

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr S. Packer (Chair, by video link)
Mrs M Shaw (Parish Councillor, from 7.55)
Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor)
Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)
Ms K. Hudson (Vice Chair)
Mrs N. Bradley (Clerk)

In Attendance

Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)
Mr G. James (District Councillor)
Mr S. Lane (Playground Group)
Mr R. Watson-Greaves (Playground Group)
Ms M. Twentyman (Resident)

In Mr Packer's absence, Ms Hudson chaired the meeting and opened by welcoming everyone.

1) Apologies

Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)
Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor)

2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations

There were no declarations.

There was a query as to whether those Councillors who live close to the proposed playground should declare an interest at meetings about the plans. The Clerk will check on this. [Action Clerk](#) (170/22)

3) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 7th September 2022

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting was proposed by Mr Kirkham, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. They were duly signed along with those from the previous meeting.. (171/22)

4) Matters Arising From the Minutes

- Mr Packer has produced some sample signs and a separate meeting will be arranged to make further plans, hopefully to include the Footpaths Warden. [Action Mrs Davidson and Mr Packer](#) (172/22)
- The "Meet the Councillors" event on 24th September was postponed and a new date is to be arranged. (173/22)

All other matters arising are dealt with later in these minutes

5) Reports by County and District Councillors

Cllr Cohen's report is attached. (174/22)

The District Councillors' report is also attached.

SDC is currently concentrating on planning to make provision for dealing with the problems caused by the cost of living during the winter. There is all-party support for this. (175/22)

A query was raised as to whether the committees involved with the Play Area Development Action Plan might have some information helpful to the Playground Group. Cllr Tucker will make enquiries. [Action Cllr Tucker](#) (176/22)

6) Planning Matters

- S.22/2217/HHOLD, proposed replacement and resetting of roof tiles, repair of structure, addition of insulation at roof level, chimney stack revision. refurbishment of existing dormer windows. addition of front dormer window and addition of internal stud wall at loft level. (177/22)
- S.22/2218/LBC, Lamport Court, as above (178/22)
- S.22/2150/DISCON , Tumbling Fields, Discharge of condition 5 (landscaping scheme) from application S.21/2037/HHOLD. There is concern about the number of trees removed from the site and what plans are in place to replace them. The clerk will place a comment on the website and ask for clarification on re-hedging. [Action Clerk](#) (179/22)
- S.22/2132/DISCON , Tumbling Fields, Discharge of condition 5 (landscaping scheme) from application S.22/1365/HHOLD. As above. [Action Clerk](#) (180/22)

Decided Since Last Meeting

- S.22/1354/LBC, land at The Old Parsonage, conversion of ancillary outbuilding to self-contained dwelling. Consent. (181/22)

Still Undecided

- S.22/1353/FUL, land at The Old Parsonage, conversion of ancillary outbuilding to self-contained dwelling. (182/22)
- S.22/1730/FUL, land At Wick Lane, erection of an Agricultural Building for the storage of machinery and fodder. (183/22)
- S.22/1462/FUL , land At A38, Bristol Road, Berkeley, construction of straw barn. (184/22)
- S.22/027/APPREF, S.21/2337/FUL, land At Southend Farm Wick Lane, Demolition of three agricultural buildings. Conversion of agricultural barn to 5-bedroom dwelling house, garage and boundary wall. (185/22)
- S.22/0817/AGR, Land At Stinchcombe, erection of agricultural building. Prior Approval or EIA required. (186/22)

Building is still going on at Overdale House and residents continue to be concerned. Cllrs Tucker and Braun have both been in touch with enforcement and a visit was scheduled. Cllrs Tucker will follow this up again. [Action Cllr Tucker](#) (187/22)

Several residents have expressed concerns about groundworks at the rear of Townsend Farm. It is believed that the level is being raised by approx two feet to make a football field and there are concerns about possible run-off onto neighbouring properties. The Clerk will make enquiries about the possible need for planning permission. [Action Clerk](#) (188/22)

7) Footpaths and Rights of Way

Mrs Davidson and Mr Packer are continuing to work on signage regarding dog mess on paths. Mrs Davidson has identified at least one offender and will follow this up. Cllr Tucker suggested involving the neighbourhood and Dog Wardens if necessary. [Action Mrs Davidson and Mr Packer](#) (189/22)

The boulder on the bridle way has been moved so the path is no longer blocked but it is still very prominent. PROW has put anew lock on the post and has relayed the code to Mrs Shaw. (190/22)
Dog mess continues to be a problem on the footpaths at Piers court. (191/22)

A cycling and walking event is to be held at Ebley Mill on 18th November which could be an opportunity to express concerns or obtain advice about the speed at which some cyclists pass through the village. Ms Hudson is willing to attend but it was suggested that the footpath Warden might be able to go and Mrs Davidson will ask him. [Action Mrs Davidson and Ms Hudson.](#) (192/22)

8) Highways

The Speedwatch Group's AGM will be held on 16th November at 7.30pm in the committee Room. (193/22)

Specifications for the traffic calming measures and village gateways have been sent out to enquiry to four contractors with a deadline of 7th November. (194/22)

A grant application to fund three automatic traffic surveys has been successful. Monitoring has already been carried out near Yercombe Lodge and Ms Hudson will circulate the details. The 85th percentile speed was over 40 mph in this 30 mph area, which indicates a significant speeding problem. [Action Ms Hudson.](#)(195/22)

After a recent fatal accident on Tait's Hill, there has been considerable widespread concern about the speed limit on the road. Cllr Cohen has suggested a separate meeting with Mr Packer and Ms Hudson. This is to be arranged. [Action Mr Packer and Ms Hudson.](#) (196/22)

9) Facilities

Mrs Shaw will meet with Mr Lawfull tomorrow to finalise arrangements for the erection of the notice board. She will also ask him to quote for replacement of the small posts nearby. [Action Mrs Shaw.](#) (197/22)

There is some confusion about the ownership of the litter and dog waste bins at the end of Renishaw Drive at the Rugby Club so no decision can be made yet about action to be taken. Cllr Tucker will make enquiries. [Action Cllr Tucker.](#)(198/22)

The Playground Group held an information coffee morning in the church on 15th October and Mr Lane and Mr Watson-Greaves reported that the Group had held a follow-up meeting. Most of the feedback received had been positive though there were some negative comments. There are still some steps to go in the process and they are hoping to obtain advice from Highways about parking and access issues. There is a need for a separate meeting with both the PC and PCC and Mr Lane will suggest some possible dates. [Action Mr Lane.](#) (199/22)

Mrs Shaw has obtained a quotation of £200 for repair of the bench at Old Hill Lane. It was agreed to go ahead with this. [Action Mrs Shaw.](#) (200/22)

The posts supporting the swings have rotted and need replacing. Mrs Shaw will consult her records to find out who worked on them previously and Mr Lane will ask Mr Pinch for recommendations. [Action Mrs Shaw and Mr Lane.](#) (201/22)

10) Environment

Ms Hudson reported that cutting and raking of grass on the Village Green has been completed. Mr Packer suggested that the PC make a donation to Stinchcombe Hill Trust in recognition of this. (202/22)

11) Financial Matters

The Statement of Payments and Receipts was signed by Ms Hudson. (203/22)

Authorisation for payment of £336.25 for the Clerk's salary was proposed by Mr Kirkham, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. (204/22)

Mr Packer proposed and Mrs Shaw seconded a donation of £300 to Stinchcombe Hill Trust as noted above. This was carried unanimously. (205/22) A Lloyds Treasurer's account would appear to be suitable for the PC though some users have had problems setting up the account. The clerk will make further enquiries. [Action Clerk](#) (206/22)

Presentation and discussion of the 2022-23 budget will be carried over to the next meeting. (207/22)

12) Councillors' Reports

Mrs Shaw and Ms Hudson attended a recent meeting of Stinchcombe Hill Trust and reported that:-

- 1,829 ash trees are to be felled
- the golf club is planning to install a bore hole and if the trial is successful this could allow cattle to be grazed on the hill to help keep scrub down
- the new information panel has been installed in the public car park and includes QR codes for walks information and audio guides. (208/22)

Ms Hudson raised the issue of the cost of living crisis and suggested either that the PC make a donation to GL11 or set up a warm hub in the committee room. Mrs Shaw and the clerk will take this suggestion to the next VHC meeting. [Action Mrs Shaw and Clerk](#). (209/22)

13) Possible Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed that everyone should read Ms Hudson's and Barbara Pond's notes from their meeting on 17th August (both attached) and email their comments to Ms Hudson and/or the clerk by the end of November for discussion at the next meeting. [Action All](#). (210/22)

14) Data Protection

There were no Data Protection issues.

15) Items for Website

There were no items for posting on the website arising from this meeting but it was noted that the separate Playground Group page has now been set up. Thanks to Mr Bartlam for doing this. (211/22)

15) Dates of Next Meeting

Wed 14th Dec 7.00pm

Wed 25th Jan 7.30pm

Wed 8th Mar 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Kath Hudson's Notes on Meeting about Neighbourhood Planning 17th August 2022

Present:

Barbara Pond Head of Operations and Business Development, GRCC

Diana Davidson

Kath Hudson

Marian Shaw

This turned out to be a very wide-ranging discussion not limited to Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) so I have used several headings.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Barbara went through some of the pros and cons of NDPs.

Pros

- They add a level of detail that the Local Authority would not have the knowledge or resources to include in its Local Plan.
- Their legal status means that they provide an additional barrier prospective developers would need to overcome.

Cons

- They can be open to legal challenge, as has happened at Kingswood.
- It usually takes 3-4 years to complete an NDP and needs a considerable time commitment from a Steering Group
- It typically costs about £12,000 (could be less for small parish like ours and grants of up to £10,000 still available).

Stroud District Council are supportive and would provide some resources e.g. maps, details of relevant plans and policies, explanation of the conservation area.

Some communities use their grant to employ a planning consultant, but most limit professional input to the minimum necessary. Ideally, there is a resident with planning experience prepared to work pro bono.

Barbara asked about the concerns that had prompted us to consider an NDP. We mentioned:

- Fear that large housing developments would eat into remaining green space separating us from Cam
- Lack of affordable housing and age-proof housing in the village
- Desire to preserve the character of the village
- Desire to preserve non-designated heritage assets, including the Swedish Houses
- Concern that communities without an NDP were at increasingly at a disadvantage e.g. criteria used in Draft Road Safety Policy

The best way of finding out how much support there is for creating an NDP was discussed at length. The consensus was that we should start with a survey (face-to-face, paper or online). Barbara will send us some ideas for questions which we can adapt to suit. Depending on the results this might be followed up with an event or possibly a stall at other community events. **The consensus was that we should not go ahead with the idea of an event on 7th October.**

Community-led Housing

Barbara used the Inform Gloucestershire website <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/> to check the housing stock in Stinchcombe.

The profile for Stinchcombe covers all sorts of information not just housing and makes interesting reading! https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2096836/localinsight-stinchcombe-cp-li_glou_e04004378-20200310184559811.pdf

A comparison with national figures suggests a need for terraced and, to a lesser extent, semi-detached housing that could be considered to threaten the sustainability of the village.

It was suggested that we could investigate community-led housing where we identified our own housing need and undertook a "bottom up" development to meet it. This often involved a community land trust. Rural exception sites can be outside the settlement area but must be connected to it.

There are good examples of community-led housing in Ham & Stone, Eastington, Nailsworth and Uley.

Barbara had not been aware of the housing needs survey in Stinchcombe about 3 years ago and will have a look at it.

Health & Wellbeing

Barbara suggested that Stinchcombe could build on the community spirit developed during the pandemic to develop resilience in the face of rising energy costs and general inflation.

The idea of a "Warm Hub" was discussed, possibly in the Committee Room which unlike the Main Hall is usually available. It would provide not only a stigma-free warm environment for anyone struggling with heating bills but also social contact. Nearly 12% of households in Stinchcombe were living in fuel poverty in 2017 so it could be much higher this winter.

KAH

Barbara Pond's Notes from Meeting on 17th August

When I met with councillors at Stinchcombe I promised to send some questions for a consultation to begin to explore whether an NDP or an updated Parish Plan should be undertaken in Stinchcombe. Would you be able to forward this email onto Councillors please?

As promised - First of all the following document is very useful in understanding the basic principles of good consultation.

file:///C:/Users/Hosted/Downloads/Engaging-your-community-in-a-meaningful-way-2021.03.24%20(1).pdf

Some suggested questions for your consultation – I have laid out a table below with the 2 questions (I referred to at our meeting) and suggested answers for responders to ‘tick’ whether they agree. (You will need to be careful what you include in this, managing expectations). The table below contains 2 questions with 10 options to respond to – as we discussed simple and not too long winded! From this you would be able to see what issues matter most, this will help decide as to whether to do a NDP or a Parish Plan etc

What do you like about living in Stinchcombe?

Environment/ rural aspect & tranquillity
The current facilities - church, pub, park, school
Friendliness of the community
Heritage and history of the village
Accessible to other places

What would you like to see improved?

Traffic & road safety
facilities – sports pitches, shop
Parking
Affordable or smaller size market housing for downsizing
Broadband & mobile

(From my notes we also discussed footpaths and cycle trails, allotments, community orchard, support for health and wellbeing for the community etc. These too could be added).

I was advising to use your current comm’s that already exist to do this, to get an initial sense of the priorities for your community – the Whats App group, newsletters, websites and any other social media sources such as a community Facebook page.

If you would rather do a household survey with more detail let me know and I can help draft this for you.

I also offered to have a follow up meeting to discuss this further. (We did also reserve Friday 7th October for a public event focusing on NDP’s which I had agreed to present at but I am now assuming that this will not go ahead?)

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF 26TH OCTOBER 2022
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Building Society balance on 7th September £ 14,396.36

Receipts since 7th September

Second precept payment £ 2,825.00

Payments since 7th September

Clerk's salary, May/June/July £ 336.25

Annual donation to Village Hall £ 300.00

Building Society balance on 26th October £ 16,585.36

Authorisation is sought for

Clerk's salary, Aug/Sept/Oct £ 336.25

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley
Clerk & RFO
October 2022

S.Packer
Chairman

K.Hudson
Vice Chairman 26th

Stinchcombe Parish Council

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25th October 2022

Tait's Hill Fatal Car Crash

The inquest has been opened in to the accident which led to the tragic loss of the lives of teenagers Matthew Millard and Jake Rugman. My thoughts are with their families and friends and the rest of the community which has been so deeply affected by the deaths of two young men with their lives before them.

The inquest has now been adjourned until a date can be fixed.

Highways have been to visit the scene of the accident.

Historically a resident had made a study of Tait's Hill and highlighted safety issues. This information has now been handed to me and I would want to work with the council to look at any measures that could be taken to ensure that an accident of this kind never happens again. I will be prioritising this when I allocate the 2023 Highways Local budget.

Highways / Paths

Lengthsman work starts in two weeks and will last for a month tackling clearing footpaths and roads and general maintenance. There is a final opportunity for the Parish Council to highlight any tasks they would like adding to the list and to confirm the final summary.

A request and reminder please as we approach winter that residents can report any issue related to: potholes; lights, signals and signs; damage to pavement or kerb; road markings and stud issues trees, hedges and vegetation; drainage and flooding; spillages or obstructions on the road; Winter Maintenance - Grit and PROW - public footpaths & bridleways (not pavements).

Issues can also be logged here:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

Buses

I met with Cllr Philip Robinson the Cabinet Member for bus transport last week for a drive around the area to highlight the issues and to secure backing for a new community bus project.

This is an absolute priority after Stagecoach withdraw and reduced services across the county last week, a sounding bell that the County Council must take responsibility for funding and running the essential services we need not only to go to work, school and socialise but also to meet our environmental targets.

The County Council has this week piloted a £1.35 million rural minibus pilot to make a new offer of transport in two of the county's most rural areas.

A bespoke minibus service, called The Robin, will start life by launching in two phases. The Robin is planned to launch in the southern area of the Forest of Dean on Monday 17 October with an area of the north Cotswolds to follow shortly after.

The Robin will provide on-demand services that will fill a gap where there is no bus provision, complementing existing services. Residents can book affordable journeys via an app or over the phone. The service will provide a link from bus stops in hamlets or village centres to local transport hubs and train stations, making existing public transport services more accessible.

I have made the case for Wotton and the surrounding villages and towns (extending to Berkeley) to have an equivalent.

The meeting was very positive and I would expect to begin discussing a specific project before Christmas.

I will be having a similar meeting with South Glos Council.

Cost of Living

I am supporting the community initiative and will ensure that Wotton benefits from any funding or support that is available at County level.

Separately I have agreed to fund a sign for The Keepers to be sited at the entrance to Symn Lane to ensure that everyone in the community is able to find the community hub and access support.

Highways will produce and erect the brown 'finger post' sign.

Dentistry

A reminder that I am speaking on a motion at the next County Council meeting to address the need to make NHS dentistry available to those who need the service. There are currently no NHS practices accepting new patients in the county. I am also pushing for routine checks to take place in schools and care homes. I would welcome input from any residents who would like to inform the discussion.

Books available from Gloucestershire Libraries to support baby loss

Gloucestershire Libraries have teamed up with Footsteps Counselling and Care to provide a comprehensive range of books relating to topics around baby loss and pregnancy-related issues.

The titles are also available to bereavement midwives, GPs and other practitioners within Gloucestershire to support those affected, and coincides with Baby Loss Awareness Week which was 9-15 October.

A selection of 17 titles has been chosen by county librarians, with guidance from Footsteps, and reflect the many issues around baby loss.

These include miscarriage, still birth, fertility struggles and traumatic birth, as well as supportive books for young siblings to help them understand and deal with these issues.

The titles are available in several formats so people can gain instant access to them when support

is needed, and they are all available now.

Anyone in Gloucestershire can join their local library for free, either in person or online. If you have a residential address in the county you can join online quickly and easily and access to e-books and e-audiobooks is instant once you are a library member.

Simply visit <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/library->

FOSTERING

Foster carers are urgently needed across the county. The number of children needing foster placements has risen by 30% and is likely to rise further with the pressures of the cost -of- living crisis and the toll it takes on families.

Whether you are employed or not, you live alone or as part of a family, if you are interested in fostering, Gloucestershire County Council would love to hear from you. Contact the Council now for an informal conversation to find out more about how it can support you to become a foster carer for Gloucestershire County Council.

Please visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering or call 01242 532654.

County Council meetings – Your questions

At every County Council meeting (the next meeting is November 9th) I have the opportunity to ask questions on behalf of any resident. If there are any issues that affect you directly or you want to question more generally what the Council is doing please let me have your questions by Friday 28th October. You can also attend in person.

My contact details linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk . Mobile 07791110906

Stroud District Councillors' Report – October 2022

Report of meetings during September

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

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeH_AmF0s-TShcYIM8Stweg/videos

Development Control Committee – 6 September

- Thomas Keble School, Eastcombe, Stroud, Gloucestershire S.22/0918/FUL – Committee agreed To PERMIT the application subject to an amendment to Condition 5 removing the reference to construction related deliveries and an additional condition to restrict construction delivery traffic on site between 9am and 3pm Monday to Friday and adding an informative advising the applicant of the need to maximise the screening planting on the western boundary as is practically possible.

National period of mourning

Due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September and in line with the protocol adopted by other councils, the public committee meeting agendas were shortened during the period of national mourning, and limited to time sensitive items. This applied to the Housing Committee meeting (13 September) and Community Services & Licensing Committee meeting (15 September). The Environment Committee, which was due to take place on the day of the Queen's death (8 September), was postponed until 4 October.

Play Area Development Action Plan

Both the Housing Committee and Community Services Committee agreed to support the Play Area consultation and Development Action Plan. A decision was needed by the Committees in order to allocate grant funding of £300k is to be spent on updating SDC owned play areas, 3 of which will have significant updated equipment. Recommendations were based on a physical condition survey and further work on community use of the site as follows:

- **New signage** – for all 32 SDC owned play areas
- **Repairs** to play areas highlighted by ROSPA inspections and additional report include: Innocks Estates Play Area, North Nibley; Deveraux Crescents, Ebley; Daffodils Play Area, Kings Stanley; Norton Wood, Nailsworth; Orchard Road, Cainscross; Bunting Hill Play Area, Nailsworth. These repairs will be funded by existing budget from the Housing Revenue Account or SDC General Fund.
- **Investment** in play areas to be focused on the five play areas: Cambridge Avenue,

Dursley; Acacia Drive, Dursley; Mason Road, Stroud; Archway Gardens, Cainscross; Wharfdale Way, Stonehouse.

- **Repurposing** of existing play areas into an alternative green space provision include: The Brambles, Manor View, and Little Mill Court. Community consultation is required prior to any repurposing of the play areas.

Further information can be found here: [Item HC.015](#).

SDC Health & Wellbeing Action Plan (2022-25)

This item was discussed at the Community Services Committee. This presentation focused on priorities in the current Council Plan and Leisure & Wellbeing Strategy that impact health and wellbeing and provided more detail about priorities that have previously been agreed by Full Council. Members resolved to adopt the Health & Wellbeing Plan.

For further information see details here ([item 9 – 10](#)).

Standards Sub-Committee – 27 September

The Sub-Committee discussed a complaint against a parish councillor in relation to Fretherne with Saul Parish Council. Further details can be found [here](#).

Audit & Standards Committee – 27 September

The Committee considered an internal audit progress report, treasury management report, statement of accounts, annual audit letter and corporate risk register.

They also considered the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGO) Annual Review for 2021/22 which gives the total number of complaints and enquiries received by the LGO with regard to Stroud District Council. Further details can be found [here](#).

Strategy & Resources Committee – 29 September

Finance reports: The meeting focused on financial reports: the outturn report for 2021/22, the latest quarterly budget monitoring report and information about assumptions and challenges for the Medium Term Financial Plan. There are currently many uncertainties about the likely local government financial settlement this year, as well as the high rate of inflation and rising interest rates. Further budget setting work will be undertaken during the autumn / winter.

Public conveniences – this issue was included in the Property Review Update. The first stage of a review of public conveniences, to have initial conversations with Town and Parish Councils took place in 2020. All said that the PC's in their town or parish are an important local facility that should be retained. The second stage, to install counters to obtain accurate data on the number of people using the facilities was delayed because of Covid. It is anticipated that this work will be carried out in late spring/early summer 2023 before

identifying options and making a recommendation to S&R in late 2023

Canal update: The Cotswold Canals Connected Project was successful in securing £8.9m funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) towards a £20+ m project to restore sections of the Stroudwater Navigation and reconnect this to the national canal network. Work is currently underway on archaeological excavation and a planning application for the “missing mile” section of the canal between Stonehouse Ocean and under the M5 motorway.

Further information can be found here:

<https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=137&MIId=1364&Ver=4>

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