

## STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

#### **Present**

Mrs M Shaw (Parish Councillor)

Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)

Mr S. Packer (Chair)

Ms K. Hudson (Vice Chair)

Mrs N. Bradley (Clerk)

#### **In Attendance**

Mr & Mrs W. Farmer (prospective residents)

Mrs J. Jelffs (resident)

#### **1) Apologies**

Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor)

Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor)

Mr G. James (District Councillor)

Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)

Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)

#### **2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations**

There were no declarations.

#### **3) Presentation by Rev Fiona Crocker**

Rev Crocker explained that she was representing the PCC who wanted to bring the PC up to date with current plans for changes at the church..

The “Open to All” project aims to make the church as accessible as possible for those with disabilities. A new path, with handrail, will be installed across the verge and the current steps will be adapted to provide a flat surface to adjoin it. The path to the church door will be levelled to avoid the current step and the door in the porch will open outwards to ease access and St Cyr's will be the first church in Gloucestershire to have an internal hydraulic lift to avoid the final steps. A disabled toilet will be installed in the fr corner by the font along with a kitchen area. The PCC has recently heard that these plans have been approved by the diocese.

The project is likely to cost about £75,000, including contingency funds, and approximately £53,00 has been raised including approximately £20,000 from local fundraising. Decisions are expected in the next few weeks on two large grant applications which, if successful, could complete the funding.

Rev Crocker added that the church has recently been left a piece of land to form an extension to the churchyard. The area has been agreed and mapped and now needs to be fenced off. The actual use of the land has yet to be decided and this will be a long-term project once “Open to All” is complete.

#### **4) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 1<sup>st</sup> September**

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting was proposed by Ms Hudson, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. They were duly accepted and signed. (208/21)

## 5) Matters Arising From the Minutes

- Ms Hudson placed the Flood Warden job description on E-news this but there has been no interest so far. (209/21)
- Mr Packer has been assured by Mr Lawfull that the area at the entrance to Taits Hill Industrial Estate will be cleared in the next 4-6 weeks. He will continue to monitor the situation. Action Mr Packer. (210/21)
- A response has been received from Severn Trent regarding the complaints about Taits Hill Road (attached) though it is not satisfactory. The clerk will write to ask when exactly the main was last replaced. Action Clerk. (211/21)
- There is support for the idea of a beacon to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next year and Mrs Shaw will take the proposal to the next meeting of SHT. The idea of a Big Jubilee Lunch was also briefly discussed and will be revisited at a future meeting. Action Mrs Shaw. (212/21)

## 6) Reports by County and District Councillors

Ms Cohen's report is attached. (213/21)

The District Councillors' latest report is also attached. (214/21)

## 7) Planning Matters

New since last meeting

- S.21/2270/FUL, land adjacent to Lorridge Farm, temporary change of use (3 yrs) from Agricultural to football pitch. A comment in support of this project will be posted on the SDC website. Action Clerk. (215/21)
- S.21/2256/FUL, land adjacent to Lorridge Farm, erection of extension to agricultural building (216/21).
- S.21/2229/HHOLD, Treetops, Taits Hill Road, erection of two-storey extension. (217/21)
- S.21/2149/HHOLD, Lamport Court, replacement of existing painted metal driveway gates with timber gates; alterations to raise low level wall garden wall between lawned and drive by approximately 375mm. (218/21)
- S.21/2119/TCA, Hounds Green, The Avenue, leylandii – fell. Approved. (219/21)
- S.21/2421/TPO, The Elms, The Avenue, fell 2 large ash trees. (220/21)
- S.21/2301/FUL, land At Hill House, Wick Lane, Erection of two dwelling houses. (221/21)

Decided since last meeting

- S.21/1563/HHOLD, Overdale House, Taits Hill, erection of garden room, retaining wall, extension and extension to driveway and patio. Installation of outdoor stores. Permission. The request to have this application called in was refused. There are still some concerns about the height of the fences being erected. (222/21)
- No: S.21/1977/TCA, Lamport Court, mature tri-colour Beech - reduction and reshaping of up to 3m taken off overall crown height and diameter. Approved. (223/21)

Still Undecided

- S.21/2037/HHOLD, Tumbling Fields, Echo Lane, Proposed front & side extensions, re-cladding and swimming pool. This appears to be a retrospective application as the work has already been carried out. (224/21)
- S.21/2024/T5DAY, Melbury, Wick Lane, maple tree - remove upper branches & leave lower branches. (225/21)
- S.21/1819/AGR, land at Stinchcombe, agricultural storage building. (226/21)

Mr and Mrs Farmer explained that they have submitted a planning application for the demolition of some agricultural barns and erection of a house on the site of one of them at Southend Farm, Mrs Farmer's family home. They will be happy to attend the next PC meeting to explain their plans in more detail. (227/21)

## **8) Footpaths and Rights of Way**

Mr Packer has been in touch with Mr Kendall about the footpaths on his land will continue to liaise with him. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (228/21)

There has been little progress regarding the footpaths at Piers Court. Mr Packer has been in touch with Ms Lawton but no meetings have been arranged and he is now waiting to hear from her. (229/21)

Plans for the Heritage Walk are continuing and the launch date is still planned for 12<sup>th</sup> November. 12<sup>th</sup> November. (230/21)

Sarah Macaulay-Lowe has been in touch with Mr Packer regarding complaints about electrified fences on manor cottage land. He has referred the matter to Ms Hutchings' executors. (231/21)

## **9) Highways**

A site visit to Old Hill Lane/Clingre Down will take place later in October by which time Highways should have established ownership of the land the wall is on. [Action Ms Shaw.](#) (232/21)

Cllr Cohen will take the opportunity of the above site visit to meet with Mr Kirkham at the War Memorial consider the flooding problem there. [Action Cllr Cohen and Mr Kirkham.](#) (233/21)

Ms Hudson reported that evidence in support of the erection of a mobile VAS at various locations has been sent to Paul Helbrow for a final decision. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (234/21)

Several residents have expressed willingness to contribute to the costs of village gateways and Ms Hudson will look into possible signage and carry out some community consultation before a final decision is made. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (235/21)

Before any change to the speed limit at Berkeley road can be progressed, an automated traffic count is needed. This can be carried out by Highways at a cost of £185 with a second one which can be carried out on The Street if necessary for £103. Mr Packer proposed and Mrs Davidson seconded going ahead with this which was carried unanimously. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (236/21)

There have been some complaints about the dummy positioned on the roadside at Forge Cottage which is locking the footway. The clerk will write and ask for it to be removed. [Action Clerk.](#) (237/21)

## **10) Facilities**

Mr Packer will forward details of the flagpole to the Clerk who will make the purchase. Mrs Shaw has had no reply from Mr Longstreth about its fitting but will get in touch again [Action Mr Packer, Clerk and Mrs Shaw.](#) (238/21)

Mrs Davidson proposed and Mrs Shaw seconded purchase of a recycled noticeboard for Old Hill Lane. Ms Hudson will check sizes and forward details to the clerk to make the purchase. [Action Ms Hudson and Clerk](#) (239/21)

The PC has not been informed of any further progress on plans for an improved playground. (240/21)

## **11) Environment**

A cultivation licence costing £85 is needed to carry out the planned wildflower planting on The Avenue verges. Ms Hudson proposed and Mr Packer seconded its purchase which was carried unanimously. [Action Ms Hudson and Clerk](#) (241/21)

Mr Pinch and Mr Hemming have kindly offered to build a planter to sit under the village sign on the Avenue in lieu of a gateway and Leaf and Ground have offered to provide plants. The council is very

grateful to them all for their input. (242/21)

The Clerk will register the Council's interest in having two Jubilee Memorial oak trees. [Action Clerk.](#) (243/21)

## **12) Financial Matters**

The Statement of Payments and Receipts was signed by the Chair and Ms Hudson. (242/21)

Authorisation of payment of the Clerk's salary was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. (243/21)

## **13) Councillors' Reports**

Ms Hudson attended the Police and Crime commissioner's recent Engagement Event where the idea was put forward to have a Police volunteer in every parish. It was felt that this would be very useful but should not be publicised until receipt of promotional material that Ms Hudson has requested.

[Action Ms Hudson](#) (244/21)

## **14) Data Protection**

There were no Data Protection issues.

## **15) Items for Website**

Mr Packer will circulate a draft of suggestions for better use of the website for comment and further discussion. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (245/21)

## **16) Post- Covid 19 Agenda Items**

- Parish/Neighbourhood Plan. This should be a priority in the New Year. It would be useful if everyone could read Cam's Neighbourhood Plan before then as a starting point. [Action All](#) (246/21)
- Meeting re cyber crime
- Post-Covid celebration.

## **16) Dates of Next Meeting**

Mr Packer will look into a more efficient method of keeping everyone informed of meeting dates and will liaise with the Clerk. [Action Mr Packer and Clerk.](#) (247/21)

The next meetings will be:-

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30pm

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF 13TH OCTOBER 2021  
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Building society balance on 1<sup>st</sup> September £12,606.45

Receipts since 1<sup>st</sup> September

Severn Trent payment £ 40.00

Payments since 1<sup>st</sup> September

Clerk's salary, May/June/July £ 333.00

Ms Chinn (wildflower seeds) £ 25.00

Building society balance on 1<sup>st</sup> September £12,288.45

Authorisation is sought for

Clerk's salary, May/June/July £ 333.00

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley  
Clerk & RFO  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

S.Packer  
Chairman

K.Hudson  
Vice Chairman

20 September 2021

Mrs E N Bradley  
Stinchcombe Parish Council  
Hill House  
Wick Lane  
Stinchcombe  
Dursley  
GL11 6BE

Severn Trent Water  
Customer Care  
PO Box 407  
Darlington  
DL1 9WD

0800 783 4444

Our reference: COM-53771

Dear Mrs Bradley

**Re: Concerns regarding frequent leaks on Taits Hill Road, Stinchcombe GL11 6PR**

Thank you for your letter dated 28 June 2021 and subsequent contact chasing up a response to your above concerns. Firstly, I would like to sincerely apologise for the time it has taken us to provide you with a response.

We've received the below update from our Asset Optimisation team.

The lower part of the hill (closest to the A38 and separate system) is known as Taits Hill and is with our design team for a mains renewal scheme.

The renewal has been promoted to design and build between April 2022 – March 2023 - we should have an update on the programme of works by the end of next week.

The upper part of the hill at Stinchcombe is known as Taits Hill Road and is not part of this scheme as the main has already been renewed. This means we will only repair leaks on this section of the main when reported.

**Failure to respond within 10 working days**

I'm also sorry to hear that we did not respond to your complaint, first reported to us on 28 June 2021. Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused you at the time.

A GSS payment to the value of £40 has been credited to your bank account from which you pay your Severn Trent Water services charges.

This payment has been made under the Guaranteed Standards Scheme, in recognition of our service failure to respond and subsequent delay in making the payment to you.

If there is anything more I can help you with please do not hesitate to contact me on 0800 032 0142. If I'm not in the office one of my colleagues will be happy to help.

Yours sincerely



Margaret McCullagh  
Service recovery team

Your case has been reviewed at stage 1. Details can be found in the attached leaflet

County Councillor Report – Councillor Linda Cohen

Stinchcombe Parish Council

October 12th 2021

- My next monthly meeting to allow residents to meet and discuss concerns and new



initiatives will be at The Keepers on Symn Lane in Wotton on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 11.00am. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Parish Council website.

- Oldhill Lane/Clingre Down Junction – Paul Helbrow will be visiting the site with residents on the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> October we are just confirming times with all parties (this will also allow for a visit to the War Memorial, item below). I would mention that Paul has independently also looked at the wall and is certain that it belongs to the property and is not on Highways land so we may need to discuss preventative measures.
- War Memorial – This has been added to my list of site visits for Paul Helbrow.
- Piers Court – At the last meeting Simon had confirmed that he would meet with Helen Lawton and that the Parish Council would write to her. I also spoke to Helen Lawton and requested that she submit her proposals. She is not happy to do that until has met with Simon.
- Playground Improvements – I am yet to receive any requests from residents for The Community Recovery Fund to provide funding.
- Open call for land – Gloucestershire County Council is looking for land in the county to help to plant one million trees by 2030. Landowners who can help should email the climate change team at [glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:glosclimate@gloucestershire.gov.uk)
- Survey of Gloucestershire residents view on Fire and Rescue Service – Consultation has begun on the Fire and Rescue Service’s Community Risk Management Plan which takes place over an eight- week period ending on 26 November 2021. The survey can be found here: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glos-fire-crpm/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glos-fire-crpm/)
- National Carers Survey – This year’s survey of adult carers in England (SACE) will inform local and national work to find out what support carers need. All councils are gathering local responses. A sample of 1,000 carers in Gloucestershire will be sent the survey from early October. The Carers Hub will be also holding a virtual feedback session on 12 November at 12pm to give carers who don’t receive the survey the opportunity to share their views.
- Advocacy Services – A survey is being conducted by Gloucestershire County Council. Views are being sought from anyone who uses or has experience of the service <https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/statutory-adults-advocacy-services>
- Employment and Skills Hub to support the county’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic – This free new service is available to all Gloucestershire residents and provides advice on early careers, apprenticeships, retraining and adult education from specialist coaches. <https://forms.gloucestershire.gov.uk/EmploymentandSkillsHub>
- COVID-19:

Testing: Our nearest Mobile Testing Unit location is:

Dursley Rugby Club, Hounds Green, Dursley GL11 6AJ (Monday-Tuesday)

Lloyds Pharmacy Wotton-under-Edge provides on site testing for people with no symptoms – 43 Long Street, GL12 7BX. Opening hours 9am-6.30pm (Monday – Friday), 9am-5pm (Saturday).

Cases

In the week Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September there were 1,447 confirmed cases of COVID 19.

Of these cases:

227 Gloucester  
284 Cheltenham  
182 Tewkesbury  
277 Stroud  
237 Cotswold  
240 Forest of Dean

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 219.6 in Gloucestershire.

In the week 11<sup>th</sup> September – 17<sup>th</sup> September, there were 2 deaths mentioning ‘novel coronavirus’ which is 1.9 % of all deaths.

My contact details [linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk) . Mobile 07791110906

# Stroud District Councillors' Report – October 2021

## Report of SDC matters during September

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

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/meetings>

### New Council Plan

The new **draft Council Plan** (previously known as the Corporate Delivery Plan) has been discussed at each of the Committees and is due to be approved at the Council meeting in October. Both Cllr Braun and Cllr Tucker have been greatly involved and are working with officers to produce a Plan with clear targets and one we can be proud of. The plan has 3 priorities, 16 objectives and 74 projects. Further performance monitoring targets are being developed to manage progress and delivery.

The plan can be viewed [here](#).

### Strategy & Resources Committee (Cllr Braun & Cllr Tucker) – 30 September

The Committee considered the budget monitoring report for Q1 and the **budget strategy** for the next financial year, setting out the assumptions that will be used when preparing the upcoming Medium Term Financial Plan.

There were updates from various **county level meetings** – including Leadership Gloucestershire, the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.

Information sheets were provided on **Brimscombe Port** and installation planned for October of **Water Source Heat Pumps** at Ebley Mill and Brimscombe Port Mill which will replace the previous gas boilers.

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

### Community Services & Licencing Committee. (Cllr Tucker) – 16 September

Members received an update on the **Committee's Budget Monitoring Report** for Q1 2021/22. Allowing for additional expenditure due to Covid, the spend was mainly in line with predictions.

Some changes to the current **Taxi Licencing Policy** were considered to adopt the Common Licensing Standards for Licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers in Gloucestershire, following public consultation. The document was developed by the Gloucestershire Licensing Officers Group (GLOG) with the aim of aligning local policies on matters included in the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards issued by Department for Transport in 2020. The Statutory Standards focus on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. Both this and an **amendment to change the current vehicle age policy** to exempt electric vehicles from the age requirements

were agreed.

Similarly, Officers presented Members with a review on SDC's current **Statement of Principals under the Gaming Act 2005**, which is an annual requirement and considered recent updates to the Act. This proposal was also unanimously agreed.

One of the largest topics of work currently being undertaken is the District Council's **Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy for 2021-2041**. Officers presented a draft strategy which provides the rationale and recommendations to enable the delivery of exemplary leisure and wellbeing provision in the district over the next 20 years. Detailed options will now be prepared and presented to the Committee in December.

This Strategy also addresses a unique and exciting opportunity for the district, across sectors and in partnership with allied health professionals and educationists, to establish a dynamic network of services and facilities which are cutting edge and accessible to all.

Officers presented a report which highlighted initial learning from local context and the new '**Feeding Gloucestershire Partnership**'. It recommended that Stroud District Council set up a new Food Justice Task and Finish Group to engage with the partnership and embed learning from their work into relevant council action plans. This was unanimously passed with enthusiasm.

A number of update reports were received from Members who sit on a range of 'external bodies'. The future Work Programme to May 2022 was reviewed and updated. All committee papers can be found [here](#).

### **Environment Committee – 9 September (Cllr James)**

The draft **Gloucestershire Statement of Common Ground**, the long-term spatial planning agreement between county, the districts and GFirst LEP, was debated and approved. The committee discussed how the statement would be used, what it covered and didn't cover and its relationship to the District's Local Plan. Any major changes before finalisation will come back to the committee.

The Stroud District **Cycling & Walking Strategy Task & Finish Group** was established, to drive delivery on the Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plans (LCWIPs) for the district, and to help realise the council's wider Active Travel ambitions. This will be chaired by Cllr Robin Layfield (Labour), with Cllr Martin Brown (Green) as Vice Chair. External members include GCC officers, Stroud Active, and the Stroud Valleys Cycling Campaign. It was noted that equalities/inclusion issues should be added to the groups Terms of Reference.

It was agreed that a Terms of Reference to re-establish the **Planning Review Panel** would be put to the next committee meeting.

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

### **Housing Committee – 14 September**

The Committee looked at the quarterly budget monitoring and performance monitoring reports, the District Council's response to the **Social Housing White Paper** and received an update on actions plans for cleaner estates and for service standards.

The main item for decision was on the options for **decarbonisation and energy efficiency** of council homes in the District.

Following consideration of all the options, the Committee voted to support the recommendation, which will require investment of £180 m over the next 30 years to insulate council homes. This is part of the Council's ongoing commitment to address the climate emergency and will mean a reduction in emissions of up to 24.5%, with council tenants saving up to 11 % on fuel bills. It includes decarbonisation and retrofit programme for the council's 5,000 properties. This new investment, which requires some borrowing, will mean on average council homes will meet SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) C ratings by 2030.

Committee papers can be found [here](#)

## **Audit & Standards Committee – 28 September**

The Committee received a **Counter-fraud update** with assurance over the counter fraud activities of the Council in relation to the work undertaken by the Counter Fraud Unit (CFU). The CFU is a specialist criminal enforcement service working with the Gloucestershire Local Authorities, West Oxfordshire District Council and a number of other public sector bodies such as social housing providers.

A number of councillors asked about probity on **Covid Grants** and it was confirmed a report will come to the next meeting.

There was discussion on the **2020/21 External Audit** – and it was noted that we were waiting on pension data to finalise the accounts

In the **Statement of accounts**, only minor mainly timing restatements were made to the draft unqualified accounts reviewed in July and were approved pending final adjustments

The **Treasury Management Report** showed investments had returned 2.7% in quarter and questions were asked about when detail of the ethical fund split will be provided.

**Internal Audit Progress Report** reported on progress in relation to the approved plan for 2021/22. This will come back to the next meeting.

The **Risk Management summary** was briefly discussed as had been received late, it was noted that risk assessment had been improved, but that better reporting is needed.

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

## **Brimscombe Port**

All remaining occupying tenants have handed in their keys and vacated the site. SDC and members have supported them to move.

Grace Network, which runs a number of social enterprises including The Long Table, have been fortunate to find alternative accommodation across the road at Brimscombe Mill, which is separate to the SDC development site. SDC planners are working closely with them on issues related to their new operations site. The proposals for the site can be seen at the following link: A short video setting out the vision for this £40 m development is now on the SDC website:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/brimscombe-port/brimscombe-port-our-vision>

Ecological and asbestos survey work is planned shortly, prior to demolition of the buildings on site. A process is now underway to appoint a developer partner to work with the council to deliver the

project. The basin and road infrastructure can be started from 2022. Once this is completed, 150+ homes (30 % affordable) will be built adjacent, with planning expected in 2023 and the project completed by the end of 2025. This will include a number of quayside businesses, such as a boat chandler, restaurant and a community centre. The port itself will be 'land locked' for a period, until the Brimscombe to Stroud stretch of the canal is restored. Until then, provision will be made to accommodate the 'narrow' and similar boats in the port basin, by craning them in.

## Canal project - Ocean Bridge, Stonehouse

The next big project on the Stroudwater Canal is to replace the existing Bristol to Gloucester Railway Bridge at Stonehouse. This will now take place from the 24 December to the 31 December. The existing bridge will be removed, foundation prepared, and the new bridge lifted into place during this tight schedule. The cost will be £1.8m and it is part funded by the Heritage Lottery.

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news-archive/find-out-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-ocean-railway-bridge-in-stonehouse-at-this-event>

This build is part of Phase 1B, which will connect the completed Phase 1 to Saul Junction on the Sharpness Canal, about 4 miles in length. The significant infrastructure works during 2019-21 at the Fromebridge Roundabout, have provided a method of traversing under the A38, but exposed through the roundabout. It is well worth a visit to admire this £4m work of art, which was paid for by Highways England. Work on Phase 1B is expected to commence in 2022.

## Planning

District Councillors continue to liaise and work with Wotton Town and North Nibley/Stinchcombe

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