

# MINUTES OF STANDISH PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2015 AT 7.00pm  
AT STANDISH VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllrs Sue Oppenheimer (chairman), Rachel Stafford (part), Graham Stevens, Stan Dicker, Gloucestershire County Cllr Lesley Williams, Stroud District Cllr Ken Stephens (part), the clerk.

15/12: **Apologies:** Cllr Drew Montague.

15/13: **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Oppenheimer member GlosVAIN, CAB volunteer; Cllr Dicker, member Village Hall Committee.

15/14: **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed.

15/15: **Public questions:** There were none.

15/16: **Progress reports:** a) Website - There had been no progress. Cllrs supported a suggestion from the clerk that the webmaster at Stroud District Council might know someone who could undertake the work; b) Oxlynch Lane speeding - Cllr Montague had sent information that he was obtaining 20mph signs from Road Safety Gloucestershire which would be displayed on the lane; c) Neighbourhood Development Plan - Cllr Oppenheimer reported that a core group of seven or eight volunteers remained after two resignations. It had been agreed to keep the plan simple, mapping was underway, and the hope was this would be finished by the end of March. A questionnaire to local households would then be drawn up, printed and distributed in early May for three weeks consultation before the information returned was analysed. People involved seemed re-energised. Cllr Oppenheimer was writing a report for the plan funders.

15/17: **Reports from county and district councillors:** It was agreed to bring this item forward on the agenda to accommodate Cllr Stephens who had to leave to attend another meeting. Stroud District Cllr Stephens reported a zero increase in the Stroud District Council budget for 2015-16, a boundary commission report on district wards, and offered opinions on the Standish Hospital potential redevelopment and the Javelin Park incinerator situation. He then left the meeting.

15/18: **Resumed progress reports:** d) West of Stonehouse - Cllr Stevens said he was astonished 3,500 homes were now suggested on the site which was double the previous indication. Consultation on the post-submission proposed changes to the Stroud District Local Plan was underway with a deadline for comments on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There was confusion that only the legality of the changes was at this time under consultation, with further consultation proposed later about the actual changes themselves. Campaigners from SPA – the Strategic Planning Alliance – which opposed the West of Stonehouse site, and included Standish Parish Council, continued to meet and were taking advice from a planning consultant; e) Standish Hospital Partnership Board – Cllr Oppenheimer reported a lively meeting with the Homes and Communities Agency at which Stroud District Council planners had highlighted requirements for enabling development around listed buildings. Using a projector she also partly presented a draft concept document which had been produced for the old hospital site. The HCA wished SDC to adopt the document for consultation after which, if it was agreed, it might become supplementary planning guidance.

15/19: **Resumed county and district councillors' reports:** Gloucestershire County Cllr Williams reported affairs dominated by the Javelin Park incinerator and a forthcoming extraordinary meeting at which there would be a motion to cancel the incinerator project. Demonstrations and a petition were expected from GlosVAIN who were opposing the incinerator.

Cllr Stafford arrived and shortly afterwards Cllr Stephens left the meeting.

15/20: **Proposal to merge or group with another parish:** Cllr Stafford expressed serious concern that Standish was a very small council with very limited funding but also very big issues with which to deal i.e. the incinerator, West of Stonehouse, and Standish Hospital redevelopment. She felt that the council did not have the capacity to respond to these issues and wanted to bring the situation to the table to gauge other councillors' views. Cllr Oppenheimer endorsed Cllr Stafford's view, believed the council was over stretched by strategic issues, and said more support was needed. Cllr Stevens view was that the council was going through an exceptional time. The clerk had prepared an initial report (attached and also available from the clerk) in case the council considered a Community Governance Review, and presented advice from the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils. It was suggested the issue could be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. The clerk was instructed to gain advice from the principle authority, the Stroud District Council, which was understood to be ultimately responsible should Standish PC default.

15/21: **Community infrastructure Section 106 projects:** Cllrs had at the last meeting been circulated with information about the Section 106 "wish list" register.

They agreed the topic was also a possible agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting.

15/22: **Finance report:** It was agreed to reimburse the clerk £27.40 paid by her direct to HMRC in January 2015 to cover an omission from the January payments list.

The list of council payments as follows was agreed:

J. A. Barber (refund, above)	£27.40
Keystone Environmental Ltd *	£1,512.00
Keystone Environmental Ltd *	£1,493.02
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	£375.00
J. A. Barber	£135.63
Post Office (tax, NI)	£25.80

\*These two cheques were re-issued after being incorrectly made out previously to Keystone Ecology. The name Keystone Ecology had been used colloquially by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Group representatives.

15/23: **Clerk's report/correspondence:** The clerk had attended two training sessions, the first run by the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils taught updated audit advice and the government's new Transparency Code for local authorities. The second at Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd was about harnessing social media i.e. Twitter and Facebook to reach different sections of the community.

Correspondence:

- a) Stroud District Council public spaces dept asking where they might litter pick.
- b) The Cotswolds Conservation Board offering seminars on road verge management;
- c) A letter from a resident concerned about an inefficient drain causing standing water on Standish Lane, and therefore ice which allegedly led to a road traffic accident. The resident had since reported the problem to Amey the highways contractor.
- d) A (commercial?) oil buying club asking to give a presentation to the council;
- e) The charity Bright Gloucestershire, formerly the Gloucestershire Association for the Blind) requesting help with local publicity and financial support.
- f) Gloucestershire County Council highways contractors Amey advising of revised areas for local highways representatives – Standish was with Dan Tiffney. Cllrs had already noted the litter beside the B4008 had been collected. .

15/24: **Planning matters:** a) Javelin Park incinerator – A 7,600 name petition had gone in to Gloucestershire County Council in support of the cancellation of the incinerator contract. GlosVAIN had been advised by lawyers that none of their

challenges was strong enough for a legal challenge of the permission for the incinerator.

Cllr Williams left the meeting.

b) Application S.15/0110/FUL – Cllrs had no comment about this erection of a high dependency annexe at Standish Vicarage Haresfield; c) Council noted that pre-consultations had resulted in a compromise agreement between the applicant and objectors about an amended proposal for the diversion of a public footpath at Pidgemore Farm; d) Council noted that application S.14/2806/FUL for a balcony and escape stairs at Moreton Hill Care Centre, Horsemarling Lane, had been permitted by Stroud District Council; and had no comment about application 14/0127/STMAJW for a proposed air blower acoustic enclosure at Sewage Treatment Works at Nupend which had also prompted no objections from Stroud District Council.

15/25: **Councillors' future items/date of next meeting:** No items were raised for the future agenda. The next meeting would be on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The meeting closed shortly after 9pm.

Signed:..... Date: .....