

DRAFT MINUTES

ENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Council was held in Enstone Parish Hall on
Thursday 26th January 2017 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Parish Councillors N. Knott (Chair), A. Lee, T. Gilbert, C. Glendinning, D. Robottom, P. Johnson, R. Parker, P. Butler, P. Shaw, M. Ivings, District Cllr. Andrew Beaney, two members from Enstone Shooting School and six members of the public

APOLOGIES County Cllr. H. Hibbert-Biles

IN ATTENDANCE Mrs. B. Sinclair (clerk)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:-

- Cllrs. N. Knott, M. Ivings, C. Glendinning and P. Butler all declared an interest in item 10 (Heythrop Zoological Gardens).
- Cllr. M. Ivings declared an interest in Item 9 (Department of Transport).

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:-

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th December 2016, having been previously circulated were taken as read, agreed and signed.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT – STOPPING ORDER – THE GREEN LANE

- Mr. Ross Markham from Enstone Shooting School attended the meeting concerned that a letter had been received with regards to making the Green Lane a private road – this had been requested by Soho Farmhouse. Should this proceed, many residents and adjoining neighbours, who use The Green Lane, would be unable to access their place of work and it would no longer be a public right of way.
- Mr. Markham had contacted WODC Planning Department where a planning application had been submitted in September 2016 with regards to this application. Enstone Parish Council had not received this planning application, nor had the adjoining neighbours.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council would challenge the Stopping Order and investigate, through the Planning Department, why the planning application had not been received.

Heythrop Zoological Gardens, 16/04040/FUL. Erection of detached dwelling, detached garage with first floor accommodation and lion enclosure with Ha-ha:-

- Two residents had attended the meeting with great concern regarding this planning application. As it was on the boundary, Enstone Parish Council had not received the application and confusion had arisen with regards to the dates for comments at the Planning Department.
- The concerns were that the proposed build was a substantial property located on a greenfield site between two private properties on the boundary of Enstone Parish. In addition, it allowed for an area dedicated to free roaming lions. The property would provide housing for a keeper for the lions and for dignatories staying overnight. It was noted that one of the partners of the business lived in Enstone.
- The area was becoming over-developed with the majority of houses becoming second homes. Many applications are on green field sites with houses that will change the nature of the Uplands area.

- After discussion, it was agreed to unanimously object to this planning application as it was on a green field site with the entrance positioned on a dangerous corner leading onto a small lane with difficult access. It was also not in keeping with the area. Most importantly was the safety aspect of lions and whose responsibility it was to ensure the safety of the lions? The clerk to respond to the planning department with the above concerns. It was noted that the planning application was up for “refusal” by the Planning Officer at WODC.

Broadstone Quarry, Passive House Project, Enstone

- Mr and Mrs Zibarras had asked to attend the meeting to explain to the Council their plans for a development at the site of the disused quarry.
- Their architect explained that the project was at the pre-application stage under Paragraph 55 planning applications of which only a few properties are built in the country every year. The legislation encourages houses to be built in rural areas, so long as they achieve exceptional design and innovation standards.
- The property would be a passive house with ~90 solar PV panels integrated into the roof. The site cannot be used for agriculture and a highway report had been received with regard to access to the property.
- Sixty per cent of the building would be set within the quarry and would only be visible from the Heythrop Estates or along the adjoining footpath.
- Gorse and wild flowers would be planted as well as ponds to enhance wildlife along with 90 PV panels.
- *Questions:-* Cllr. Knott asked what would happen to the orange mast –the lease has expired so it will be relocated. It was mentioned that the site was situated 700 yards from the ISSEE company where explosive training occurred. Concern over bright lighting was raised and the Council was assured that the lighting would be subtle. It was confirmed that no soil would be removed from the site.
- The Council agreed that it was a very interesting and exciting project. The planning application was due to be submitted within the next month.

Site Visit of the trees at The Sports Field:-

- Cllr. Knott and the clerk met with Mr. Allen from the Sports Club and undertook a site visit of the trees within the perimeter of the sports club.
- It was proposed that a Tree Survey be undertaken of all the trees around the inside perimeter of the sports club to report what work needs to be undertaken with regards to safety as it was used by the public.
- The Parish Council agreed with this and would authorise Nicholsons Forestry to undertake the survey, a company recommended by WODC. The cost would be £450.00 + VAT.
- The clerk would also contact the Highways Department with regards to the trees along the Charlbury Road adjoining the sports field, to ask for an assessment.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

- **Parking at Cleveley** – it was agreed to take this item off the agenda
- **“Take Your Litter Home” signs** – it was agreed not to purchase these signs
- **Japanese Knotweed** – ongoing
- **Tew Crossroads Road Surface** – the road surface had been repaired – Noted
- **Renault Motorsport** – Cllr. Parker queried that the height of the new build was taller than the existing building and Cllr. Butler would check this.
- **Emergency Plan** – three responses from residents had been received. It was agreed to ask for more volunteers and the clerk would place an article in the Ensign magazine
- **2nd Bus Shelter** – ongoing

- **Heythrop Park/ISSEE** – Awaiting Environmental Report regarding noise levels.
- **Traffic Calming/Church Enstone** – Cllr. Butler confirmed that Mr. D. Einig from David Einig Contracting Ltd had quoted £7,250.00 + VAT for the works involved with the construction of a chicane at Church Enstone. Oxfordshire County Council had quoted £15,000.00 to £16,000.00 in March 2016. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the works and the clerk would confirm this in an email to Mr. Einig to proceed with the project. Cllr. Butler was thanked for all his hard work with this.

4. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:-**

- A resident had raised concern regarding Heythrop Park where guests were driving off-road vehicles onto the public footpath. The clerk to report this to Oxfordshire County Council.
- The issue of speeding traffic through Enstone was raised, particularly in the recent foggy weather.
- The works along Coxs Lane had commenced. The clerk would ensure that the soil that had been dug out would be removed on completion of the work.
- Cllr. Gilbert reported that excess mud was being left on the main road from lorries leaving the Shooting Ground where the construction of the bunds was taking place as the wheel wash had become frozen. In addition to this, a lorry leaving the site had been seen speeding. The clerk would invite Mr. Einig to February's meeting regarding these issues.
- District Cllr. Andrew Beaney invited the Council to the opening of the extension at the primary school, used with the S106 monies from the Paddocks' Development. This was taking place on Friday 3rd February. Noted.
- Cllr. Shaw explained that one of the trees that had been planted outside the village shop had died – this would be replaced by the Horticultural Society and the Parish Council thanked the Society for this.
- Steve and Mandy had now retired from the shop and Deborah and Tony were welcomed – the clerk to put this into the Ensign magazine.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- No report had been received.

6. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- District Cllr. Beaney explained that the current Ward which included Enstone and nine other parishes that he shared with District Cllr. Nigel Colston would now become a dual ward. DC Beaney would remain with Enstone Parish Council and the Parish Council thanked him for all his ongoing hard work.
- DC Beaney was due to go on paternity leave but would be contactable via email.
- **Broadband** – It was disappointing and frustrating to learn that Cotwold Broadband had withdrawn from its contract to provide superfast broadband delivery as a result of financial restraints. It transpired that only 50 per cent of householders in Church Enstone and many other villages in West Oxfordshire would have received adequate broadband. The District Council was immediately commencing a new project with a formal Open Market Review followed by a public consultation to determine which premises still needed faster connections. A new supplier would then be appointed – Cllr. Butler explained that it would be 2018 at the earliest before the first households would be connected. There was a Finance and Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee being held at WODC on Wednesday 1st February and Cllr. Butler agreed to attend this in order to address other options that may be possible. DC Beaney was thanked for his help with this.
- **Planning Department** – A response had finally been received from Cllr. Haines following the email that was sent in October 2016 regarding several planning issues. Cllr. Knott was concerned with current applications including Heythrop Zoological Gardens and Soho House.

7. **PARISH HALL MATTERS:-**

- The application for registration of title was with the Land Registry. A cheque for £463.40 had been received from John Dyakowski, Solicitor, as the balance of accounts.
- Completion was awaited and the clerk would chase this up as Mr. Dyakowski had now retired.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE:-**

West Oxfordshire District Council:

- *Green Light for new parking strategy* – Cabinet members voted for the need for more parking spaces in key areas, improvements to existing facilities and a review of enforcement. The key policy of free parking at all 15 car parks across the district which the Council owns or manages remains at the heart of the strategy. Noted.
- *Cabinet backs new devolution plan* – The new plan proposes the formation of a combined authority involving Oxfordshire's District Councils and County Council as well as key partners including the Local Enterprise Partnership and Oxfordshire Growth Board. Each council will run as now but as a combined authority, which would include a directly elected Mayor, and would be responsible for strategic functions such as highways and transport, skills and infrastructure. The devolution proposals are considered as taking precedence over plans to create a unitary authority which continues to be pursued by Oxfordshire County Council. Noted
- *Council welcomes neighbouring authority's development plans* – Cherwell District Council is required to build a further 4,400 homes and are consulting on a large number of potential development options. As a result of this, it has amended its Local Plan to address Oxford's unmet housing need to address these 4,400 homes.
- *West Oxfordshire ranked sixth best recycler* – Latest Government statistics reveal that more than 60 per cent of waste was recycled making the District sixth in the league table of 351 local authorities – a jump of seven places year on year. Noted.
- *Budget Strategy Consultation* – WODC is preparing its annual budget for 2017-2018 and medium-term financial strategy up to 2025-2026. There will be a reduction in government funding in excess of £0.5 m and increasing waste and recycling costs of £0.8 m.

Oxfordshire County Council:-

- *A Fresh start for Oxfordshire* – The County Council is proposing one new unitary council for Oxfordshire – to abolish all six councils (county, city and district) and replace them with a single new unitary council for the whole of Oxfordshire. Noted.

Other:-

- **Dog Bins** – there had been requests from two residents for a dog bin at Fulwell and on the footpath behind St. Kenelm's Church. The Council agreed with this and the clerk to organise the installation of these.
- **Community Speedwatch** – Following December's meeting, PCSO Chris Jones had forwarded information regarding this and was investigating the costs of speed guns. Noted
- **Green Gym** – an email had been circulated as to whether or not more trees needed to be planted at the B4030 crossroads (free of charge). The Council decided against this. On reviewing the file, it was noted that the County Council was notified about the Japanese Knotweed on its land in 2010 at this site but no action had been taken – the clerk would investigate this further.
- **Proposed Council Tax Referendum Principles 2017/2018** – The Government had decided to defer the setting of referendum principles although it has issued a challenge to town and parish councils to demonstrate restraint when increasing precepts that are not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities. Noted

- **Oxfordshire Credit Union** – A letter from the Development Manager had been circulated asking parishes to make residents aware of how it can help with savings and loans. The clerk to put this onto the website.
- **MP Robert Courts** – a letter had been received from MP Robert Courts asking to visit all Parish & Town Councils within West Oxfordshire. A date was arranged to meet him in February.
- **PCSO Awards 2017** – It was agreed to nominate PCSO Chris Jones for this award.
- **Oxfordshire's Health & Care Services** – The Big Consultation was launched on 16th January. Noted.
- **South Central Ambulance Charity** – An email had been circulated requesting donations to help with the Charity. It was agreed not to donate but to concentrate on local Charities.
- **Date of Annual Parish Meeting** – this was now arranged for Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall
- and the clerk would send out the invitations.
- **Volunteer Link Up & Citizens Advice** – both charities had written to the Parish Council thanking them for the donations. Noted.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-**

- **Lower Stone Farm Cottage, Lidstone, 16/04115/HHD.** Removal of existing conservatory, with erection of new single storey extension to the rear elevation. No objection.

Decisions Received:-

- **Stone Farm, Lidstone, 16/02695/FUL** – *Refused*
- **10 Cleveley Road, Enstone.** Conversion of garage and sub-division of house to create self-contained 1-bed unit – *Approved*

10. **FINANCE:-**

a) *To agree the following accounts for payment:-*

Santander:-

- Mrs Beth Sinclair £612.13
- Enstone Parish Hall, rent £63.00

Barclays, Enstone Parish Hall Account:-

To agree the following accounts for payment:-

- C E Cambray & Son Dry Stone Walling £2,500.00
 - C E Cambray (Quarry) £696.72

Received:-

- Dyakowski & Gafford, Solicitors £463.40

b) **Statement of Affairs April to December 2016** – this would be undertaken at February's meeting

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.30 pm

11. **Date of Next Meeting** - Thursday 23rd February 2017 7.15 pm at Enstone Parish Hall