

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 26TH MAY 2021 AT 7.30PM
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present

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

In Attendance

Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)
Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)
Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor) (7.50-9.00)
Mrs P. Leggate (Resident)
Mr R. Legg (Resident)
Mrs T. Legg (Resident)
Mr D. Cribb (Resident)
Mrs M. Wannell (Resident)

Mrs Shaw opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1) Apologies

Mr G. James (District Councillor)

2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations

There were no declarations.

2) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mrs Shaw having stood down as Chair, Mrs Davidson proposed and Mr Kirkham seconded Mr Packer to take on the role. Mr Packer accepted and was elected unanimously (93/21)

Mr Packer proposed and Mrs Shaw seconded Ms Hudson to take on the role of Vice-Chair. Ms Hudson accepted and was elected unanimously (94/21)

4) - Signature of Declarations of Acceptance of Office

All Councillors present signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office in the wake of the recent elections, except Mr Packer who will sign later. (95/21)

5) Confirmation of Appointments

The following appointments were confirmed:-

Footpath Wardens - Mr Snellock and Mr Packer
Tree Warden - Mr Kirkham
Playground Equipment Warden - Mr Cheetham
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 - vacant
Representative to Berkeley SSG - Mr Davies
Snow Warden – Mr Davies
Snow Plough Operator - Mr Longstreth (96/21)

Mr Holloway has represented Stinchcombe to Dursley United Charities for many years but has now

stood down. The Council is very grateful for his valuable contribution and the post will be advertised on Enews and in the village newsletter. Action Clerk (97/21)

6) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14th April 2021

Acceptance of the minutes of 3rd April was proposed by Ms Hudson, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. They were duly accepted and signed. (98/21)

7) Matters Arising From the Minutes

- The Welcome Pack has been updated and copies printed ready for distribution. Mrs Shaw thanked Mr Packer for his help in this. (98/21)
- The guards on trees on the path between the Bridleway and Old Hill Lane have been removed. (99/21)
- Ms Hudson's meeting with the PCC candidate, who has since been elected, took place successfully. (100/21)
- Mr Packer has not yet spoken to Mr Lawfull regarding the unauthorised activity at the entrance to Taits Hill Industrial Estate but this is ongoing. Action Mr Packer. (101/21)

8) Reports by County and District Councillors

There was no district councillor's report because of the change of Councillor after the election. (102/21)

The District Councillors' atest report is also attached. (103/21)

9) Planning Matters

New since last meeting

- S.21/1209/CPL Forge Cottage Taits Hill Road, use of land to station a mobile home granny annexe for use incidental to the main dwelling (resubmission) (104/21)
- No: S.21/1195/TPO Hillside House Stinchcombe Hill, Reduce 6 beech trees by roughly 4.5 metres to a height of 25.5 metres, fell beech tree with large wound half way up to a monolith. (105/21)
- S.21/0961/LBC, The Old Parsonage Wick Lane, restoration works to existing windows. A concern regarding the replacement of original ironwork on one of these windows has been posted on the Planning website. (106/21)
- No: S.21/0931/HHOLD, Hillside House Stinchcombe Hill, Erection of conservatory. Permission. (107/21)

Decided since last meeting

- S.21/0686/F(108/21) UL, Land At Wick Lane, construction of a single storey private stable block. Permission.
- S.21/0652/DISCON, Stinchcombe Village Hall, discharge of Condition 7 (Lighting Plan) of S.19/1361/COU Permission (109/21)
- S.21/0860/HHOLD, Forge Cottage, Taits Hill Road, installation of window to first floor side elevation. Permission (110/21)
- land adjoining Churchfield House, Echo Lane, outline application for the erection of a single dwelling, all matters reserved except access. Refused. (111/21)

Notification has been received from Planning of a screening request for proposed 60 dwellings, public open space and ancillary works at land north Of, Taits Hill Road, which has caused considerable concern among residents.

Mr Legg explained that a Residents' Association is being formed across Stinchcombe Village, Taits Hill Road, Clingre Down and Orchard Leaze, including parts of Cam parish as well as

Stinchcombe, which has sought advice from a planning consultant. On their behalf he made the following points:-

- 1) We already have an adopted Local Plan signed off in 2015. There is a great deal of certainty as to where growth and development will go. SDC has 6.56 years' forward supply of land to satisfy that plan. Speculative and unplanned development such as this scheme are contrary to the local plan and unnecessary.
- 2) Irrespective of this, the site is in the influence of the Cotswold AONB and would significantly and detrimentally detract from this ;landscape character.
- 3) Access arrangements are substandard and would make safety on Taits Hill road a major issue.
- 4) the lack of local services and facilities mean that most residents would need to use a car.
- 5) the site is rich in ecology and in the absence of a more detailed survey, the development would be detrimental to the ecology of the area.

The District Councillors felt that the proposal is unlikely to be successful. It contravenes the Local Plan which, though currently under review, allows building outside a settlement area in some circumstances but only to a maximum of nine dwellings. It has no local support and is an area unsuitable for development and with a high landscape impact. However, they recommended vigilance with regard a future application and preparation for opposition. Cllr Tucker will speak to the planners to alert them to concerns and find out if an comment is worthwhile at this stage. If so, the clerk will post one. [Action Cllr Tucker and Clerk.](#) (112/21)

10) Footpaths and Rights of Way

The large rock is still on the bridle path but does not appear to present any immediate danger. (113/21)

The planned meeting regarding the Piers Court footpaths took place, attended by Mrs Shaw, Ms Hudson, the wrens of the house and representatives from PROW and the Police. It was a useful meeting with the channels of communication left open though there have continued to be concerns expressed. Mr Packer will speak to Ms Lawton. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (114/21)

Work on improvements to the footpaths network is ongoing and Mr Packer is meeting Mr Kendall next week to discuss the paths on his land at Standle Lane. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (115/21)

11) Highways

The application to Highways for a review of the speed limit at Berkeley road will be held off until after Ms Hudson's best practice meeting. This will be with representatives of other parishes engaged in speed watch/traffic calming, interested District Councillors, our County Councillor, the Local Highways Manager and a representative from Gloucestershire Constabulary's Road Safety and Traffic Management Team. Its purpose is to encourage partnership working, establish contacts and clarify policy and procedures relating to various road safety issues [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (116/21)

The Police have made three more enforcement visits in the Street and there has been an automated traffic count on Taits Hill ?road though the results are not available yet. (117/21)

12) Facilities

It was agreed that, with the relaxation of Covid restrictions, the second swing can now be reinstated [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (118/21)

The PCC has no objection to the installation of the proposed new litter bin, so purchase can now go ahead. [Action Clerk](#) (119/21)

It was noted that the flagpole outside the church has broken. Ownership is not clear but the PC will replace it. Mr Packer will look into pricing and availability and it may be possible for Mr Longstreth to install it. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (120/21)

Mrs Wannell raised the issue of water leaks on Tait's Hill Road. There have been four leaks this year and there were 12-14 last year and the main needs to be replaced rather than repeated repairs being carried out. It was agreed that a formal complaint should be lodged. [Action Clerk](#) (121/21)

13) Financial Matters

Approval of Section 1 of the Annual Return, the Annual Governance Statement, was proposed by Mrs Shaw, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. The Statement was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (122/21)

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. (123/21)

Approval of the Certificate of Exemption was proposed by Mr Kirkham, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. The Statement was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk. (124/21)

The Statement of Receipts and Payments was signed by the Chair. (125/21)

An increase of 5% in the Clerk's salary bringing it up to £1,332.00 pa was agreed with effect from 1st May. This was proposed by Mrs Davidson, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. (126/21)

14) Councillors' Reports

Ms Hudson reported that resident Jess Burchfield is keen for the planting of wild flowers on verges in the parish. (127/21)

She also suggested an Enews "straw poll" in response to an enquiry from SDC regarding how many councils in the area have made Climate Change Emergency Declarations. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (128/21)

17) Items for Website

Ms Hudson will post an item on Enews about Climate Change Emergency Declarations and the Clerk will advertise the Charities' rep and flood Warden vacancies. [Action Ms Hudson and Clerk.](#) (129/21)

18) Dates of Next Meeting

Wed 7th July 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Stroud District Councillors' Report – May 2021

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>

Results of the Local Elections – 6 May

The results of the elections to Stroud District Council were as follows (showing change from the previous election results in 2016):

Lib Dem: 3 councillors (+1), Green: 13 councillors (+5), Labour: 15 councillors (-3), Conservative: 20 councillors (including one independent Conservative councillor) (-3). Since the results indicate No Overall Control for one party, the parties are in discussions on how to work together.

Nominations will be submitted for Committee roles and membership for the AGM meeting on 20 May
(see [agenda](#)) .

Environment Committee – 20 April 2021

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

The Committee discussed the following issues:

- **Tree Strategy** – the strategy links to the SDC 2030 Strategy in particular the commitment (NE11) to support the countywide approach and advocate continued efforts for nature recovery through tree planting in collaboration with the Local Nature Partnership for an efficient and expert led approach to trees in Stroud District.
- **Recycling – Developments for the Future** – discussion of a paper outlining potential improvements, which would better insulate the District Council from the fluctuations of markets in the sale of recyclates.
- **Pre-Submission District Local Plan** – the main item for discussion – to agree the new strategic plan for the whole of the District. This is in accordance with Regulations 19 and 20 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. See Council meeting below for further notes.

There were also Member Reports from the Planning Review Panel, Stroud Regeneration Committee, and a Performance Monitoring report.

Full Council meeting – 29 April 2021

The Council papers can be found [here](#).

Stroud District – New Local Plan

A long meeting (over 4 hours) which focused on the Pre-Submission District Local Plan. Residents from Berkeley and Sharpness Residents Association and the Wisloe Action Group attended and asked questions during the Public Question Time in relation to the proposal for these communities to become strategic development sites.

Councillor Simon Pickering presented the report and thanked all who had worked so hard on developing the draft Local Plan.

The government expectation for Local Planning Authorities is to require an **update to the Local Plan every five years**. An update to the District's current adopted Local Plan is now due as it is over five years old and the housing requirements it set out are no longer up to date. Any further delay, additional to the recent delays already experienced due to the pandemic and possible changes in government policy, would increase the risk of the occurrence of "planning by appeal".

A series of **measures to implement the Carbon Neutral 2030 Strategy** are embedded throughout the plan: net carbon zero construction standards, carbon zero heating systems, identification of suitable areas for renewable energy, at least 10% new biodiversity gain, multifunctional green space and tree-planting, reuse and regeneration of brownfield land, planning for exemplar carbon neutral settlements, support for active travel and walking and support for the reopening of two new rail stations at Stonehouse and Sharpness.

Central government sets out the **minimum number of new houses** to be provided in the district, which has been raised from a minimum of 456 to 630 homes per annum to be built, largely by private developers, which is an increase of 38%.

There is therefore a need for some more new housing, particularly to support longer life expectancy, improvements in the status of women and the need for affordable houses for younger adults, three of the key drivers in the need for more housing. A buffer is required by the government and so Planning Strategy Officers **have advised an overall housing supply of 14,935 homes**. Although covering just under 187 square miles, approximately half the district is in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and a considerable area is now at risk of flooding, therefore **only roughly one third of the district remains available** for allocation.

Reducing the need to travel by private car, the single largest source of greenhouse emissions in the district, has been a primary factor in the development strategy towards delivering the Carbon Neutral 2030 Strategy. Extensive public consultation and work have been carried out during the Local Plan Review.

The main objectives of the strategy for the new Local Plan set out to:

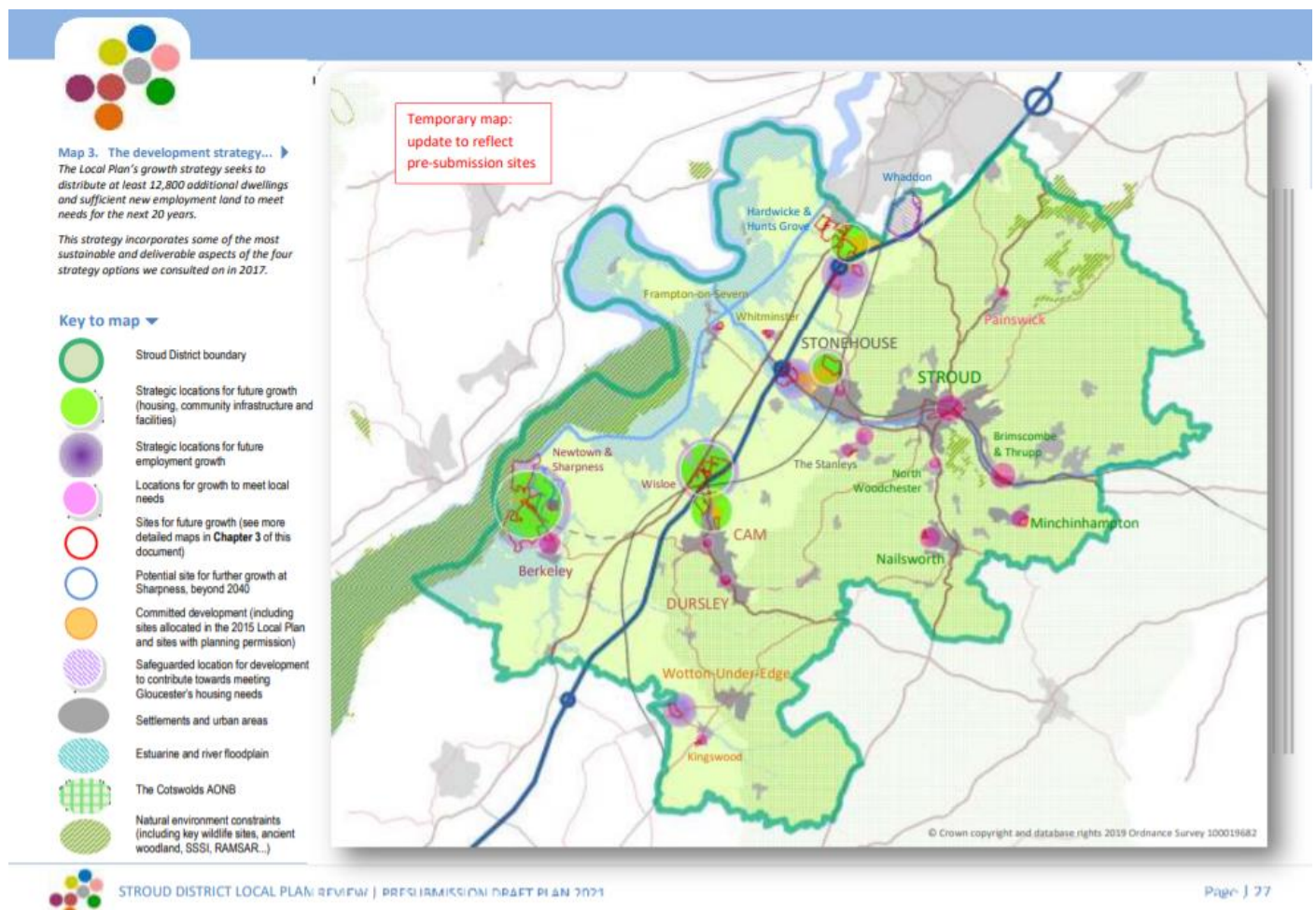
- concentrate housing growth at population centres with best access to services and facilities
- develop new settlements where there is potential to create more sustainable communities
- regenerate the canal corridor through the Stroud Valleys, and Berkeley and Sharpness
- maximise the use of previously developed land
- provide strategic employments accessible within the M5/A38 corridor
- support the development and social sustainability of small towns and villages

It is essential that a sound Local Plan can stand up to scrutiny and that decisions on the choices of sites are transparent, logical and underpinned by evidence (particularly following the experience of the South Gloucestershire / West of England Joint Spatial Plan, which was rejected by planning inspectors). The assessment of potential sites to meet the plan requirements has been rigorously tested and it was noted that the Council can only consider sites supported by landowners as they must be deliverable.

Gloucester City Council has identified a shortfall of 6,000 dwellings to meet future housing needs and has asked for help from neighbouring authorities with fulfilling this. It is both a national policy requirement and legal duty that Stroud District Council work co-operatively to accommodate unmet need in the most sustainable places. Following a joint assessment, a site at Whaddon has been identified for up to 3,000 dwellings. Cllr Pickering underlined that the proposal at this stage was not to allocate this site, but to safeguard it. The site would only be allocated subject to Gloucester City wanting the site to be allocated and providing up to date evidence of need at the Local Plan Examination

Conservative Councillors proposed two amendments which would have a) removed Wisloe (PS37) and inserted Moreton Valence (PGP2), and b) removed PS34 (Sharpness Docks) and PS36 (Sharpness new settlement) and replaced them with Moreton Valence and Whitminster. Both amendments failed. The Draft Local Plan was approved for publication with 26 votes for, 7 against and 8 abstentions. The Pre-Submission Draft Plan can be found [here](#).

Visual overview of the development strategy



Strategic Development Sites

Strategic development sites to meet needs are allocated at the following locations:

Location	Employment	Housing
Cam North West		700
Cam North East Extension		180
South of Hardwicke		1,200
Hunts Grove Extension		750
Javelin Park	27 ha	
Quedgeley East Extension	5 ha	
Renishaw New Mills	10 ha	
Sharpness Docks	7 ha	300
Sharpness	10 ha	2,400 (5,000 by 2050)

Settlement	Housing (cumulative total) ▼
Hardwicke	10
Kingswood	50
Leonard Stanley	40
Minchinhampton	80
Nailsworth	90
Newtown & Sharpness	70
Painswick	20
Stonehouse	10
Stroud	165
Whitminster	50

Now that the Draft Local Plan has been approved, it will be subject to six weeks of formal public consultation in accordance with legal regulations, commencing at the end of May/early June 2021.

The Draft Local Plan, together with consultation representations received and supporting documents, will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, anticipated by September 2021. Depending upon progress with the examination, it is hoped that receipt of a favourable Inspector's Report will allow the **Council to adopt the new Local Plan by the end of next year 2022.**

Ubico Shareholder Decision

Councillors agreed to support Gloucester City Council joining the Ubico partnership (which provides collection of waste and recycles in the District). The SDC Chief Executive has a role as the Council's Ubico Shareholder.

Motion: Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill

Councillors voted to support a motion about this Bill. The motion noted that humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm) and continue to rise. This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity. Without more significant and sustained action, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit between 2030 and 2040.

Therefore, the current UK target of net zero by 2050 is not satisfactory. It is too little too late. The increase in harm caused by a rise of 2°C rather than 1.5°C is significant. This is described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C published in October 2018.

According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. The costs of failing to address this crisis will far outstrip the investments required to prevent it. Investing now will bring many benefits in the form of good jobs, breathable cities and thriving communities.

The Council noted that

1. This council has declared a climate and ecological emergency;

2. There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”)—according to which the Government must develop an emergency strategy that:
 - requires that the UK plays its fair and proper role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial temperatures;
 - ensures that all the UK’s consumption emissions are accounted for;
 - includes emissions from aviation and shipping;
 - protects and restores biodiverse habitats along overseas supply chains;
 - restores and regenerates the UK’s depleted soils, wildlife habitats and species populations to healthy and robust states, maximising their capacity to absorb CO2 and their resistance to climate heating;
 - sets up an independent Citizens’ Assembly, representative of the UK’s population, to engage with Parliament and Government and help develop the emergency strategy.

The Council therefore resolved to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
2. Inform the local media of this decision;
3. Write to local MPs, asking them to support or thanking them for supporting the Bill; and
4. Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk).

Housing Committee – 8 April

The Agenda and papers can be found [here](#)

The Committee discussed the following papers – with action plans for each to follow at the next Housing Committee meeting.

- **Update of the Tenant Led Service Standards**
To agree the updates made to the Tenant Led Service Standards.
- **Cleaner Estates Strategy 2021-24**
To agree that the strategy is fit for purpose and that a detailed action plan is to be presented to Housing Committee in June 2021.
- **Updated Tenant Services Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy**
To note the updates to the Tenant Services Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

Audit & Standards Committee - 27 April

The Committee discussed the following:

- **Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2020/21**

The Annual Report summarises the activities of the Committee during 2020/21 and sets out its plans for the next twelve months. This report provides an independent assurance that the Council has in place adequate and effective governance, risk management and internal control frameworks; Internal and External Audit functions; and financial reporting arrangements.

- **Internal Audit Activity Progress Report 2020/21**
- **Draft Internal Audit Plan 2021/22**
- **Creditors Limited Assurance Update**
- **3rd Quarter Treasury Management Activity Report 2020/21**
- **Counter Fraud Unit Report and Regulation Of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 / Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016 Report**

The Committee's annual report will be further considered at the Council meeting on 20 May.

