

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)  
Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor)  
Ms T. Chinn (Resident)  
Mr R. Bartlam (Resident)  
Mr C. Oakhill (Resident)  
Mr S. Lane (Playground Group)

**1) Apologies**

Mr G. James (District Councillor)  
Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)  
Mrs N. Bradley (Clerk)

**2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations**

There were no declarations.

**3) Approval of Minutes of the annual General Meeting Held on 7<sup>th</sup> July**

Acceptance of the minutes of the AGM was proposed by Ms Hudson, seconded by Mr Kirkham and carried unanimously. They will be signed at the next meeting. (167/21)

**4) Matters Arising From the Minutes**

- Ms Hudson will place a shorter version of the Flood Warden job description on E-news this week. Full details will be provided to anyone that expresses an interest. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (168/21)
- There have been further complaints from residents regarding the activity at the industrial estate entrance. Mr Lawfull has gone out of business and Mr Packer will tell him that he now will tell him he has a further four weeks to clear the area or the PC will have to report the matter to the appropriate authorities. It was also noted that green waste mixed with identifiable personal information has been tipped on the triangle [Action Mr Packer.](#) (169/21)
- There has still been no response from Severn Trent regarding the complaints about Tait's Hill Road. This is ongoing. [Action Clerk.](#) (170/21)

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

Ms Cohen's report is attached. (171/21)

The District Councillors' latest report is also attached. (172/21)

**6) Planning Matters**

New since last meeting

- S.21/2037/HHOLD, Tumbling Fields, Echo Lane, Proposed front & side extensions, re-cladding and swimming pool. (173/21)
- S.21/2024/T5DAY, Melbury, Wick Lane, maple tree - remove upper branches & leave lower

branches (174/21)

- 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. (175/21)
- S.21/1866/AFPA , land at Stinchcombe, agricultural storage building. Withdrawn. (17621)
- S.21/1819/AGR, land at Stinchcombe, agricultural storage building.(177/21)

Decided since last meeting

- S.21/1598/P3Q, Barn At Taits Hill, conversion of existing agricultural building into two residential dwellings. Resubmission of S.20/1286/P3Q . Withdrawn (178/21)

Still Undecided

- 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. Mrs Shaw will forward the email she received from Planning regarding this application to Cllr tucker who will follow it up with the Planning Manager. [Action Mrs Shaw and Cllr Tucker](#) (179/21)
- 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. Split decision for Consent and Refusal. (180/21)

Plans for the Swedish Houses were discussed. Ms Chinn asked about rumours that they are to be demolished and said that two other residents would have attended if they had not recently been in contact with Covid-19. Cllr Tucker confirmed that the SDC Asset Manager is looking at opportunities, however, he is not party to any decisions as yet. He said that although a planning application for refurbishment has been passed there was a limit on what SDC could spend on refurbishment. Cllr Tucker said that the PC would be consulted about any proposals before they were announced on any website. The PC undertook to inform residents via E-news as soon as it heard anything official. [Action Clerk.](#) (181/21)

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

Mrs Beggs has told Ms Hudson that she does not need the PC to get in touch with Mr Weston about the bridle path being overgrown at the moment. It was made clear that the Council is prepared to do so if she requested it in the future. (182/21)

Mr Packer will continue to liaise with Mr Kendall about the footpaths on his land.. [Action Mr Packer.](#) (183/21)

There was discussion as to whether the PC should respond to the solicitor's letter received regarding the footpaths at Piers Court. Ms Hudson stated that the History society has already drafted their reply and had it checked over by a solicitor. Ms Hudson will forward the History Society's letter to Mr Packer who will draft a PC response for further discussion. [Action Mr Packer and Ms Hudson.](#) (184/21)

Cllr Cohen reported that she had spent three hours discussing footpath issues with Ms Lawton and offered to take a mediation role, a suggestion strongly supported by Cllr Tucker. Mr Packer observed that Ms Lawton has not reported back on the feasibility study on diverting the footpath away from the driveway that she agreed to commission at the meeting attended by Mr Packer, Ms Hudson and Sarah Macaulay-Lowe from PRoW. Cllr Cohen will follow up with Ms Lawton asking if the feasibility study report can be made available two weeks in advance of the next PC meeting. She will also suggest to Ms Lawton a private meeting with PC representation rather than Ms Lawton's attendance at next PC meeting being requested. [Action Cllr Cohen.](#) (185/21)

Ms Hudson noted that the Heritage Walk launch day has been extended to 12<sup>th</sup> November. (186/21)

## **8) Highways**

The problem of the Old Hill Lane/Clingre Down junction was also discussed. There have been several accidents now and Cllr Cohen is regularly receiving phone calls about it. Highways will be able to take action as soon as they have established ownership, probably this week. (187/21)

Cllr Cohen and Mr Kirkham are still to arrange a meeting about flooding in the War Memorial area. [Action Cllr Cohen and Mr Kirkham.](#) (188/21)

Ms Hudson reported that the Speed Watch good practice meeting went well and has enabled SSW to move forward on various fronts. Ms Hudson has a site visit with Paul Helbrow on 16<sup>th</sup> September to look at possible locations for the VAS and village gateways. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (189/21)

Ms Hudson has made contact with the MD of the firm in Quedgeley (Roehling Plastics) that made the village gateways recently installed around Slimbridge. They have given a budget price of £1,100 for one gateway (i.e. pair of gates plus sign). This is about half the price of the market leader, Glasdon. Highways installed Slimbridge's gateways free. Ms Hudson will circulate the email from Roehling Plastics. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (190/21)

Cllr Tucker offered to participate in roadside monitoring and noted the availability of a speed watch app for discrete monitoring of speeds. Ms Hudson Action KH to email Cllr Tucker with possible dates. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (190/21)

Use of the CIL payment towards the cost of the village gates was proposed by Mrs Davidson , seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. Mr Packer said he was prepared to sponsor a gateway and mentioned the name of another resident he thought would be prepared to sponsor another. (191/21)

Ms Hudson confirmed that one section of footway The Street would be difficult for anyone pushing a pram, due to mainly garden plants growing in the pavement. No action was decided upon. (192/21)

## **9) Facilities**

The litter bin has arrived and is being stored by the Clerk until it can be fitted.(193/21)

Mr Packer has selected a suitable flagpole. Mrs Shaw will speak to Shane Longstreth about installing it and the bin. If Mr Longstreth is not prepared to undertake the work, a work party will be formed by Mr Packer and Mr Kirkham. [Action Mr Packer and Mrs Shaw.](#) (194/21)

No decision was reached on what material to use for the new notice board at Old Hill Lane. Ms Hudson will circulate a link for recycled plastic notice boards which would minimise future maintenance and Mrs Shaw will ask VHC about maintenance on their noticeboard. [Action Ms Hudson and Mrs Shaw.](#) (195/21)

Steve Lane, representing the Playground Group, said that they were still weighing up the pros and cons of the DRC and Church Field sites. At its last meeting the Group discussed a "loose" constitution. He sought confirmation that the PC would take responsibility for maintenance once the play equipment was installed. It is likely it could be funded from the precept but members would like more detail on the proposed design and equipment to understand what commitment is being taken on. Mr Lane asked about the bin on the DRC site and was advised that it belonged to DRC not the PC. In response to a further question, the PC confirmed that it was prepared to decommission the existing swings and transfer the insurance to the new equipment. (196/21)

Ms Hudson requested that the PC be sent a copy of John Pinch's drawing, as promised when she and the Clerk met Ms Hemming on 19<sup>th</sup> August. (197/21)

Cllr Cohen recommended a funding application under the Community Recovery Fund (detailed in her report). The Group will invite her to their next meeting so that this can be explored. (198/21)

Ms Hudson will send Ms Hemming's email address to Mrs Shaw, who wishes to forward photographs of a playground in Essex. [Action Ms Hudson and Mrs Shaw.](#) (199/21)

Cllr Tucker recommended that Playground Group should get in touch with North Nibley who are extending their facilities. (200/21)

## **10) Environment**

Ms Hudson and Ms Chinn outlined three areas proposed for planting:

- Wick Lane small area in front of churchyard wall – scarify then yellow rattle and poppy seed + ox-eye daisy seedlings.
- Clingre end of Old Hill Lane – white campion
- The Avenue – foxgloves and ox-eye daisies between the trees this autumn, followed by a couple of other shade-tolerant plants next year.

The objective is progressive establishment of self-sustaining areas of perennial native wildflowers rather the short-lived burst of colour obtained using commercial seed mixes. Members were supportive of these proposals. Ms Hudson proposed that Ms Chinn be recompensed for costs of planting medium and sand (approx. £20). This was seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. Ms Hudson will now put an article on E-news which will also give residents a chance to comment/ask questions. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (201/21)

Ms Hudson has carried out the walk around part of the Village Hall energy survey with Dave Clare in July. She has sent Mr Clare the report and recommendations as to what should be included in a desk study to complete the exercise. (201/21)

## **11) Financial Matters**

In the absence of the building society book, the Statement of Receipts and Payments will be signed at the next meeting. (202/21)

## **12) Councillors' Reports**

Mr Kirkham reported that the guard fence on the Millennium Tree has been damaged by cattle. He will ask Mr Mac Donald to pick up the broken pieces and whether he thinks a replacement is necessary. [Action Mr Kirkham.](#) (203/21)

## **13) Data Protection**

There were no Data Protection issues.

## **14) Items for Website**

Ms Hudson will post items on Enews about wildflowers and the Flood Warden vacancy. [Action Ms Hudson.](#) (204/21)

Mr Bartlam requested that the PC make better use of the website. The idea of a villager-friendly version of the minutes/highlights of the meetings was discussed. (205/21)

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

- Parish Plan  
- Meeting re cyber crime  
- Post-Covid celebration. There is a rumour that DRC plan a 5<sup>th</sup> November bonfire of the piles of debris on their land. Members and residents expressed concern that these are more earth than flammable materials and that rabbits, foxes and possibly hedgehogs have moved in. The Clerk will request that the piles are moved and reassembled not burnt in situ. [Action Clerk.](#) (206/21)

Mrs Shaw suggested a beacon on the village green to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee (4 day Bank Holiday weekend 2-5<sup>th</sup> June 2022). The Clerk will look into registering us and Ms Hudson will ask whether Stinchcombe Hill Conservation Group can accumulate suitable wood as fuel. [Action Clerk](#)

and Ms Hudson.

**16) Dates of Next Meeting**

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm

Stinchcombe Parish Council

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

1. 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 11<sup>th</sup> September at 11.00am. It would be useful if this information could also be shared on the Parish Council website.
2. Highways Local - I mentioned in my last report that a small amount has been ringfenced for use in Stinchcombe. We need to agree how this should be used.
3. Oldhill Lane/Clingre Down Junction – There have been further incidents and vehicle damage at this junction. I am trying to establish who is responsible for the land on which the offending wall / pile of stones sits. I expect this to be resolved in the next week following which I will either ask for the wall to be removed or we will need to make a further approach to the property owner.
4. War Memorial – This has been added to my list of site visits for Paul Helbrow. I will confirm the proposed date with Mr Kirkham.
5. Piers Court – I was asked by Helen Lawton to meet with her and discuss the issues surrounding the use of footpaths in Piers Court and will give my report of our extensive discussion at the Parish Council meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup>.
6. Playground Improvements – I have been approached by a number of parents to support this project and have indicated that I am happy to provide help. The Community Recovery Fund may provide an opportunity to secure some funding.
7. Community Recovery Fund - Gloucestershire County Council has launched a new £2 million fund to help communities to recover and rebuild from the impacts of Covid-19.

The fund provides a total of £40,000 for each of the county's 53 electoral divisions to allow each county councillor to support bids in their area and ensure the benefits of the investment are shared across Gloucestershire.

The fund is open to (but not exclusively) community groups and voluntary organisations, parish councils and sports groups.

Anyone who would like to find out more can email me on [linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk) or ring me 07791 110906

8. Foster Carers – The County Council is announcing a new fast track fostering assessment for people who have experience caring for children and are interested in becoming foster carers. This is in response to the increase in the number of children coming in to care in Gloucestershire and the sharp decline in the number of people applying to be foster carers since the easing of Covid 19 restrictions.

To find out more [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering) or call 01242 532654

9. Afghan Local Staff Resettlement Scheme:

- Working through a countywide partnership, all seven local authorities in Gloucestershire have agreed an ambition to resettle up to 35 families in the county through the scheme to evacuate former employees of the British mission in Afghanistan.
- The Gloucestershire Housing Partnership continues to appeal to private-sector landlords who have good quality properties to rent to come forward. They are particularly in need of larger (4 or 5-bed) properties. Participation in the scheme brings a number of benefits for landlords. If you are interested, please contact the team at [Gorib.Hossain@gloucester.gov.uk](mailto:Gorib.Hossain@gloucester.gov.uk)

## 10. 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 16th August – Sunday 22nd August there were 2,308 cases of COVID 19.

Of these cases:

- 492 Gloucester
- 480 Cheltenham
- 302 Tewkesbury
- 480 Stroud
- 283 Cotswold
- 271 Forest of Dean

The rate of cases in the last 7 days per 100,000 is 364.0 in Gloucestershire.

In the week 7<sup>th</sup> August – 13<sup>th</sup> August, there was 1 death mentioning ‘novel coronavirus’ which is 1.1 % of all deaths.

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



# Stroud District Councillors' Report – August 2021

## Report of meetings during July

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

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

### Audit & Standards Committee – 13 July 2021

The Committee considered numerous issues including:

- The Information Governance Framework
- The Annual Report on Internal Audit Activity 2020/21 (substantial assurance given for the council's system of controls, governance and risk management arrangements)
  - Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts 2020/21 – noted and approved.
  - External Audit Plan
  - Treasury Management

The **audit of the SDC Planning Enforcement Service** was also discussed. At a previous meeting of the Committee, members requested Audit Risk Assurance to undertake an objective and independent review of the SDC Planning Enforcement Service due to concerns about its operation. This audit is due to commence in July with a report to the November meeting of the Committee. The Head of Internal Audit agreed to amend the wording on the scope of the audit so that there is specific reference to communication with Parish Councils. The draft Terms of Reference for the audit can be found [here](#).

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

### Strategy & Resources Committee – 22 July 2021

The committee discussed a Procurement Update Report and the following issues:

- **Parliamentary Boundary Review 2023**

A response from SDC to the consultation on the Review of Parliamentary Constituencies, was agreed, which stated that “Stroud District Council is largely in support of the proposals, and we are pleased that the initial proposals do not recommend the local authority area to be split between three different constituencies as recommended in the previous review. We also welcome the fact that this new proposal no longer contains any element of joining with constituencies outside the County Boundary of Gloucestershire.” Concern was noted about the proposal to transfer the wards of Hardwicke, Painswick and Upton, Bisley and Chalford to The Cotswolds constituency which does not reflect local ties or geographical factors such as shape and accessibility. The response noted that the wards of Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood are closer geographically to Stroud than Cirencester and were historically in the Stroud Constituency, and that there will be strong affiliation with the Stroud constituency. The Council did not suggest alternative arrangements due to the impacts of making changes on other constituency boundaries, so that the key criteria stipulated (such as electorate range) can be met.

- **Finance reports** – the main agenda item considered the financial reports for 2020/21 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account and the final outturn position. The committee agreed transfers of General Fund underspend to earmarked reserves (paragraph 8 of the report) to cover future costs and fund priority works as follows:



- Business Rates Pool gain of £386k – to be ringfenced for economic development work to be set out in the Economic Development Strategy (currently in development).
  - Revenues recovery funding £150k – to be allocated to the Revenues & Benefits team to provide support for business grants and test and trace support payments to local businesses and individuals
  - Repairs and Maintenance Reserve - £50k – towards funding of the eventual replacement of the Community Services vehicles in line with agreed policy.
  - Climate Change Reserve - £150k to be set aside towards the potential upgrade to electric road sweepers to be used by Ubico in the district.
  - Recovery Reserve - A final balance of £50k is transferred to provide initial resource for projects emerging from the new Corporate Delivery Plan (in development).
- **A Leadership Gloucestershire** meeting report provided updates on the following:

### **Western Gateway Board**

Current projects are being mapped, including a digital accelerator programme, under 4 broad headings: Innovation, Connectivity, Global gateway and Net Zero.

The bid for a fusion power plant at Berkeley and Oldbury has made it into the next Government round alongside 14 or 15 other sites nationwide, 6 or 7 of which were in Scotland and 8 were in England and Wales. This is expected to be shortlisted to 5 sites in due course

### **One Gloucestershire – Integrated Care System**

Govt reform to the NHS is proposed in a Bill going through parliament. The new Integrated Care System pattern is expected to be in place by April 2022. Clinical Commissioning Groups will be closed down, with the ICS becoming a statutory body with commissioning functions.

**City of Culture** – Stroud District Council (along with other local authorities in the county) had agreed to support a bid by Gloucester City Council for the UK City of Culture – as the rules had been widened to allow groups of towns and cities to apply. However, Gloucester City Council subsequently decided not to submit a bid given the time and capacity required.

- A report from the **Regeneration and Investment Board** (a committee subgroup) provided updates:

**Draft Economic Development Strategy** – consultation on the draft will take place with stakeholders during the summer and early autumn

**Regeneration Pipeline and Brownfield Sites** – a pipeline of regeneration schemes and priority brownfield sites was approved as a living and evolving approach to prioritising investment. The pipeline will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

**Levelling Up Fund** – Members approved the establishment of a task force to review options and develop a bid in round 2 of the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). SDC can bid for up to £20 million. The initial focus will be on Stroud Town Centre, its connections and potential to drive prosperity locally and across a wider area. Any bid will require the support of the Stroud MP as the funding is assigned to a Parliamentary Constituency (so Wotton Ward is out of scope!). The Cotswolds Constituency is a lower priority constituency (priority 3) than Stroud constituency (which is priority 2).

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

The Committee considered two issues:

- Land at, Fromebridge, Whitminster (S.20/2109/FUL)  
Agricultural improvement of old mineral excavation area with recontouring of land using imported subsoils and soils. Permitted - following officer advice.
- St Marys, Eastcombe, Stroud (S.21/1077/NEWTPO)  
New Tree Preservation Order TPO 580 – confirmed.

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

## **Neighbourhood development plans approved**

Two NDPs for Cam and Horsley were approved through officer decision – as the full council meeting planned for July was cancelled (due to the cost of holding a social distanced meeting). Details can be found [here](#):

## **Grants for business - Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) 4**

A fourth round of ARG funding of £1 million for Stroud District Council has been announced. The discretionary grant is administered by SDC to support businesses affected by the Coronavirus pandemic

The grant covers the following sectors: Hospitality, Travel and tourism sector, including group travel, travel agents and tour operators, Wedding industries, Nightclubs, Theatres, Events industries, Taxis, Wholesalers, English language schools, Breweries, Freelance and mobile businesses (including caterers, events, hair, beauty and wedding related businesses). Eligible businesses will receive a one-off payment based on the number of successful applications received.

Applications must be submitted by 10pm on Sunday 8 August 2021. Businesses can find out more information at: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/business/business-rates>.

## **Consultation on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

There are two related consultations:

- **Review of street or building names and monuments in the district**  
This review is to ensure statues and commemorations, as well as the names of streets and buildings, are representative of local people's values and those of a modern, inclusive Council. Feedback from the consultation will also be used to help determine a future approach to public spaces to help ensure that in future the different histories and achievements are reflected. Residents are also being asked what they think and feel about the Blackboy Clock, Blackboy House, Castle Street, Stroud and a comprehensive report detailing its history and what we know about the statue and the clock has been published with the consultation documents. A Review Panel made up of community representatives, councillors and historians will review the findings to determine the action that should be taken.
- **Consultation on the new draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy**  
The new Policy sets out the Council's commitment to providing an inclusive and supportive environment for our residents, our employees, members, contractors and visitors that is free from discrimination. As a public body, we have both a legal and moral duty to promote equality, diversity and inclusion amongst residents, service users and our own employees. The draft policy includes the work that has been committed to undertake from April 2021 – March 2022.

Following the consultation, responses will be collated, reviewed and incorporated into the policy, which will then be adopted at a full Council meeting. The consultation is open for comments until 1 September 2021.

Further information can be found [here](#)

### **Electoral Register – Annual Canvass**

The annual canvass is underway to ensure that SDC keeps the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered so that they can be encouraged to do so. The way the council conducts the annual canvass changed, and now residents will simply receive an email or a letter if the resident hasn't provided an email address or did not respond to the initial email. All emails will be sent from [elections@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stroud.gov.uk) with a subject line of 'Household Electoral Register Communication - Stroud District Council'. Further information is available [here](#).

### **Summer holiday activities**

Extra summer holiday activities for every child in the district are being provided by Stroud District Council.

Swimming, gym sessions, fitness classes, DJ sessions, Forest Green Rovers tickets, and visits to Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust Berkeley Castle are all being offered free-of-charge. Due to high demand, the scheme is limited to one activity event per family. The activities are being funded by the Community Outbreak Management Fund, as a direct response to the difficulties many families face during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Additionally there are additional activities available for children who are eligible for free school meals through the Holiday Activity and Food Programme. Further information is available [here](#). (see "District Wide Offer" for activities open to all).

### **Fine for illegal waste burning**

SDC brought a prosecution against a landowner in Bisley, who was fined more than £3,000 for burning waste and keeping it without permission. Further details can be found [here](#).

### **Plastic Free July**

Plastic Free July is a global movement which encourages people to do what they can to help save the environment from plastic pollution. More than 300 million people across the world have taken up the challenge to date. SDC produced some suggestions of ways to reduce consumption of single use plastic, from carrying a reusable water bottle, to refilling plastic bottles of toiletries and choosing more sustainable alternatives to single use cleaning wipes. Further information can be found [here](#).