

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY 2022 AT 7.30PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr S. Packer (Chair)
Ms K. Hudson (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Shaw (Parish Councillor)
Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)
Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor)
Mrs N. Bradley (Clerk)

In Attendance

Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)
Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)
Mr G. James (District Councillor)
Mrs P. Leggate (Resident)

Mr Packer opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1) Apologies

Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor)

2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations

There were no declarations.

2) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr Packer and Ms Hudson were both happy to continue in their roles.

Mrs Davidson proposed and Mrs Shaw seconded that Mr Packer continue as Chair and this was carried unanimously. (37/22)

Mr Packer proposed and Mrs Davidson seconded that Ms Hudson continue as Vice Chair and this was carried unanimously. (38/22)

4) - Signature of Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Mr Packer and Ms Hudson signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office. (39/22)

5) Confirmation of Appointments

The following appointments were confirmed:-

Footpath Wardens - vacant
Tree Warden - Mr Kirkham
Flood Warden - vacant
Playground Equipment Warden - vacant
Representative to Village Hall Committee - Mrs Shaw
Representative to Stinchcombe Hill Trust - Mrs Hudson
Representative to Stinchcombe United Charities – Mrs Julie Thomas
Representative to Dursley United Charities - Mr Laurie Bradley
Representative to Berkeley SSG - Mr Davies
Snow Warden – Mr Davies
Snow Plough Operator - Mr Longstreth (40/22)

Mr John Thomas took over the role of Footpaths Warden from Mr Snellock during the year but has

had to stand down because of other commitments. The Council is grateful to both Mr Snellock and Mr Thomas for their contribution and input. The post will be advertised on Enews along with that of Flood Warden. [Action Clerk](#).(41/22)

The Council was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Richard Cheetham and appreciates his substantial contribution to Stinchcombe life over many years. Mr Cheetham has monitored the playground equipment for several years and it was agreed that it would be sensible for a member of the Playground Group to take this on. [Action Clerk](#).(42/22)

6) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 9th March 2022

After correction of a typographical error on the date, acceptance of the minutes of 9th March was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. They were duly accepted and signed.(43/22)

7) Matters Arising From the Minutes

- The planned meeting between Ms Hudson and Cllr Cohen took place on 21st March and it was agreed that road safety at Berkeley road should be a priority.. (44/22)
- The future of the Swedish Houses is still unclear but it is hoped to arrange a meeting with Ed White from SDC when more is known. (45/22)
- Walks leaflets are ongoing as Mrs Shaw has not been able to obtain the software from the printers. She has a supply at the moment and Mr Packer will be able to produce more in future. (46/22)
- The beating of the bounds was superseded by plans for the Jubilee and did not go ahead but should go ahead next year. (47/22)
- Plans for the Jubilee are well under way. It was noted that the wrong time has been publicised for the cream tea on Saturday and Mr Packer will issue a correction. (48/22)

8) Reports by County and District Councillors

The District Councillor's report is attached. (49/22)

The District Councillors' latest report is also attached. (50/22)

9) Planning Matters

New since Last Meeting

- S.22/0552/LBC, Lamport Court, boiler flue exhaust terminal on southern elevation (side wall). Approved (51/22)
- S.22/0788/HHOLD, Lamport Court, Installation of boiler flue exhaust terminal on rear South Elevation and two ventilation grilles to North Elevation. (52/22)
- S.22/0778/TCA, Church Cottage, T1 and 2 Ash dieback, fell. T& Pine, fell. Approved (53/22)
- S.22/0817/AGR, Land At Stinchcombe, erection of agricultural building (54/22)
- S.22/0971/LBC, Lamport Court, location of boiler flue exhaust terminal on the southern elevation of ground floor. Install two ventilation grilles to North Elevation. (55/22)
- S.22/1015/AFP, Land At Stinchcombe, erection of agricultural building (56/22)
- S.22/1020/HHOLD, Bluemead, Echo Lane, erection of garage, rear extension, garden room and driveway extension. (57/22)

Decided since last meeting

- S.22/0250/HHOLD, The Ridings, Wick Lane, conversion of garage to annexe for dependant relative and the addition of open porch. Permitted (58/22)

Still Undecided

- S.22/0225/FUL, land At Hill House Wick Lane, erection of two houses Resubmission of S.21/2301/FUL. (59/22)

- S.21/3050/AGR, Land south of Clingre House Tait's Hill, erection of agricultural barn. Unknown, prior approval or EIA required. (60/22)

10) Financial Matters

Approval of Section 1 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement, was proposed by Mr Packer seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. The Statement was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (61/22)

Approval of Section 2 of the Annual Return, the Statement of Accounts, was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. The Statement was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (62/22)

Approval of the Certificate of Exemption was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. The Certificate was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (63/22)

The Statement of Receipts and Payments was signed by the Chair and Ms Hudson. (64/22)

An increase of 10% in the Clerk's salary bringing it up to £1,465.00 pa was agreed with effect from 1st May. This was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. (65/22)

Authorisation of payments of £507.71 insurance premium, £84.00 safety inspection, £110.00 Internal Audit and £336.00 Clerk's salary was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. (66/22)

11) Dates of Next Meeting

Wed 22nd June 7.00pm

Wed 27th July 7.30pm

Wed 7th Sept 7.30pm

Wed 26th Oct 7.30pm

Wed 14th Dec 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 9TH MARCH 2022
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Building society balance on 9th March £ 13,803.31

Receipts since 9th March

Building Society Interest £ 14.56

Payments since 9th March

Glasdon Ltd (new litter bin) £ 227.93

GAPTC Subscription £ 130.24

Clerk's Materials £ 48.85

Greenbarnes Ltd (notice board) £ 1,137.01

Building society balance on 30th May £ 12,273.84

Authorisation is sought for

Insurance Premium £ 507.71

Playsafety Ltd (playground inspection) £ 84.00

Iain Selkirk (Internal Audit) £ 110.00

Clerk's salary, Feb/Mar/Apr £ 336.00

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley
Clerk & RFO
2022

S.Packer
Chairman

K.Hudson
Vice Chairman 30th May



Stinchcombe County Councillor's Annual Report

May 2022

It hardly seems possible that it's almost 12 months since I was elected to serve the Parish of Stinchcombe. I had big shoes to fill following on from John Cordwell. I have tried to hit the ground running and I've benefited from a warm welcome and support from all the members of the parish council and we've already forged a strong collaborative partnership which will help to get things done.

The constraints of Covid have made meeting in person more difficult, but I'm keen to ensure that everyone has the opportunity, to discuss any concerns or ideas for new initiatives. I'll be starting bi-monthly sessions from June details will be publicised on the website and social media and village notice boards.

As a Liberal Democrat I'm very keen to help facilitate and champion anything you would like to see happen in your community.

I'm mindful that we are on the border with South Glos and when necessary, I have been in contact with my opposite number or with council officers to resolve matters.

If you want me to ask a question on your behalf at a County Council meeting please let me know.

Highways and Road Safety

My number one priority in Stinchcombe is road safety and I have been working with the Parish Council to look at a range of creative measures to reduce traffic speed which can be achieved in the short term.

I'm very aware of the poor condition of the roads across the county and Kingswood has more than its fair share of trouble spots. I've been out with Highways to look at how we make all the roads safe as a minimum requirement, with a view to more extensive resurfacing being planned for 2023. I will be holding a planning meeting in the next few weeks to discuss how my new budget for 22/23 can be best used to meet immediate repairs but also for: 'lengthsman' work; drain clearing and the maintenance of public rights of way.

Build Back Better Fund – Play / Activity Facilities

I have met with the team working on the playground project and have promised to support with fundraising when plans are more advanced.

Transport

I am also lobbying for cycle routes to be extended to ensure residents can benefit from useful links to major transport hubs and facilities. I am a member of the Greenway Steering Group.

I have contributed to the bus consultation process. I am working on a new community bus initiative

between Cam and Dursley, Berkeley and Wotton.

Scrutiny Committees

I represent your interests on the Children and Families and Health Overview Scrutiny Committees on the County Council and I am the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Education.

Contact

I produce a report which can be viewed on the parish council website and includes a summary of everything I have done on your behalf and any county council initiatives or decisions which are of relevance to Stinchcombe residents.

I can be reached on 07791 110906, linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk . I will always try and respond to your email or message within 24 hours.

Cllr Linda Cohen

Stroud District Councillors' Report – May 2022

Report of meetings during April

All Stroud District Council and Committee papers can be found here:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings> Recordings of meetings are available via the Committee meeting webpage on the Council's You Tube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg/videos

Housing Committee – 5 April

Committee papers can be found [here](#). Items discussed by the Committee:

- Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 Quarter 3
- Tenant Engagement Strategy
- Decant Policy
- New Homes and Regeneration Programme Update
The summary report can be found [here](#). This provides details for the eight new council homes to be built in Wotton on the Bradley Street/ Gloucester Street site – with start on site and construction expected in August 2022, and practical completion expected in July 2023.
- Revised Civil and Financial Penalties Policy (offences in the private housing sector)
- Progress Update on Key Action Plans (Cleaner Estates and Service Standards)
- Updates on the Out of Hours Provisions
- Tenant Representatives update
- Retrofit/Carbon Reduction Task and Finish Group Update
- Tenant Engagement and Empowerment Task and Finish Group Update
- Housing Repairs and Voids Task and Finish Group Update

Strategy & Resources Committee – 7 April

Committee papers can be found [here](#). Items discussed by the Committee:

- Levelling Up Bid - Use of Business Rates Pilot Funding to support project development costs
(see also overview of emerging Levelling Up Fund bid). Details of the emerging bid "Gateways, Landmarks and Access for All", can be found [here](#).
- Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2021/22
- Debt Write Off - write off of sums owed by Rush Skatepark Ltd
- Leadership Gloucestershire Update
- Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC)
- Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (GEGSC)
- Regeneration and Investment Board

Audit & Standards Committee – 26 April

Committee papers can be found [here](#)

- 3rd Quarter Treasury Management Activity Report 2021/22

- Internal Audit Progress Report 2021/22
- Covid-19 Business Support Grants - Post-Payment Assurance Update

The update confirmed a low level of potential fraudulent claims and those that are suspicious are being pursued.

- Planning Enforcement Management Update
Some positive progress on Planning Enforcement improvements, though resourcing challenges remain.
- Draft Internal Audit Plan 2022/23
A Risk Management review by Internal Audit highlighted there are improvements needed, but that SDC is similar in its maturity to other district councils

Council Meeting – 28 April

Meeting papers can be found [here](#).

- **Climate & Nature Action** Council approved the recommendation from Environment Committee – to endorse the 2030 Annual Report (2021-2022) on the 2030 Strategy and Master Plan – a snapshot of successes is shared below.

- **Review of street or building names and monuments in the Stroud district**

This review was prompted by the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, which highlighted on-going racial injustice and discrimination. A Review Panel was convened involving community representatives as well as councillors, to consider the appropriateness of public commemorations of people and events from history to ensure they represent our area's inclusive values.

The review was launched in July 2021, and a public survey last year received 1,680 public survey responses including more than 1,400 from people with a connection to the Stroud district. At the Council meeting all the Review Panel's recommendations were approved.

This issue has featured in both local and national media – particularly focusing on the proposal that the council should seek to progress removal of the Blackboy Clock and Statue in Castle Street, Stroud. The Blackboy clock recommendation is in line with findings from the survey where 78% of respondents felt it should be removed (and of this figure, 59% felt it should be placed in a museum) and 22% felt it should remain where it is.

The council has voted to explore how removal could be achieved. This process is expected to take some time and removal is not guaranteed. Approval would be required from numerous stakeholders including the owners of the clock and statue, the Local Planning Authority, Historic England and very likely the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Other recommendations from the Review Panel included:

- Restoration of the Anti-Slavery Arch, Paganhill, taking into consideration its historic and tourism potential.
- Undertaking a review of the street name 'Blackboys' in Dursley in consultation with Dursley Town Council.
- A task force to be established to take forward the recommendations and develop a community project for the commemoration of an individual, group of individuals or event suggested in the survey responses.

- Reviewing the council's street naming protocol – which will include a consultation process on the selection of future street names with a particular aim to ensure future street names are inclusive and reflect diversity within the district and address any potential gender imbalance in the street names across the district.
- The Council's Cultural Strategy, currently in development, should celebrate and encourage aspects of the district's cultural and community diversity.

Other reports approved by Council:

- **Equality Diversity & Inclusion** - Annual Report on the Outcome of 2021/22 Equality Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan and Proposed 2022/23 Action Plan.
- **Islamophobia** - Adopting the All-Party Parliamentary Group Definition of Islamophobia – recognising that members of our community face discrimination and prejudice, with British Muslims, being the most disproportionately targeted religious group (according to a Home Office report) as 45% of recorded religious hate crime is targeted towards Muslims. Islamophobia contributes to the dehumanising of members of our community, and with it the undermining of citizenship and fairness for all and is a barrier to the participation of Muslims in public, economic, political, and social spheres of life. The council has committed to include in regular training for Members and Officers. information on recognising and countering instances of Islamophobia, to develop and strengthen our links with religious and community groups that represent and embrace Muslim communities, and to promote events and messaging around Islamophobia Awareness Month (November) and the recently declared UN International Day to Combat Islamophobia (March 15).
- **Appointment of Independent Persons** as required by the Localism Act 2011 - to assist the Council in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct amongst all its members and the towns and parishes within the District. Three people were appointed for an initial period of two years: John Acton, Phyllida Pyper, and Adrian Stratton.
- **Ubico Five Year Vision and Business Plan 2021/2022** approved
- **Motion – 20s Plenty**

Councillors supported a motion proposed by Cllr Martin Brown (Green) and seconded by Cllr Robin Layfield (Labour) calling for Gloucestershire County Council to make 20mph the default speed limit for residential areas in Stroud District and throughout Gloucestershire.

2030 Strategy Annual Report



Other issues

Ukraine

Stroud District Council officers continue to work with other authorities to support the Homes for Ukraine programme, which involves inspecting homes of sponsors in Stroud District who will be welcoming refugee families displaced by the war, with SDC officers working evenings and weekends to help speed the process up. This work involves Government, Gloucestershire County Council, and Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS).

Canals Strategy consultation extended

Stroud District Council has extended the community consultation phase of its draft canals strategy to 27 May. The draft strategy sets out how the council, its partners, communities, and landowners can work together to make better use of our canals for culture, recreation, leisure, to support the local economy and to enhance the environment and local wildlife.

www.stroud.gov.uk/canalstrategy.

First Boats Pass Under The New Ocean Bridge

Boats have sailed under the railway bridge at Ocean, near Stonehouse on The Stroudwater Canal for the first time in 70 years. Members of canal-based charity Cotswold Boatmobility made the inaugural trip in three katanus, stable catamaran canoes that each seat up to six people.

The trip has been made possible only since the Ocean railway bridge was replaced between

Christmas and New Year by Network Rail on behalf of the Cotswold Canals Connected partnership. The previous bridge with its narrow opening was too small to allow boats to pass underneath. Canal volunteers will now begin to carry out work on the towpath between Ocean and Bonds Mill, replacing the path, installing edging, and cutting back overgrown vegetation. The work is due to finish mid-May, allowing the towpath to re-open. Until then an alternative walking and cycling route will continue.

Unlawful puppy breeder prosecuted

A woman who bred 18 French bulldogs in three litters without a licence has been ordered to pay more than £3,200 in court following investigations by the SDC Animal Welfare Team, acting to protect the welfare of animals.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

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