



**MINUTES OF STOW ON THE WOLD MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2021 AT ST EDWARD'S HALL, THE SQUARE, STOW ON THE
WOLD AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors: A White (Chairman), J Scarsbrook (Deputy Chairman), S Clarke, M Moseley, J Davies, V Davies, A Clayton, J Piper, A Cox & Mrs H Siphthorp, Clerk/RFO of Council and 5 members of the public

Also in attendance: County Cllr M Mackenzie-Charrington, Cotswold Division, Inspector S Ellson & PC A Palfrey

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ward District Cllr D Neill.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members were reminded to declare any interests that may arise during the course of the meeting.

3. FOLLOWING UNCONTESTED ELECTION TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS CLLR JANET PIPER AND CLLR ASHLEIGH COX TO COUNCIL AND SIGNING THEIR DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Chairman welcomed the new members on behalf of Council. Cllr Piper had already signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Clerk asked Cllr Cox to sign hers and it was countersigned by the Clerk as the Proper Officer.

4. MINUTES – TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY 2021

RESOLVED that the Chairman sign the minutes as a true and accurate record. **Motion carried.**

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Members of the public were given the opportunity to speak during the course of the meeting at the Chairman's discretion.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

7. POLICE REPORT

Inspector Simon Ellson and PC Alison Palfrey were present. Inspector Ellson began by talking about the monthly incident reports that are sent to Council. He suggested that it would be a better and more effective use of staff/officer's time for PC Palfrey to give a monthly written report which would allow more detail on any incidents that had occurred. Everyone agreed that this was a much better idea. Clerk to liaise with PC Palfrey to set this up.

Inspector Ellson then moved onto the newly elected Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr Chris Nelson. He said Mr Nelson is still settling into the role and his priorities have not been announced at the moment but if running in line with manifesto then there will be an increase of 300 officers deployed on local priorities, zero tolerance to ASB and to target rural crimes. He then went on to talk about work taking place in relation "County Lines" drug issues as the small rural market towns are currently a target but hastened to add that this is currently not in Stow but mentioned Moreton in Marsh and also organised crime gangs doing high value burglaries. He said speeding is always an issue and they will continue to do regular checks and if there are any particular hotspots Clerk should let PC Palfrey know.

He then moved onto the recent Stow Fair saying that the last two had been cancelled due to Covid pandemic and potential risk to public health. He said he was very aware how unpopular the decision made by CDC/GCC/Police to allow the fair to go ahead. He said he had kept in regular contact with



the Clerk to keep the Council up to date but it was deemed it would not cause a threat to public health therefore there was no valid reason why it should not go ahead. He said there were very few issues on the field itself. The majority of the incidents took place in the town and by a small number of younger generation gypsies who carried out a number of ASB incidents. This he attributed to boredom. Cllr Neill had organised a debrief meeting which the Police/CDC/GCC and a representative from Stow on the Wold Town Council and Maugersbury Parish Council attended. Inspector Ellson said it is very likely the October 2021 Fair will also go ahead unless the pandemic takes a turn for the worse at that time. He said they are working with one of the owners of the field regarding traffic issues including access to the Doctors' Surgery and the Vet's Surgery which he has been liaising with GCC Highways on. He said that 25 officers were in attendance on the day and emphasised that extra officers are also on patrol in advance of the Fair. He added that the numbers expected to attend were underestimated by CDC and were far in excess of the 500 anticipated. The weather was awful which caused problems on the roads with the mud from the field being carried out on vehicles wheels.

A member of public present said that Stow's Community Speed Watch had been poorly supported by the local Police in comparison to a lot of other areas and mentioned lack of action when data had been fed back. PC Palfrey said she would get on the case and will go along to one of the sessions. There being no further questions Chairman thanked Inspector Ellson & PC Palfrey for attending and they left to enable them to return to their duties.

Ahead of the meeting the Clerk had circulated the incident report figures for May and June 2021. The May 2021 figures were 73 which was an increase from 58 in May 2020. The June 2021 figures only went up to 21st June 2021 and amounted to 24 which was a decrease when compared to June 2020 from 37.

CLERK'S REPORT & MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH MAY 2021

Cllr J Davies will be unable to sit on the Staffing Committee as this will exceed the limit set in Standing Orders for a member to sit on a maximum of three committees.

The Kingfisher is in the library and staff say lots of people coming in specially to see it and using the Kingfisher Trail App. Clerk had contacted Stow Primary School and in small groups all of Year 6 had been to see it. It is hopeful that the artist may be able to visit Stow and if this is the case then the Kingfisher will be put on the Stocks Green and she can speak to the children about her work. AGAR and accompanying documents had been sent to the External Auditor well in advance of deadline date.

Letters of thanks had been received from Stow on the Wold Almshouse Charity and Cotswold Friends for the grants awarded by Council.

Clerk had been unable to purchase an NHS Flag as they were sold out and no rerun is planned. As this is going to be an annual event it is hoped that one can be purchased next year.

Clerk apologised that she had put the wrong date for the next meeting on the Agenda. It should read 22nd July 2021 (a week earlier than normal) and not 29th.

Clerk had asked for feedback on the recent Youth Event held on King George's Playing Field from the organiser. It was poorly attended like many other places and attracted about eight children aged between 10-12 and also one older young person in their early twenties who spoke to the team.

A letter had been received from Bromford Housing with regard to Chamberlayne House redevelopment starting w/c 28th June and the demolition work will start the following week.

8. TO REPORT THAT AN ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED FOR AND WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 22ND JULY 2021 TO FILL THE TWO CASUAL VACANCIES ARISING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF FORMER CLLRS BELL & WORKER

Noted.



9. REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR MARK MACKENZIE-CHARRINGTON, COTSWOLD DIVISION - STOW ON THE WOLD

Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington had sent in a written report which had been circulated to all members of Council. He summarised the content and gave more detail on some of the topics. He took questions after which the Chairman thanked Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington for his report. His report is also available on the Council's website under NEWS.

He mentioned a couple of other items. In relation to pandemic he said the number of infections in the County had increased by 99% but the Cotswold had the lowest infections numbering 11. Seven people were in hospital and none in intensive care. He said the B4077 will be closed for surface redressing on 3rd/4th July 2021.

10. REPORT FROM WARD DISTRICT CLLR DILYS NEILL

Cllr Neill was not present but had sent in a written report earlier in the day which the Clerk read out. This is also available on the Council's website under NEWS.

Cllr Scarsbrook said she had spoken to Cllr Neill earlier in the day as she disputes the ownership of the Slad footpath mentioned in her report. Following Cllr Neill's email to Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington on this subject he said he had done some research on the resurfacing of the footpath and also ascertained a request, at a similar time, to put street lighting in too, in former Cllr Moor's days. All requests had been dismissed by GCC. Cllr Scarsbrook suggested that Cllr Neill, Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington and she meet on site to discuss and she will provide evidence of boundaries as the adjacent landowner. In the meantime Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington said that he is pushing to improve the main footpath along the Oddington Road and in front of The Bell to give easier access to the Doctors Surgery. He felt this would be a much more cost effective solution.

11. TO REVIEW AND ADOPT AMENDED DRAFT OF COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY DOCUMENT

RESOLVED approved and adopted without any further changes. **Motion carried.**

12. TO DISCUSS GRANT APPLICATION FROM VILLAGER BUS FOR £1,000 TOWARDS RUNNING COSTS FOR THIS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

RESOLVED expenditure approved for the full amount requested of £1,000. **Motion carried.**

13. TO CONFIRM THAT FORMER CLLR CURTIS HAS BEEN REMOVED AS A CHEQUE SIGNATORY ON BANK MANDATE FOR LLOYDS CURRENT ACCOUNT AND TO APPROVE CLLR SCARSBROOK AS THE NEW SIGNATORY

Noted and **RESOLVED** Cllr Scarsbrook approved as a new cheque signatory. **Motion carried.**

14. TO DISCUSS TOWN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION BEACON ON 2ND JUNE 2022

Clerk proposed that if the Council decides to participate in the Beacon Lighting that this could become a larger community event, pandemic permitting and be passed over to the Parks & Square Committee to organise. **RESOLVED** Council will go ahead with the Beacon Lighting and make it a larger community event over this Bank Holiday weekend. **Motion carried.** Clerk will register the Council's participation on the official website.

15. TO RECEIVE BRIEF REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:-

a) Burial Board

Cllr Scarsbrook said no meeting had taken place since last Council Meeting so she had nothing to report except meetings are on going in relation to the repair of the churchyard wall.

b) Finance & General Purpose Committee

i) To approve bank reconciliation to 31st May 2021



RESOLVED approved for an amount of £116,241.11 when all cheques have been drawn on the account. **Motion carried.**

ii) **To report balances in Lloyds fixed bond & CCLA account as at 31st May 2021**

Cllr Moseley said that the Lloyds fixed bond remains at £50,000 and there is £66,472.69 in the CCLA account.

iii) **To approve expenditure for May 2021**

RESOLVED expenditure approved for a gross amount of £10,797.79. For details see Appendix 1 on page 295.

c) **Parks & Square Committee**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2021 had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. Cllr Clayton gave a summary overview of some of the items discussed.

i) **To ask Council to pay for removal of ash dieback trees on QEII Playing Field, Spring Gardens Allotments & King George's Playing Field at a cost of £1,950 + VAT and that it be funded from General Reserves as recommended by the Committee**

RESOLVED approved. **Motion carried.**

ii) **To discuss request from Stow Car Club to use the QEII Playing Field for an event on 24th July 2021 dependent on lockdown easing further on 19th July 2021**

Cllr Clarke declared an interest as a member of this Committee and abstained from the vote.

Clerk gave brief details of this event. She also pointed out that this event is open to the public and not just members of the Stow Car Club. **RESOLVED** that if Covid restrictions are eased on 19th July 2021 and allow such gatherings and subject to appropriate risk assessments, licences, insurance cover etc being passed to the Council. No cars to be parked on the field except the members cars on display and any members from Chipping Norton Car Club too and then Council approve the event. **Motion carried.**

A member of public who is a member of the Stow Car Club was present and said he thought that the event would not go ahead.

d) **Planning, Traffic & Parking Committee**

Cllr Scarsbrook said the Committee had met on 8th June 2021. Draft minutes had been circulated to all members. She said that Cllr Neill had been in contact with her in relation to the Council's objections to the large window at the former Doctors Surgery in that the Planning Officer wanted to approve under Delegated Power. She had overruled this and was going to take it to the Planning Committee to make the final decision. However, the Clerk said that she was fairly certain that this had been approved in the past couple of days but will confirm when next in the office and will take up with Cllr Neill if appropriate.

e) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)**

Cllr White said he had nothing to report except the NPSG would be meeting on 1st July 2021.

16. TO DISCUSS AND COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY COUNCIL:-

i) **Letter from resident suggesting that all Council Meetings should be recorded and be available to view on line**

After a discussion it was unanimously agreed that this would be difficult to set up and therefore impractical and not good use of Council funds as costs would be inordinate.

17. REPORT BY ANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE HAD A MEETING OR ATTENDED ANY EVENT ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Cllr J Davies and Cllr Cox had attended a meeting of the Stow on the Wold Almshouse Charity.
Cllr Clarke had attended a Stow Social Club meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Thursday 22nd July 2021 at 7.00 pm at St Edward's Hall.

19. MEETING CLOSED at 8.21 pm.



**APPENDIX 1
CHEQUES/DIRECT DEBITS FOR APPROVAL**

Number	Name	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
3650	Cotswold Friends	Grant	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
3651	Stow on the Wold Almshouse Charity	Grant	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
3652	Cotswold National Landscape	Information boards for Glorious Cotswold Grasslands Project for wildflower areas on QEII and King George's Playing Fields	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,200.00
3653	Stockwell Davies Limited	Fell tree adjacent to Spring Gardens Play Area	£300.00	£60.00	£360.00
3654	Fields in Trust	Annual Membership	£95.00	£0.00	£95.00
3655	Mrs D Rosinska	Office cleaning	£48.00	£0.00	£48.00
3656	Cancelled		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
3657	Cottage Garden Services	Grass cutting, playground inspections & refuse collection and general horticultural work	£2,024.00	£404.80	£2,428.80
3658	St Edward's Hall Management Committee	Hire of hall for May Council Meeting	£30.00		£30.00
3659/60	Administration		£3,071.26		£3,071.26
3661	RICOH Limited (ONeill Homer)	Work on emerging Neighbourhood Plan	£1,100.00	£220.00	£1,320.00
Direct Debit	Richard Coglán Limited	Copier charges	£7.13	£1.42	£8.55
Direct Debit	Lloyds Charge Card	Engraving Mayoral Chain, electricity or Cricket Pavilion and office refreshments	£66.22	£5.00	£71.22
Direct Debit	Sirus Telecom Limited	Internet/phone charges	£59.49	£11.90	£71.39
Direct Debit	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	Cemetery refuse	£45.56	£9.11	£54.67
Direct Debit	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	Office refuse	£32.42	£6.48	£38.90
TOTALS			£10,079.08	£718.71	£10,797.79

Signed
Chairman of Council

Date