

# STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY 2021 AT 7.30 BY VIDEO LINK

### **Present**

Mrs M. Shaw (Chair)  
Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)  
Mr S. Packer (Parish Councillor)  
  
Ms K Hudson (Parish Councillor)  
Mrs. N. Bradley (Clerk to the Parish Council)

### **In Attendance**

Ms L. Cohen County Councillor)  
Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)  
Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)  
  
Mrs J.Thomas (Resident/SUC rep)

### **Opening Remarks**

Mrs Shaw opened by welcoming all present.

### **1) Apologies for Absence**

Mr G. Butcher (District Councillor)  
Mr I.Kirkham (Resident)  
Mrs N. Hemming (Resident)

### **2) Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2019**

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ms Hudson, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. They will be duly signed by the Chair at the next live meeting.

### **3) Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising which are not dealt with later in these minutes.

### **4) Chairman's Report**

Mrs Shaw's report is attached to these minutes.

### **5) Reports by County and District Councillors**

Mrs Shaw welcomed Ms Cohen as our new County Councillor.

Outgoing County Councillor Cllr Cordwell's and the District Councillors' reports are attached to these minutes.

### **6) Annual Accounts**

Parish Council Accounts were presented by the Clerk and a copy is attached to these minutes. They may also be viewed by application to the Clerk

Accounts of the Village Hall were presented by the Clerk on behalf of the Hall's Treasurer and are attached to these minutes.

Stinchcombe United Charities' accounts were presented by Mrs Thomas and are attached to these minutes. It was noted that there had been no applications to the Matthew Tyndall Trust in spite of extensive advertising

and the provision for application by email.

Dursley United Charities' accounts were unavailable. It was noted that Mr Holloway is no longer acting as the Council's representative to the Charities and a replacement is needed. The post will be advertised but Mrs Thomas is willing to take it on if no-one else comes forward. [Action Clerk](#)

## **7) Reports by Parish Councillors**

Mrs Shaw recently attended a productive meeting with the owners of Piers Court and representatives from PROW and the Police concerning issues regarding use of footpaths at Piers court. The possibility of making some changes to access to the grounds was discussed and will be looked into further.

Ms Hudson has been very active in response to residents' concerns about speeding and flooding and her report is attached.

Mr Packer has been keen to extend the provision of defibrillators in the village. He has provided one himself on the wall of his garage, for which the council is very grateful, and has advised on the provision of another at the Village Hall.

He has also been working with Mr Snellock and others to walk and assess the parish footpaths. He reported that although some of the less-used paths are somewhat neglected those which have the most use are in good condition and passable though there are probably about 20 miles of forgotten footpaths in the area. They are working on a list of local landowners to facilitate necessary improvements. [Action Mr Packer](#)

Mrs Davidson was concerned that the planned new litter bin has not yet been installed. This is because agreement from the Church has not been received. Mrs Davidson will check with the Vicar after which the clerk will progress the purchase. [Action Mrs Davidson and Clerk](#)

## **8) Matters Raised**

A list of suggestions made by residents as part of Ms Hudson's survey earlier in the year is attached to these minutes.

It was noted that several of the issues raised (**traffic, footpaths and flooding**) are already being addressed by the Council and others are impracticable (**village pub**, though TGIF goes some way to fill the role) or beyond the PC's remit (**lighting the outside of the church**). It was felt that Enews and Stinchcombe News already fill the role of a **parish magazine** but it may be possible to consider an **electric car charging point**, though GCC is currently looking into a roll-out across the county.

There has also been some progress on the idea of improving the provision of **play equipment**. Ms Hemming issued a questionnaire (results and report attached) which showed a preference for (in order) swings (most wanted item), climbing / play frame, playhouse, fun/fitness trail, themed play, climbing webs, see saw, slide, swing rocker and sensory items. Ms Hemming has been in discussion with DRFC and has formed a committee which will be meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June. As the PC will be responsible for insurance and maintenance of any equipment installed, it was felt that the council needs to be involved in and kept informed of any decisions and to this end Mr Packer will liaise with Ms Hemming. [Action Mr Packer](#)

It was also noted that the issue of the **Swedish Houses** has been on hold but will be picked up again now that the elections are over. SDC has been in discussion with the owner of the private house and it is hoped that the others can be occupied again soon.

Mrs Shaw thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 8.45pm.

N. Bradley  
Clerk to the Council.

## Stinchcombe Parish Council

### Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Assembly to be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

There was no Parish Assembly or AGM in 2020 because of the Covid 19 pandemic, so this report covers the last two years. Since the last Parish Assembly in 2019 there have been one AGM and 14 full Parish Council meetings, most of which were attended by the County and District Councillors. The PC aims to meet every six weeks and all meetings since April 2020 have been held remotely by Zoom.

At the AGM on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 the following appointments were confirmed:-

Snow Warden	Mr C Davies (Snow plough operator Mr Longstreth)
Flood & Watercourse Warden	??
Footpaths Warden	Mr Snellock
Tree Warden	Mr I Kirkham
Playground Equipment Warden	Mr C. Cheetham

The following were also appointed as representatives of the Parish Council to other organisations:-

Stinchcombe Hill Trust	Ms K Hudson
Stinchcombe United Charities	Mrs J. Thomas
Dursley United Charities	Mr R Holloway
Village Hall Committee	Mrs M Shaw
Berkeley Stakeholder Group	Mr C Davies

### Parish Councillors

The Council is operating at full complement but there have been several changes over the last two years.

Ms Scarlett Guy left in August 2019 and was replaced by Mr Simon Packer in December. Mr Snellock left in February 2020 to be replaced by Mrs Diana Davidson in July and Ms Trudy Chinn was replaced by Mr Ian Kirkham in September 2020. I would like to thank the departing Councillors for their hard work and extend a warm welcome to their successors. Local council elections planned for 2019 were delayed until May 2020 when all the Parish Councillors were returned unopposed. Our District Councillors also retained their seats and Cllr Linda Cohen replaced Cllr John Cordwell who has retired as County Councillor.

Kath and I have attended meetings of Stinchcombe Hill Trust where concerns have been raised about the increased use of the Hill for walking and dog-walking during the pandemic. New signage has been installed in particular to guide people away from the skylarks' nesting sites.

Simon has been working with Chris Snellock to establish footpath routes and causes for concern and this is ongoing. He has also dealt tactfully with a problem of unauthorised use of land at the entrance to Tait's Hill Industrial Estate.

Kath has worked very hard on various issues around speeding and flooding in the village.

### Financial Matters

The Parish Council agreed that the amount requested for the Parish precept for 2020/2021 would be increased by £50.

As a result of a survey earlier in the year, the precept for 2021/22 has been increased considerably from £3,550 to £5,500 to facilitate the provision of traffic calming measures in the village.

## **Planning**

There have been over 20 planning applications within the Parish and Parish Councillors have seen, consulted and commented on them all.

## **Facilities**

Thanks to the hard work of Kath Hudson and Catherine Braun, the post box at the War Memorial was replaced in June 2019 but unfortunately, the one at Oldhill Lane was removed in February 2020 and in spite of their best efforts and involvement of Siobhan Baillie MP will not be replaced. Thanks in particular are due to Mrs Mandy Delafield for her efforts in this matter.

Refurbishment of the phone box was finally completed and it provided a decorative centrepiece to the village for Remembrance Day and Christmas.

Simon and Diana have been busy renovating and repainting the village notice boards.

There are now two more defibrillators in the village, one on the wall Of the Old School House's garage, kindly provided by Simon Packer, and one at the Village Hall provided by the Hall Committee as a result of fundraising and with a donation from the Parish Council.

The swings were out of use for several months during the first lockdown period but Richard Cheetham has continued to carry out monthly checking and we thank him for this. Village resident Naomi Hemming has organised a survey on play equipment requirements and has been liaising with the Rugby club about possible improvements.

## **Highways**

Recently retired County Councillor John Cordwell was instrumental in the clearing of the footpaths on Taits Hill road for which we are very grateful.

Both Wick Lane and Taits Hill have been resurfaced in the last two years.

Concerns have been raised about speeding on the Street, Taits Hill and Taits Hill Road. A survey of opinions was carried out earlier in the year and a Speedwatch Group has been set up to monitor the situation and look in to possible solutions to the problem.

Concerns have also been raised about frequent flooding at Berkeley Road.

## **Footpaths and Rights of Way**

There was no litter pick in 2020 but the one held in March this year had an excellent turnout and produced more than 30 bags of litter. Plans are in hand for the installation of a litter bin outside the church. This will provide for the disposal of dog mess as well as regular litter.

Simon has begun liaising with local landowners regarding problems on and improvements to footpaths and has set up a group to walk the paths, establish areas of concern and to produce a map.

There have been ongoing discussions between the owners of Piers Court, PROW officers and Parish Council representatives regarding the use of public footpaths on Piers Court land.

## **General**

Thanks go to Kath Hudson and Nola Bradley for continuing production of the village Newsletter and to the team who distribute it. Richard Bartlam continues to update and maintain Stinchcombe E-

News for which we thank him. Richard would welcome Stinchcombe news and photographs to include in E-News.

## **Summary**

Thank you to my fellow Parish Councillors and Clerk for their help and support over the past year. Thank you also to the Tree, Footpaths and all the appointed Wardens for their time and efforts in keeping our Parish running smoothly and such a pleasant place to live and to our County and District Councillors for their time and support which are very much appreciated.

Finally, having served as Chair of the Parish Council for eight years, with a short break in 2017, I intended to step down at the 2021 AGM, though I will continue to serve as a Councillor and Simon Packer has agreed to take on the role of Chair.

# **Report on County Council Matters to Stinchcombe Annual Parish Assembly 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 John Cordwell**

## **County Council 2020-21**

Conservatives retained their overall majority with Liberal Democrats the largest opposition party. The Covid-19 lockdown means that the by-election to fill a vacancy has not taken place and this took place in last week's all-out election.

## **Coronavirus, Covid-19**

In mid-March 2020, all County Council meetings were cancelled until further notice, which turned out to be the entire year. From June onwards they resumed virtually using Webex. The council has been putting out daily briefings and advice on the situation and has been helping in many other ways.

## **My roles on the County Council**

My committee memberships remained unchanged. During the year I was Vice-Chairman of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, of the Planning Committee, and of the Commons & Rights of Way Committee. I was my group's lead member on the Traffic Regulations Orders committee having stood down last year as vice-chairman. I continued as a member of Gloucestershire's Local Access Forum.

I have been my group's representative on a Road Safety Cabinet Panel. There had been concern from councillors on the level of involvement of the council in local road safety matters. This reported back to the Cabinet in March and I questioned how the recommendations would allow the county's own road safety liaison groups to continue. It seems to depend on who is in charge after the elections.

I have been one of the county's two representatives on the Berkeley (Nuclear) Site Stakeholder Group. This recently received a report on a bid being made to develop nuclear fusion based on Berkeley and Oldbury. More widely I continued as a representative on South West Councils and its Resources and Management Committee, and on the Severn Estuary Partnership.

## **County Council budget 2021/22**

The approved County Council revenue budget totals £483.008 million. The County precept entails an overall increase of 4.75% on Council Tax. This consists of a 1.99% Council Tax increase plus a 2.76% Adult Social Care Levy. The latter will raise an additional £8.753 million for Adult Social Care services. This equates to a Band D Council Tax precept of £1,409.22 in 2021/22 compared to £1,345.32 in 2020/21 – an increase of £63.90 per annum.

The budget debate saw successful amendments tabled by the Liberal Democrats totalling £1.3 million mostly from contingency reserves held by the council and not affecting the precept.

These changes included:

- an increase of the originally proposed £10k per county division in the Highways Local funding to £20k, giving communities a greater say over how their highways money is spent, including on road safety schemes\*;
- a £100k fund to create 20mph speed zones in neighbourhoods across the county;
- £100k to expand school streets schemes to the Cotswolds, Stroud and Forest of Dean which have not benefitted from the pilot schemes. These prohibit vehicles using roads outside schools at the beginning and end of the school day and
- almost £70k on removing barriers to mobility, helping to find solutions to transport issues faced by people with a wide range of disabilities, such as more wheelchair space on buses, more provision of dropped kerbs, removing barriers to cycling and assisting use of mobility scooters.
- £100k to support children's development in their first 1000 days so they are ready for school;
- £100k to support children at risk of exclusion and help them reintegrate into school;

- £265k consisting of £5k allocated to each county councillor for a Covid Community Recovery Fund and

-£33k to cancel a proposed 3% increase in residents parking permits.

\* The original Lib Dem amendment was to increase the Highways Local budget to £30k per councillor. Whilst only £20k was achieved at the February budget meeting, at the March meeting of the council's Cabinet they announced that they had found the money to increase this to £30k per councillor!

**Motions at County Council meetings during the year** This is necessarily a very brief description but indicates the range of subjects covered.

The motions debated during the year and the outcomes were:

Fast tracked introduction of "school streets" schemes, (Lib Dem) Such schemes are included in statutory guidance issued by the Government Transport Secretary. Clearly there are many schools where that is not be possible, but a requirement not to allow engines to idle outside schools could be introduced. Conservative members took some persuading on this, but later in the year three trial schools were selected. As you will note from earlier in my report, this year's budget meeting includes funding has been agreed to extend this to a scheme in each of the remaining three districts.

Celebrating Gloucestershire Volunteers (Lib Dem/Labour) It was unanimously agreed that as the lead authority in the county, the County Council will establish a series of events to recognise and celebrate the exceptional efforts of residents and public servants, and to establish permanent memorials to acknowledge both the volunteers and the tragic loss of so many members of our community.

Climate Change (Labour/Green) After amendments, it was agreed unanimously that a report to Council should be made after its consideration by the Environment Scrutiny Committee on what lessons the Council has learnt during Covid-19 that it can apply to its policies and practices to meet our climate change targets and produce a cleaner, greener post-Covid County.

Establishment of a local contact tracing system to stop Covid-19 (Green)

This was lost through concern at the number of council staff and financial support that would be needed.

Promoting Cycleways (Labour)

It was pointed out that the Council did not have the power to carry out the motion as originally worded. It was amended to call for the Cabinet member to provide the resources for this and agreed unanimously,

Restoring our Rivers (Lib Dem)

There was concern over the amount of pollution in the county's rivers. After some debate, the Conservatives moved the referral of this motion to the Environment Scrutiny Committee and that was the outcome. On a previous occasion, this delayed a motion from being considered for around two years. As vice-chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee I called for it to be on the agenda soon. As a result, an extra meeting of the committee was held resulting in agreement for a short duration task group is to start work soon, taking evidence from a wide range of organisations.

Public Health England (Lib Dem)

This motion asked the County Council to note with dismay the Government's intention to dismantle Public Health England at a time when the ONS estimates that around 3000 people are still being infected with Covid-19 every day and to write to the Secretary of State for Health to express this grave concern and to reiterate the need for a thorough and transparent enquiry into why the UK has one of the highest Covid-19 mortality rates in the world. It also asked for the 25% cut in the public health budget in England compared to 2015 to be reinstated. The Conservatives voted against the

motion, so it was lost.

#### Rainbow flag crossing (Labour)

Again, the Conservatives used their majority to refer the motion, this time to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Whilst several such crossings now exist in other parts of the country, they are not formal road crossings such as zebra crossings, which would give rise to safety issues. It has been suggested they could be put in pedestrian areas.

#### Highways trees maintenance (Lib Dem)

The motion said that the workforce to ensure such trees receive proper maintenance is inadequate to keep them healthy and safe and a positive addition to their neighbourhoods. It called for the cabinet member to prepare a report on how the County can significantly increase the total number of highway network trees. The Conservatives used their majority to vote it down.

#### 'Planning for the Future' White Paper (Lib Dem)

The motion noted that the proposals in this White Paper would radically alter the existing planning system for all seven of Gloucestershire's principal councils. It had been opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently Conservative-led, along with many other interest groups. It called on the council to ask the Chief Executive and County Council leader to write to the county's six MPs to raise strong opposition to the proposed changes in the White Paper when it comes before parliament.

The Conservatives amended the proposal, to say there were areas where the White Paper "might be improved" and claiming that the White Paper would address the housing waiting lists. This was won by the Conservatives with all other councillors opposing.

#### Child food poverty (Lib Dem)

The motion said it believed that it is shameful that children still go hungry in the UK. It commended the initiative of Marcus Rashford whose successful campaign on school holiday hunger has led to a taskforce being formed with some of the UK's leading food retailers and charities to help reduce child food poverty.

The motion noted that this taskforce has called upon the government to fund three policy recommendations from the National Food Strategy to end child food poverty for good:

The wording that followed, calling on the Government to immediately fund these recommendations and to chastise the county's MPs for the way they voted on this was deleted by a Conservative amendment whose majority ensured it won.

#### Equalities (Labour)

Called on the council to undertaking an equalities audit when services are designed and commissioned to remove access barriers for all groups. Also, to ensure that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people\* are always short listed and interviewed when middle and senior management vacancies occur.

\*In speaking to this the proposer added in "who have appropriate qualifications".

A supportive Conservative procedural motion referred this to the council's Equalities Working Group to ensure the legality of the proposal.

#### Special Schools (Conservative)

To note the valuable role these schools play and the capital investment being made into them. Electioneering, it went on to refer to "the misguided actions of previous councils in seeking their closure". This refers to a situation 20 years' ago when it was felt that more children in special schools would be better placed in mainstream schools and the numbers in special schools were decreasing. The vote was won, with many abstentions.

#### Response to Covid-19 pandemic (Conservative)



This thanked the NHS teams leading on vaccination in the county, and the firefighters, other council staff and volunteers who support them, for their exceptional work in delivering the vaccine across our county.

Words were added by a Lib Dem amendment and agreed by the Conservatives to support the campaign to increase the proposed one per cent pay rise for frontline workers and calling on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to follow the recommendations given by the NHS pay review body instead. The amended motion was passed unanimously.

### Social care funding (Lib Dem)

This noted that next year, at £157 million, adult social care is the single largest item of county council expenditure and represents nearly one third of all spend and will increase. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these problems.

The Conservative Government pledged that it would act on adult social care funding and committed to publishing a Green Paper on this in the 2017 Spring Budget. This has still not been published despite many subsequent promises that it was about to appear.

It asked the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, expressing the Council's extreme frustration that the Government has failed to produce any long-term plan for a system creaking under unsustainable pressure and asking them to urgently publish the social care green paper, and to include a proper consultation on funding options.

This motion fell with most Conservatives voting against.

### Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

These have remained open through much of the pandemic with a booking system. The Pyke Quarry HRC has been subject to longer waiting times for an appointment than the other four in the county. One reason for this has been a large number of no-shows. The booking system is to be improved to allow residents to change their booking time rather than simply not using it.

### Rail Services

A rail scheme from Bristol northwards, MetroWest Phase 2 was initially to turn back at Yate to free up passenger capacity on the Bristol - Gloucester line. The intention is now for trains to continue to Gloucester. This service is expected to start in May 2022. In addition, Charfield station now seems likely to reopen in a few years' time.

### Growing Our Communities Fund

This started in the 2018/19 financial year and amounted to £30k allocated to each county councillor over the three years then remaining for this council's term of office. The whole of my £30k has been awarded. Recent items have been:

- £1500 towards North Nibley shop refurbishment
- £4986 towards Stinchcombe Village Hall car park extension
- £836 for community play at the Blue Coat School
- £3000 for lighting at Conygres for the Wotton Scout Group
- £1335 towards the Berkeley Green Parkrun
- £2200 towards a Wotton Junior Parkrun
- £5000 for preparatory work for Wotton Town Hall repairs
- £5000 to Stone with Woodford School for playground enhancements

### Highways Local

The £25k available to me during the year included spending on:  
carriageway patching on the A4135 at Bowcott;  
footway resurfacing on the A38 near All Saints Church in Stone;  
carriageway patching in Church Street and School Road, Wotton;  
siding work at Tait's Hill, Stinchcombe;  
and signing and lining in North Nibley and in Potters Pond, Wotton.

### Finally

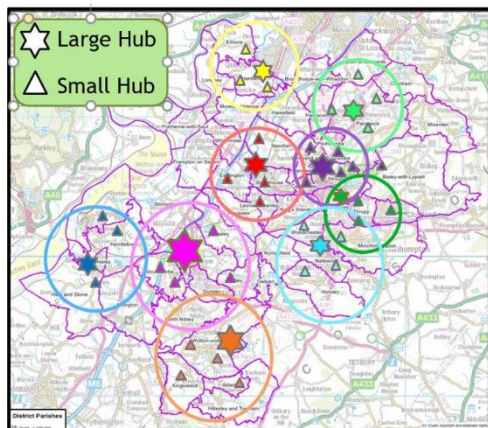
This really is finally now!

As you will be aware, after a record continuous 40 years as a Gloucestershire county councillor, I have now stepped down from the County Council and passed the baton on to Linda Cohen. It has been an immense privilege to serve the residents both of Gloucestershire and far beyond, but particularly all those in this county division. The opportunities I have had, the experiences I have gained and the people I have met have made it an outstanding journey.

**John Cordwell**

## Stroud District Councillors' Report 2021

**Covid Relief for Businesses** SDC's Revenue and Benefits team have worked hard throughout the year to make sure grants have been paid to many qualifying businesses and organisations who needed support during the pandemic. Up to 21 April 2021, Business Grant payments of over £11 million, Discretionary Grants of over £1 million and grant payments under the Small Business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Funds over £25 million were awarded.



**Community support** SDC has supported county wide efforts to help communities through the pandemic. The Community Resilience Grant Fund, (funded by SDC and GCC) distributed grants of over £69,000 to 76 Covid-19 community groups. Building on the incredible mutual aid response and recognising the need for ongoing community support in the recovery from Coronavirus, SDC is now supporting the development of new community hubs to help connect people with local services on a more sustainable basis. The new Community Wellbeing Grant scheme is supporting this work as well as other projects and organisations across the District.

**Carbon Neutral 2030 Strategy and Plan** SDC has adopted a detailed plan to deliver on the ambitious targets to make the whole district carbon neutral by 2030. The Council will act as *exemplar, enabler and encourager* to deliver change and support local businesses, organisations and residents to respond to the climate and ecological emergency. The final plan resulted from a community consultation and is based on seven themes of Built Environment, Energy, Natural Environment, Mobility, Economy, Waste, and Community.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/2030-strategy-limiting-adapting-recovering-and-responding-in-a-changing-climate>



**New energy efficient Council homes** Following changes to Government policy, SDC has been able to continue its council house building programme – with the 36 new homes planned for Nailsworth, Minchinhampton and Eastington at a cost of £5.3 million of which eleven will be for older people – all will be built to meet the highest energy efficiency rating – which will help to keep bills low for tenants.



**Waste and Recycling** Building on a successful partnership and award winning service, SDC's waste and recycling partner Ubico will continue to collect all the household rubbish, recycling, food and garden waste for another 5 years, alongside delivery of street cleaning and grounds maintenance.

**Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy** SDC is working with local communities to ensure everyone has access to good quality leisure opportunities and undertook a Leisure and Wellbeing Survey in Jan 2021 to find out what, where and how people use leisure facilities across the district. The Leisure Review will continue in 2021.

District Councillors: Ken Tucker, Catherine Braun, George James



## STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22– SECTION 1

	Year Ending	31/03/20	31/03/21	Differences
1	Balances brought forward	£8,820.00	£8,985.00	
2	Annual Precept	£3,500.00	£3,550.00	
3	Total other Receipts	£237.00	£1,070.00	£833.00 (1)
4	Staff Costs	£1,195.00	£1,253.00	
5	Capital Repayments	£0.00	£0.00	
6	Total other payments	£2,377.00	£3,104.00	£727.00 (2) (3)
7	Balances carried forward	£8,985.00	£9,248.00	
8	Total Cash	£8,985.00	£9,248.00	
9	Total fixed Assets	£35,209.00	£35,209.00	
10	Total Borrowings	£0.00	£0.00	

#### Notes

- (1) £1,000 donation received from Village Hall Committee towards cost of defibrillator
- (2) £531.01 paid towards cost of defibrillator at Village Hall
- (3) 2021-22 donation of £300 to Village Hall paid in advance to help offset loss of income due to Covid

#### SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Fixed Assets	£35,209.44
Borrowings during year	Nil
Leases during year	Nil
Tenancies during year	Nil
Agency work during year	Nil
Advertising and Publicity during year	Nil
Debtors during year	Nil
Earmarked Reserves (potential tree surgery, held as short-term investment and included in closing balance)	£1,500.00
Capital Reserves	Nil
Pension contributions	Nil
Section 137 Payments during year	£ 2,189.00

£292.10 paid in VAT 2019-21 has been claimed but not yet received.

Chairman

Date

RFO

Date

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

<u>2019/20</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2020/21</u>
3,500.00	Precept	3,550.00
58.07	Building society Interest	70.31
34.74	VAT Refund	0.00.
<u>144.00</u>	Grants and other Receipts	<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>3,736.81</b>	Total Receipts	<b>4,620.31</b>
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
1,194.75	Salaries	1,253.00
0.00	Training	.00
420.27	Insurance	351.00
0.00	Administrative Costs & IT	49.69
0.00	Maintenance & Repairs	33.33
210.00	Special Items	1,275.84
133.50	Subscriptions	391.97
1,200.00	Donations	24.00
100.00	Audits	100.00
13.70	VAT Payments	278.40
0.00	Cost of Elections	0.00
300.00	Grants (Village Hall)	600.00
<b>3,572.22</b>	Total Payments	<b>4,357.23</b>
8820.47	Opening Balance	8,985.06
<u>3,736.81</u>	Receipts	<u>4,620.31</u>
12,557.28		13,605.37
<b><u>3,572.22</u></b>	Payments	<b><u>4,357.23</u></b>
<b>8,985.06</b>	Closing Balance	<b>9,248.14</b>

NOTES

All figures are in pounds.

All payments listed are net of VAT

## STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

## REGISTER OF FIXED ASSETS

	31/03/18	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/21
4 Bench Seats	£1,679.71	£1,679.71	£1,679.71	£1,679.71
Bus shelter	£650.64	£650.64	£650.64	£650.64
3 Notice Boards	£1,947.40	£1,947.40	£1,947.40	£1,947.40
War Memorial	£11,795.68	£11,795.68	£11,795.68	£11,795.68
Millennium Commemorative Plaque	£222.56	£222.56	£222.56	£222.56
Trafalgar Commemorative Plaque	£275.00	£275.00	£275.00	£275.00
Set of Double Swings	£938.45	£938.45	£938.45	£938.45
Safety Surface at Playground	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	£1,200.00
Fountain	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00	£16,000.00
Telephone Box		£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>£34,709.44</b>	<b>£35,209.44</b>	<b>£35,209.44</b>	<b>£35,209.44</b>

All assets restated at earliest available Insured Value, i.e. 2005, except Millennium Memorial Plaque (2006), Fountain (2014) and Telephone Box (2018)

E.N. Bradley,  
Clerk & RFO.  
April 2021

## VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the year show total income from activities of £17,676, an increase of £3,970 on last year. Expenditure for the year totalled £6,541 a decrease of £2,998. This gives a carry forward for the year of £11,135, an increase of £6,968. Income for the year was greatly reduced due to the closure but a small business grant for covid was obtained for £10,000 which has made a significant contribution to the running costs of the hall.

### Income breakdown

	2020	2019
Regular users	£4,864 (28%)	£7,219 (53%)
Single users	£1,576 (8.9%)	£3,797 (28%)
Car Parking	£342 (1.9%)	£411 (3%)
Fundraising	£584 (3.3%)	£1,970 (14%)
Other	£10,308 (58.3%)	£308 (2%)

### Expenditure breakdown

	2020	2019
Energy	£1,305 (20%)	£1,276 (13%)
Cleaning & waste	£1,362 (21%)	£1,715 (18%)
Gardening	£435 (6.6%)	£330 (3%)
Maintenance	£2,082 (32%)	£3,711 (39%)
Insurance	£872 (13%)	£878 (9%)
Fundraising costs	£0	£57 (1%)
Legal expenses	£0	£540 (6%)
Other	£487 (7.4%)	£1,032 (11%)

There has also been capital expenditure during the year with the purchase of the land behind the Hall, the initial groundwork for the Car Park and fencing. The spend to the end of this financial year was £5084 for the purchase of the land and £8767 for the groundworks and fencing. Grant monies of £10,962.40 has been received from Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council and Renishaw. Further expenditure on the tarmacing of the Car Park was spent in the new financial year to 30th September 2021.

**S.U.C. rep to Stinchcombe PCC Annual Assembly 2021**

Statement of Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

**STINCHCOMBE UNITED CHARITIES**

<b>Income</b>	<b>£2257</b>
Expenditure	£2123
	.....
<b>Excess income over expenditure</b>	<b>£ 134</b>

**The Matthew Tyndall Education Foundation**

<b>Income</b>	<b>£326</b>
Expenditure	£ 75
	.....
<b>Excess income over expenditure</b>	<b>£251</b>

K.C.JELFS

**Clerk to the Trustees**





## Progress Report May 2021

### 1. Background

The idea of a new speed watch group was first conceived in September 2020, following a meeting between two councillors and concerned parishioners. As of May 2021, Stinchcombe Speed Watch (SSW):

- is a properly constituted organisation run by a management committee
- has twenty-one members (including committee members)
- has held four general meetings on Zoom, each attended by a minimum of ten people
- plans its first AGM in September 2021

Our Committee comprises:

John Delafield	Chair
Kath Hudson	Secretary
Marion Twentyman	Treasurer
Ava Walker	Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator
Trudy Chinn	Committee Member
Don Cribb	Committee Member

### 2. Areas of Activity

In spite of limitations imposed by Covid-19 restrictions, SSW has been active on various fronts.

#### 2.1 Speed Monitoring

This is organised in cooperation with Road Safety and Traffic Management Officers at Gloucestershire Constabulary by our Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator. The objective is to raise awareness and educate motorists rather than to record as many speeders as possible. We can monitor only at police-approved locations of which we currently have three:

- The Gables driveway, Taits Hill Rd
- Badger's Bank driveway, Taits Hill Rd
- Village Hall, The Street

Speed monitoring was prohibited under the Covid-19 measures when we had only done a few practice sessions at relatively quiet times. We resumed early April and have completed a further ten sessions on Taits Hill Road. These were at times predicted to see the highest levels of speeding, based on an automated traffic count in 2019.

In order to have greater flexibility, we have purchased our own speed gun.

Whilst we have initially concentrated on Taits Hill Road, it is our intention to deploy a second monitoring team on The Street this summer.

#### 2.2 Securing Funding

SSW members developed, distributed and analysed the findings of a parish-wide survey that led to the Parish Council agreeing a £2,000 increase in the parish precept for traffic calming projects. The survey also provided essential evidence of community support that will be required in future applications to Gloucestershire Highways.

Our application for registration as a good cause with the Lucky Severn Lottery will be submitted as soon as our new bank account is fully operational. Any money raised will go towards costs associated with traffic calming projects, supplementing the money from the parish precept.

We are monitoring the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner website for the announcement of the next tranche of grant aid.

### ***2.3 Review of Traffic Calming Options***

A review of traffic calming options has been carried out and findings presented to the Parish Council. Our recommendation is for a mobile vehicle activated sign (VAS) to be cycled between locations on Taits Hill Rd and The Street. Mobile VAS are available from a range of suppliers in tripod or pole-mounted versions, using mains, battery or solar power. We have started looking at individual suppliers and models. A shortlist will be drawn up after the planned Best Practice meeting (see 2.4) unless Highways has one or more preferred suppliers.

We recommend that village gateways are installed as an additional traffic calming measure. If the Parish Council decides to use the CIL fund money for this purpose, we would be happy to start looking at the options in detail. The Best Practice meeting will enable us to draw on relevant experience in other parishes and get advice from Highways.

### ***2.4 Partnership Working***

SSW recognises the importance of working with organisations and key people that share our interest in road safety and tackling speeding. This has included:

- making contact with other parishes to learn from their experience
- keeping track of Police enforcement monitoring in Stinchcombe
- joining the AutoSpeedWatch user group on Facebook
- participating in the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Safe & Social Roads survey
- meeting with/contacting Police & Crime Commissioner candidates in the recent election
- working with Cllr Braun to organise a Best Practice meeting for representatives from local parishes, District Councillors involved with road safety, our new County Councillor and senior representatives of Gloucestershire Highways and the Police

We believe the planned Best Practice meeting will help us fine tune and expedite our VAS application.

### ***2.5 Application for Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign***

We already have much of the supporting evidence for our application for locations on Taits Hill Rd, based on the criteria set out in the VAS Guidance at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2157/vas-guidance-2017.pdf> .

We expect to submit the application soon after the Best Practice meeting has taken place.

There are five criteria for a mobile VAS site; the speed and community support criteria are compulsory and at least two of other three must also be met.

**Speed** – a speed survey showing non-compliance with the posted speed limit (e.g. a high mean speed compared with the posted limit or a significant difference between the mean and 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds)

Findings from our own speed surveys in April/May 2021 show that:

- at The Gables site up to 13.8% of vehicles are travelling at or above 36 mph\* with an average of 11.0% over six sessions
- at the Badger's Bank site up to 17.8% of vehicles are travelling at or above 36 mph with an average of 14.0% over four sessions

\* the rules governing Community Speed Watch state that we should record only vehicles doing at least the posted speed limit plus 10% plus 2 mph i.e. 36 mph in a 30 mph area.

We are obliged to wear Hi Vis clothing and remain in clear view of road users, which inevitably slows the traffic. In order to gain more realistic data on 'normal' speeds to support our application, we have commissioned a seven day continuous automated traffic survey by TSL near the Badger's Bank site. This will monitor vehicle numbers and speeds in both directions.

**Community Support** - evidence must be provided that there is community support for the VAS.

We will provide evidence from the parish-wide survey, Parish Council minutes, our Community Speed Watch activities and the Best Practice meeting.

**Collision Record** - proven record of collisions within approximately 500m in each direction of the site

We will use evidence from Crash Map UK and local knowledge of recent collisions.

**Traffic Flows** – more than 4000 vehicles per day (24hr 2-way)

We will use data from the TSL automated traffic count and our own manual traffic counts.

**Environmental Concerns** - environmental weighted score\* of at least 5 within 1km (500m in either direction along the road) of the proposed location.

\* The weightings are:

School/College/Nursery	3	
Nursing Home		2
Community facility(s) (local shop/church/village hall etc)	2	
Well used formal / informal crossing point(s)		2
Vulnerable users / insufficient footway		2
Significant number of 'damage only' accidents		2
Isolated / community severance	1	

We will focus on the informal crossing point and vulnerable users/insufficient footway categories. (It is estimated that roughly 1/3 of the houses in Taits Hill Rd are occupied by people over the age of 60, whereas only 18.5% of the UK population was over 60 in 2019.) In addition, we will make a case that Vale Vets should be regarded as a community facility.

## **2.6 Berkeley Rd (B4066) Speed Limit Survey**

The stretch of the B4066 between the A38 junction and just above the Clingre Lane junction is national speed limit. One resident living on this stretch has experienced six collisions at her property during her period of residence. Her son-in-law's letter about her experiences prompted the above survey, which closed on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

A separate report has been issued on the findings, recommending that that an application is made to Highways for the speed limit and other road safety factors to be reviewed. There was a very high response rate from residents living near the junction with the A38. A response was also received from Dursley Auto Dismantlers. Eight out of the nine respondents considered that the speed limit in that area should be reduced, with all but one suggesting 30 mph. The one respondent who was satisfied with the current speed limit, himself a former Police Traffic Officer and investigator of serious collisions, still considered that there was a problem with road safety. He recommended a larger number of Traffic Officers with a brief to enforce driving standards and improvements to the road drainage.

## **3. Future Programme**

The provisional programme below is based on our best estimate of what is achievable.

Automated traffic survey Taits Hill Rd	Late May 2021
Best Practice meeting	May/June 2021
Extend manual speed monitoring to The Street	June 2021 then ongoing
Short-listing of VAS suppliers/products and obtaining quotations	June/July 2021
Submit mobile VAS application to Highways for locations on Taits Hill Rd	July 2021
Detailed review of village gateway options	Summer 2021
Prepare and submit B4066 Speed Limit Review application (subject to Parish Council approval)	Summer 2021
Automated traffic survey The Street	late Summer 2021 (funds permitting)
VAS procurement and writing of procedures for data management and maintenance	Autumn 2021
Submit mobile VAS application to Highways for	Autumn 2021

locations on The Street	
Evaluate effectiveness of VAS	Autumn 2021 then ongoing
Specify first village gateway	Autumn 2021
Installation of first village gateway (if funded using CIL)	Winter 2021/2
Additional village gateways (subject to fundraising	2022/3

Kath Hudson (Secretary )

## Summary of Findings of Berkeley Rd (B4066) Speed Limit Survey



Accident at 2 Nubbis Ash in March 2018

### Residential survey (postal)

Responses received from 8 of the 9 houses near the junction with the A38.  
No response from the two houses included on Clingre Lane.

### Business survey (online)

Response received from Dursley Auto Dismantlers  
No response from Plastech or Taits Hill Industrial Estate.

### Do you think the speed limit should be reduced?

YES 8 of 9 responses residential and business combined (88.9%)  
NO 1 of 9 responses (11.1%)

### What speed limit do you think is appropriate?

30 mph 7 of 9 responses (77.8%)  
40 mph 1 of 9 responses (11.1%)  
60 mph 1 of 9 responses (11.1%)

### Perceptions of Safety (Residential Respondents)

Maintaining your roadside boundary and any driveway, hedges, fences and gates	Crossing the road outside your home
Walking somewhere directly from your home	Cycling somewhere directly from your home
Riding a horse or pony directly from your home	Entering or leaving your property in a motorised vehicle
Allowing children to play outside	Allowing pets outside

## Perceptions of Safety (Businesses)

Dursley Auto Dismantlers selected the **UNSAFE** rating when considering the safety of employees, customers and visitors when entering or leaving their premises whether by vehicle or by other means.

They explained their answer as follows:

*“Vehicles going too fast in both directions. At peak times we take our lives in our hands as vehicles (that) come off the A38 without having to stop at junction can be reaching speeds of 80 mph past our gates and coming down Taitshill some cars only just stop in time if vehicles are turning into our yard. We try to watch all our customers out, we regularly get beeped at, abused and occasionally had things thrown at us. We have had a couple of minor bumps outside but I’m sure it won’t be long before there is a serious accident as the road is far too fast now.”*

They also consider that employees are at risk when carrying out operations close to the B4066, including watching lorries in, watching customers out and trimming hedges.

## Impact on Quality of Life (Residential)

	Number of Respondents Mentioning
Concerns about safety of self/family members when arriving/leaving or doing tasks near the road	6
Excessive road noise	5
People not liking to visit	2
Dogs/other animals killed	2
Not being able to let children/pets out at front	1
Having to drive dogs to safe place for a walk	1
Not able to keep their horses on their own land	1
Having to mow grass verge very early or late when traffic lighter	1
Abuse from motorists	1

## Accidents Mentioned by Respondents

Brief details of accidents recalled by respondents are summarised below. Some have also commented on the frequency of near misses.

Date	Circumstances
About 6 months ago	Car skidded and left road a little further up towards Tait's Hill. It was night and the car ended up in the ditch and hedge.
Summer 2020	Car that had slowed down while visitors parked on our drive was hit by the car behind whose driver wasn't concentrating.
17/2/20	Car coming down from Tait's Hill demolished part of hedge and side gate and narrowly missed the gas box. Insurance claim for £1,200.
February 2020	Heavy rain causing traffic difficulties, slow moving car drove past hitting my arm. Driver failed to stop and was reported to police ... slight injury. Driver claimed she did not know it was a collision and that I was intimidating in appearance. Given an awareness course due to driving without due care.
February 2020	Person lost control and hit trees on side of road, spun, crossed road and hit far side of road.
2019	Two workers from scrapyards hit by lorry when walking home along the roadside verge. Serious injuries resulted. Police and ambulance attended.
April 2018	Roadworks with traffic light control outside of property. Person driving to work did not notice lights on red ... braked hard, skidded, hit my fence.
March 2018	Car travelling from Tait's Hill left road and ended up in garden, demolishing side gate and damaging part of hedge and lawn. Early morning, wet road. Insurance claim of £600 to replace gate, other

	<p>damage repaired by resident.</p> <p>Continued overleaf</p>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Circumstances</b>
2017	A motorcycle speeding down Taits Hill overtook stationary traffic and collided with my car. Happened on a dry, clear evening. Police and ambulance attended. Have also had multiple near misses when entering or leaving my property and dogs have been killed.
2012	Car left road and crashed into my gates, causing damage. It was speeding and couldn't stop in time when the car in front turned into the scrap yard. This happened on a dry afternoon.
Spring 2011	<p>Mid-morning in dry conditions I was pulling off my drive when a car came speeding down the hill. The driver panicked and braked hard, zig-zagging across the road. He narrowly missed us and ended up in the ditch. Air ambulance attended.</p> <p>Regular near misses when exiting my drive. Speed and dangerous overtaking are the main factors. Several near misses when cars travelling too fast to stop have overtaken my while I am indicating right to turn into my drive.</p>
2010	On a clear, dry evening my daughter was crashed into by a speeding driver approaching the A38. Her wrist was broken.
Unknown	Car left road, came through hedge, rolled over demolishing hedge between this and the adjoining property, continued rolling across their property and ended up on its roof in the next property after that. Four young people emerged unharmed. No insurance claim made, repairs made at own cost.
Unknown	Car came through hedge just before double gates and damaged Land Rover parked on the grass. Went to Small Claims Court for damages but no payment ever received.
Unknown	Motorbike travelling at speed struck moped waiting to turn right into the property, knocking the rider off. Insurance claim made.
Unknown	Car driven by a young girl came through the hedge at the top of the garden one night. Repairs to hedge made at own cost.
Unknown	My son lost his car when he had to swerve because of ongoing traffic going too fast during floods. We had many people in that night off the road and each one commented about the speed (being) too fast.
Unknown	Young lad ended up driving into our 'waste land' wall.
Unknown	Vehicle parked in the lay-by at Clingre Cottage written off when another vehicle crashed into it.
Unknown	<p>Have been hit (when in horse drawn carriage?) on the straight section between Taits Hill and the A38 junction.</p> <p>Also many near misses when turning right into my driveway in my car.</p>

### Other Relevant Information

#### *Resident suggesting an alternative approach*

The one respondent who considers that the current speed limit is appropriate suggests that rather than focusing on speed restriction and enforcement the following measures should be adopted:

- a) Having sufficient trained Traffic Officers and allowing them to pay particular attention to the

enforcement of driving standards i.e. attention, care and consideration to the road and conditions;  
and

- b) Improving the drainage, both above the housing where the ditch and culvert are often insufficient to contain the rainfall and near the culvert across the road where rainwater run-off controls could be improved.

He notes that he comments from knowledge and experience. Whilst in the Corps of Royal Engineers he learned and later instructed in road design and construction. Furthermore, he has been a Traffic Officer with the Police and ended up as a Senior Investigating Officer running a team investigating the most serious collisions.

### ***Delivery and Farm Vehicles***

Another respondent notes that the following types of vehicle movement complicate the situation:

- a) Several times a week car transporters call at Dursley Auto Dismantlers and staff have to halt the traffic while they are unloaded.
- b) Deliveries of building materials to Plastech sometimes hold up the traffic.
- c) Farm vehicles have an access point used for large machinery up to six times a day.

### **Conclusions**

Based on these findings, I consider that there is a strong case for the Parish Council to ask Highways for a review of the speed limit and other matters that affect the safety of this stretch of road.

One respondent says that they first approached the Parish Council about the speed and lack of footway around 10 years ago. I think it is high time we did more to support these residents.

Some of the comments received underline how strongly people feel about this issue:

*"We are so grateful that you are addressing this issue as it really does impact negatively on our quality of life and safety."*

*"Hoping very much that something can be done to make things better along this stretch of road."*

*"I have been worried constantly about pets and grandchildren."*

*"Anxious whenever pulling off the drive... Worry about children getting in car at side of road."*

Kath Hudson 14/5/21



## Suggestions from 'Other Projects' section of the Parish Precept Survey

Some of these aren't within our remit but they give an indication of what is on people's minds and we said they would be raised at the Annual Parish Assembly

### Traffic Calming

- narrowing at the entry to the village along the avenue
- traffic calming on Echo Lane

### Flooding (see also correspondence from John Dier)

- sort out problem of surface water running off Berkeley Rd into properties

### Public Footpaths (already being addressed!)

- footpath & stile maintenance
- funding of working party to improve/reinstate public footpaths
- reinstating 'lost' footpaths and upkeep to footpaths

### Other

- charging point for electric vehicles
- contribution to maintenance of the churchyard
- contribution towards cost of a village magazine
- lighting up the outside of the church e.g. over the Christmas period
- village pub

**Swedish Houses:** Trudy Chinn has asked how long it will be before the Swedish Houses can be occupied again. No.1 has apparently been empty for 4 years now.

**Flooding on Berkeley Rd:** John Dier has been in communication with Highways about this and is clearly frustrated with the lack of action. I have invited him to attend the Annual Parish Assembly. To date he has not replied or confirmed that he is willing to take on the role of Flood Warden.

These are the emails he has copied to me:

**11/4/21**

Dear Mr Dier

Thank you for your enquiry.

I can confirm I have requested that further ditching letters are sent to the land owners requesting that the ditches are cleared.

I have checked our system and I can also see that these gullies are due to be cleansed this year via our cyclical programme, I do not have a date for when these gullies are attended but I will escalate it as a priority.

I am going to update and close the enquiry but it can be reopened at anytime.

Kind Regards

Harriett

**Harriett Osburn**

**Local Highways Manager – Stroud North**

**13/5/21**

Dear Harriet,

Please be advised that yet again our drive has been flooded out. We are still not in Our house from the flooding of 23rd December 2020. Your cyclical analysis bears no resemblance to actual conditions and I was promised that a representative would visit and meet me on site of the current problems.

You as an agency have a duty of care for road users, residents and the the general public to ensure safe passage on public highways.

May I respectfully suggest that you dismount from your analysis cycle and get this issue fixed .Yours in anticipation,

John Dier

## **Ms Hemming's Report on Provision of Play Equipment**

I have met with two of the members of the rugby club committee who have held a site meeting with me at the existing playground area. We have come to an agreement on an expansion of the existing playground area to accommodate the new proposed works. I shall be working in close collaboration with them over the next year around the design of the facilities as the rugby club are also interested in potentially having a piece of fitness equipment for the benefit of some of the slightly older children participating at the rugby club.

The new area will accommodate a number of pieces of equipment - the design of which is yet to be agreed depending on what funds we can raise this year through fundraising and grants. We have a good understanding on what the locals from Stinchcombe want having had responses back from the questionnaire back in January.

I will be meeting with the working group shortly – the intention is to meet within the next month now that Covid restrictions have been lifted and I have now had my second child. At which point I aim to develop a roadmap with the working group which will set out the steps and actions that we will take over the next year in order to achieve this project. My intention and goal is that we will be in a position to build the new facilities by spring next year.

Having spoken to the Club there are some elements of the project that we need to discuss. Principally the liability for both the maintenance and safety of the playground which would come under the village councils responsibility. I have agreed as part of the project that the new playground area will be fenced off from the rest of the rugby club in order to give it a clear boundary and provide safety for children playing in the area. I will aim to provide you with a map ahead of your meeting to demonstrate the new designated area for the playground.

It would be good to address these requirements as soon as possible and get some feedback from the council on how you might be willing to support the initiative.