

# Old Stratford Parish Council

MINUTES OF OLD STRATFORD ANNUAL OPEN MEETING  
Held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at the Memorial Hall, 2 Deanshanger Road

## Present:

Cllrs Mr R Whittaker (in the chair), Mr I Baxter, Mr D Meadowcroft, Mr A Pateman, Mr P Philbrick, Mr G Rogers, Mrs S Tomlinson  
Also present were Mr D Everett (Clerk), Cllr Mr A Walker (NCC), PC Mike Wallace (Northants Police Safe Community Team), Mrs Helen Howard (NCC Customer Liaison Officer) and 12 members of the public

## 1 Apologies

Cllrs Mr B Clayton (work commitments Plymouth), Mr K Jelley (Away), Mr D MacDonald (Family commitments), Mrs P Stevenson (study commitments), Mrs L Mobaraki (SNC) - No report (Previous advice re non attendance at all PC meetings > Summer?)

## 2 Minutes of the 2009 AOM (displayed nb)

Minutes of the AOM meeting had been approved at the May 2009 meeting

## 3 Any Outstanding Matters

### (a) Allotments

Draft plan produced > Oxfield Park (proposal for 20 allotments – minimum). Cllr Pateman spoke on the item. Awaits AW watering scheme to trough / ballcock. Fencing costs and grant application to Cllr Walkers ward budget. Proposals / installation to be completed by Autumn

### (b) Development Issues

The clerk advised on Annual Newsletter report and explained rationale and answered Qs on development pressures and the requirement for vigilance

\* Some residents made comment whether there was any obvious support from the District Cllr for the PC or Old Stratford given the development pressures.

### (c) Towcester Road

Deferred to Min:7

## 4 Petitions or Questions from Electors (*before 12 noon that day*)

No petitions or questions raised

## 5 Adoption of Accounts

Outlined by the clerk, especially the current level of Precept levied,

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| (a) To receive Audited Accounts 2008/2009 | } No comments |
| (b) Observation of Finance 2009/2010      | } Approved    |
| (c) Budget Proposals 2010/2011            | } Approved    |

\* Unanimously adopted

## 6 Report from Northamptonshire Police

PC Mick Wallace was introduced and gave updated crime figures

Previous Crime figures >

Violence	12 > 10
Sexual Offences	1 > 2
Robbery	0 > 1

<i>Burglary Dwelling</i>	<i>8 &gt; 4</i>	
<i>Burglary Other</i>	<i>5 &gt; 5</i>	<i>(from garages and sheds etc)</i>
<i>Theft from M/V</i>	<i>7 &gt; 4</i>	
<i>Theft of M/V</i>	<i>1 &gt; 4</i>	
<i>Veh Interference</i>	<i>0 &gt; 2</i>	
<i>Criminal Damage</i>	<i>11 &gt; 14</i>	
<i>Drugs</i>	<i>2 &gt; 1</i>	
<i>Theft / Handling</i>	<i>7 &gt; 14</i>	
<i>Deception / Fraud</i>	<i>1 &gt; 0</i>	

**Total Crimes 61** (*a slight rise on previous years 55 which is reflected area wide*)

Q: Parking on the footway A: Actual Obstruction is a Police matter

Q: Distraction Burglaries A: Targeting area by various Crime initiatives – Operation Guardian (Burglary and Vehicle Crime operation). Areas will be targeted on specific dates.

Note: Care and Repair Charity can assist the most vulnerable with security issues

Q: Cold Calling – discussed A: Vosa / Trading Standards

Discussed were the Area Community Safety Panel initiatives – meetings held in the Memorial Hall  
*PC Wallace was thanked for attending and chose to remain until called away*

#### **7. Report from NCC Highways** (includes road improvements Deanshanger Road, old A5 Watling Street and Passenheim)

Mrs Howard apologised for the lack of plans for Deanshanger Road / A422 as requested (with Safety Audit prior to submission of proposals to OSPC). Reinstatement of Towcester Road after the installation of the Puffin Crossing also awaits. Mrs Howard also advised on new Pot Hole reinstatement proposals

(Repair (current regime) –v- Repair / reinstate surface within 24hrs – 5 days (cost implications)

Q: About the Deanshanger Road proposals and what input MOP can have A: Via PC who will be consulted

Q: Passenheim initiatives? A: Liaison with MKC is ongoing but extremely slow

Q: Towcester Road verge issues? A: Countywide problem – low priority > enforcement?

*PC Wallace left towards the end of this item*

*With no further Qs and a request that all issues through the clerk Mrs Howard was thanked for attending and left the meeting*

#### **8 Report from District Councillor**

Not present – No report as requested

\* Discussed > clerk to email comments about apparent lack of support / commitment to OSPC and OS (by unanimous agreement - no abstentions)

#### **9 Report from County Councillor**

Report: Elections come and Elections go. In June 2009 I was re-elected for a third term of office as your Conservative County Councillor. I have been given the task of Scrutiny Champion for NCC, ex officio Cabinet member. Too more readily hold the Administration and Cabinet to account on their forward plans. I was also elected as Chair to the Local Government East Midland Scrutiny Network, a most prestigious position which puts not only NCC on the map but this area also. The biggest problem this year has been the Weather from December through to March and the roads chaos it caused. MGWSP our new Transport Contractor under instruction from NCC came up trumps, keeping the entire major “A” roads across the county open daily, even in blizzards. No help from Government I am afraid to report, who instructed us to share our Salt & Sand stocks with surrounding Counties such as Bucks & MK. Just because we were prudent enough to maintain high stocks and they didn’t. Yes the pothole problem has worsened but a new system of repair is under

way with another £2M being put into the budget to not just fill the holes but repair, whole tracks of road instead.

£500,000 was put into policing this year to decrease Crime and Disorder throughout the County by further increasing the PCSO strength. Continued reviews of our Service plans have made it smarter and more flexible for people to understand and work to. Our Care for the Elderly has begun, whereby we enable the Elderly and Infirm to have a better quality of life, by assisting them to help themselves and not be automatically shoved into a care home. We are now losing our CXO to Kent County Council, the biggest Council in England. I wish her well; she has been a boon to Northamptonshire. A more businesslike approach is now being adopted. With a complete restructure, this has not been easy on staff but they have carried on admirably.

We set a Council tax of 3.5% again the lowest Band D property tax in England and managed a balanced budget. Without cutting services! By just making services more efficient and achieved our goal of maintaining another neutral budget in this, at long last, General Election Year.

Waste Management and the Partnership with MK. Procuring a Waste solution for NCC and MKBC is well under way. We can no longer just fill holes in the ground with rubbish. For every tonne we put into a landfill site we are charged approx £80 - £90. Of your money.

I am still an appointed Director of East Midlands Fire Service Control Centre. Putting together a new regional control centre for the Fire Services of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Derbyshire thereby ensuring a better call service and reaction time to Fire and Accidents at a total cost of some £7M. We are scheduled to come on line in 2011. Believe it or not, I was scrutinised by my own Fire Service Scrutiny Committee to ensure NCC was getting Value for Money from me...

Continued Scrutiny of the Empowering County Councillors Scheme continues, to ensure value for money and the correct procedures are being adopted by councillors. A further £10,000 was allocated last year and that I spent nearly all my allocation on local worthy causes. I am pleased to report a further £10,000 is available for 2010/11

“What you are still getting is a Smaller Council, Paying Less Taxes and Better Services”

Regarding the Empowering Councillors Scheme I made (£9,750.00) available to help the following organisations, including; Old Stratford PC (towards 2 SID`s for traffic assessment)

My activities locally as your County Councillor have involved:-

Planning Applications, (Speaking at SNC, DC Meetings, on behalf of residents). Transport (Buses) (Home to School), Road resurfacing, Housing and Benefits.

I still Chair Kingsbrook Business & Enterprise School governing body. The New Head Teacher is in and working well

My local work activity for parishioners is increasing yearly mainly due to the recession. I still maintain a turnaround response in 24hrs of 100% with actual achievement including planning of 98%

Again a big thank you to your Clerk and you Councillors for your professionalism and indulgence whilst I have been dealing with matters in your areas...

**Telephone 01908 – 260302**

**E-Mail [awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk)**

Q: Route 89 rumours. A: Services through Potterspury / Cosgrove > OS are hourly (Any review will be a consultation with PCs) but under review only at present

Q: Towcester Amenity Centre times change. A: Longer hours but some day closures as reported

Q: Speeding by local buses. A: Complaint direct to Bus Co copy to him

*With no further Qs Cllr Walker was thanked for attending and chose to remain*

## **10 Any Other Business**

**Skateboard Ramp** Repair and replacement costs discussed and Grant Aid applications as per Newsletter. Given that refurbishment costs year on year averaged nearly £1k pa and it had recently

been removed. The meeting was asked whether the cost issue was something that those present would agree to be added to the Precept. None present would agree (This would therefore have to be a Q for Villagers via a Newsletter)

Note: Since it's build in 2000 most of the repair costs were through the Clerks unclaimed salary and not from Precept. His last donation 2009/10 was his last.

With no other business the meeting close at 9.30pm