with Disabled Discrimination Act 1995 > for file

\* **(e) SNC Chairman**

- (i) Civic Carol Service @ St Lawrence Church, Towcester Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 6pm
- (ii) Annual Civic Dinner @ Whittlebury Hall Hotel Fri 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008 @ 8pm

\* **(f) West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit**

Joint Core Strategy Meeting - Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008 commencing 6pm @ Daventry DC Offices

\* Cllr Plummer attends

**(g) Aylesbury Vale DC**

Adoption of the Affordable Housing SPG (Adjoining Authority) > for file

\* **(h) Powergen Internal Account Manager**

Notification of increase in annual energy costs EAC (Estimated Annual Consumption / Un-metered supply) from £1,969.48 > £2,385.98 (includes vat / climate change levy) = 21% (Contacted and justified as undercharging for many years) > Budget consideration (little alternative for area?)

\* Therefore the Community Halls 11 Car Park lamps cost = equivalent of £1,487.00 > Budget and awaits CH Accounts. The clerk agreed to look for alternatives having also advised N/CALC

**(i) GOEM**

Publication of the Draft East Midlands Plan Panel Report > noted for file

\* **(j) SNC Executive Director**

Breathing Spaces 3 (A grant scheme for environmental green spaces projects) Application by 18 January 2008 – Old Canal / Pocket Park?

\* Cllr Clayton to advise

**12. Finance**

**(a) The Council to approve budgetary controls to date (Attached to the Agenda)**

\* **RESOLVED** to approve

**(b) To Approve Current State of Finance**

Treasurer's a/c:	£73.53
Business Call a/c:	£30,059.31 (Incl:Vat repayment)
Earmarked Reserves:	£9,315.23 (includes < - £579.76 MH income)
<b>Available Capital =</b>	<b>£20,817.61</b>

**(c) Approved payment of outstanding accounts listed below**

001410	Clerks Stipend:	£450.00
001411	Petty Cash:	£26.09
001412	Cleaner:	£85.00 (MH / RG litter pick)
001413	AH Contracts:	£80.37 (POS Dog Bins > Bloor Homes invoiced)
001414	NJ Blackwell:	£344.39 (Mowing)
001415	ACS:	£10.00 (MH Windows)
001416	Canon UK;	£44.84 (Estimated Copy totals)
001417	ABB:	£450.07 (PL Maintenance)
001418	City Glass:	£87.13 (Replacement MH pane after vandalism)
001419	British Gas:	£61.18 (MH Gas)
001420	OS Community Hall:	£200.00 (Donation Crime & Disorder Act)

**(d) Internal Audit Report**

Internal Auditor carried out an Interim Audit 8<sup>th</sup> November. Matters arising from External Audit Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 already dealt with (Min:12(c) Oct). Report read - No issues

(although the System of Internal Control and its review – which must now be considered by council, will form part of the Budget Consideration prior to submission along with Precept recommendations to full council and forms part of the amended Financial Risk Assessment)

**13. Street Lighting**

(a) O/s 49 Deanshanger Road db

(b) PL2 Dickens Drive ooo

**14. Highways**

(a) Towcester Road – state of verges top end > action agreed

(b) Pot holes marked for repair?

(c) Cllr Plummer spoke on recent Highways Rep meeting at Northampton. Atkins contract > 28/3/08 new contractor declared 15/1/08

**15. Councillor Questions and Items for Next Agenda**

(a) Website (clerk to forward Agenda/Minutes for past 12 months)

(b) Vote of thanks to CH Committee re successful Senior Citizens Christmas Party

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 commencing at 7.30pm

With no other business the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year and closed the meeting at 9.10pm