

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY 2023 AT 7.00

Present

Ms K Hudson (Vice Chair)
Mrs D. Davidson (Parish Councillor)
Mrs M. Shaw (Parish Councillor)

Mr I. Kirkham (Parish Councillor, from 7.25)
Mrs. N. Bradley (Clerk to the Parish Council)

In Attendance

Ms L. Cohen County Councillor, from 7.25)
Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)
Mr K. Tucker (District Councillor)

Mr C. MacFarlane }
Mrs J. Jelfs }
Mr S. Lane } Residents
Mrs T. Legge }
Mr P. Chamberlain }
Mrs J. Kirkham }

Opening Remarks

Ms Hudson opened by welcoming all present.

1) Apologies for Absence

Mr G. James (District Councillor)

2) Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 30th May 2022

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Mrs Davidson, seconded by Mrs Shaw and carried unanimously. They were duly signed by the Chair.

3) Matters Arising from the Minutes

The padlock on the post on the bridleway has been replaced by PROW

The VAS sign has been purchased and is awaiting installation.

Mr Kirkham has dealt with the ivy on the Avenue

4) Chairman's Report

Ms Hudson's report is attached to these minutes.

5) Reports by County and District Councillors

The District Councillors' report is 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 are attached

Stinchcombe United Charities' accounts were not available.

Dursley United Charities' The object of this charity is “the relief of persons resident in the area of benefit who are in need, hardship or distress”. This includes grants for education and Christmas. Income is from investments and property and the current balance is in excess of £400,000. Stinchcombe is within the “area of benefit” but no grants were made to Stinchcombe residents in the last year.

7) Reports by Parish Councillors

There were no reports from Parish Councillors

8) Matters Raised

There were no new matters raised.

Ms Hudson thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at 7.30pm.

N. Bradley
Clerk to the Council.

Stinchcombe Parish Council

Chair's Report to Annual Parish Assembly

to be held on Wednesday 3rd May 2023

The last Parish Assembly on 30th May 2022 was followed by the AGM on the same evening. Since then, there have been seven full Parish Council meetings. The PC aims to meet approximately every six weeks in the Committee Room at the Village Hall and all meetings are open to the public.

Most meetings were attended by our County Councillor (Linda Cohen) and one or more of our District Councillors (Catherine Braun, George James and Ken Tucker). I wish to thank them for giving us the benefit of their experience, knowledge and contacts.

Parish Councillors

Simon Packer continued to serve as Chair until his resignation on 15th March. The Parish Council is grateful to him for his input as a councillor since 2019 and for almost two years as Chair. His energetic and enthusiastic contribution to the very successful Platinum Jubilee celebrations stands out in my mind.

I will be resigning at the end of the AGM. After five busy years as a Parish Councillor and as Vice-Chair for the last two, I want more time to focus on my various volunteering and leisure interests. Our other councillors are Marian Shaw, our longest serving member and former Chair, Diana Davidson and Ian Kirkham. The PC looks forward to welcoming two new councillors with the different experience and perspectives they can bring to the role. A better distribution of councillors across the Parish is desirable as we had unintentionally ended up with four out of five living in a small area.

Other Roles

At the AGM, the following additional appointments were confirmed or noted as being vacant:-

Footpath Warden – vacant, later taken on by Mr Andrew Davidson

Tree Warden - Mr Ian Kirkham

Flood Warden - vacant

Playground Equipment Warden – vacant

Representative to Village Hall Committee - Mrs Marian Shaw

Representative to Stinchcombe Hill Trust - Ms Kath Hudson

Representative to Stinchcombe United Charities – Mrs Julie Thomas

Representative to Dursley United Charities - Mr Laurie Bradley

Representative to Berkeley Site Stakeholders Group - Mr Chris Davies

Snow Warden – Mr Chris Davies

Snow Plough Operator – Mr Shane Longstreth

Financial Matters

The precept for 2023/2024 was raised by 2.73% from £5,650 to £5,933.

Planning

The Parish Council has been consulted on 27 planning applications between 1/4/22 and 31/3/23. (This figure includes applications relating to trees in the Conservation Area and the discharge of conditions on earlier planning consents). All applications appear on our agenda and in a small number of cases we considered it appropriate to submit a formal comment.

Facilities

Litter Bins

We have a new litter bin by the bus shelter on The Street. Thanks to Mr Oakhill and Mr Clare for installing it. There is also a new litter bin near the entrance to the Rugby Club, installed by Stroud District Council to replace a smaller, damaged bin that could not cope with the amount of fast food packaging it received. The PC is grateful for Cllr Tucker's assistance with this matter. Both new

bins can be used for bagged dog waste and the red dog waste bin near the Rugby Club entrance has also been retained.

Noticeboards

The new noticeboard at Old Hill Lane, which is made from recycled plastic “timber” to minimise maintenance, has now been installed thanks to Craig Lawfull. Mr Lawfull also installed some posts to prevent parking on the grass verge nearby.

Cllr Davidson has painted the other Parish Council noticeboards and also, assisted by her husband, spring-cleaned the bus shelter on The Street.

Proposed Playground & Community Space on Church Field

Following an engagement event in October 2022 and further discussions, the Playground & Community Space Group have reduced the scope of their proposals for Church Field to address some of the concerns raised by neighbours. Subject to the PC and the Parochial Church Council agreeing a lease for the land and a Certificate of Lawful Proposed Use or Development being granted to the Parish Council, the project will go ahead when funds have been raised. A campaign to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph in the vicinity, in order to reduce the risk from traffic, has already begun.

Replacement of Swings on Rugby Field

After 12 years, the legs of the swing frame had become rotten, making it unsafe. The swings were taken out of use and the frame was later removed by the Rugby Club.

In the Parish Council’s recent survey, 22 out of the 24 households that responded wanted the swings to be replaced. Six of the households said that the playground would be used by their resident children and 16 said that they would be used by children visiting them. Few expressed a view on additional equipment, if space permits, but of those that did a climbing frame was most frequently mentioned. Other suggestions were a slide, seesaw or stepping logs.

Reasons mentioned for objecting to the replacement of the swings included:-

- proximity to the road and the cricket pitch
- unsupervised children walking on the wall and climbing the tree
- children of rugby families crowding out village children on Sunday mornings
- anti-social behaviour and dog fouling in the area

Discussions are ongoing between the Parish Council, the Rugby Club and the Village Hall Committee about the replacement of the swings on the existing base. The Rugby Club require that the area is subject to a formal lease, is fenced and gated, and has signage making it clear that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council and giving contact details. The Village Hall Committee have agreed in principle to an access gate from their car park. These measures would minimise the dangers associated with the road. The Rugby Club is additionally seeking an agreement that would reduce the pressure on parking on the busiest days of their season.

Highways

Traffic Calming Scheme

I had hoped to report that the village gateways were in place and the vehicle-activated sign (VAS) in use. Stinchcombe Speed Watch volunteers have completed their training and everything is ready to install when our contractor has completed work on a large contract that has run very late. When the VAS is first used in each of the four locations (The Avenue, The Street and both ends of Taits Hill Road) it will be operated in stealth mode to collect baseline data on traffic speeds. Comparing the baseline with data collected with the sign illuminated will enable us to evaluate its effectiveness.

20mph Limits

The 20mph campaign already mentioned is focussing on Stinchcombe Lane a.k.a. “Church Lane” and the residential parts of Wick Lane and Echo Lane. The County Council’s current policy requires parishes to fund their own Traffic Regulation Orders in order to change a speed limit, which is prohibitively expensive for small parishes like ours. The Parish Council and other village organisations have already written to Siobhan Baillie MP requesting her support to get this changed. I will continue to be involved with the 20’s Plenty campaign at county level to make sure that the particular problems faced by small parishes are taken into account.

Potholes

Recurrent and new potholes continue to be a problem on our local roads, as they are elsewhere in the county. Please carry on reporting them to Gloucestershire Highways. Our MP has acknowledged that potholes are a “rising bugbear” in Stroud District and has asked constituents to keep her informed how they get on with reporting them. I suggest that we all do that.

Footpaths and Rights of Way

New Footpath Warden

Andrew Davidson has taken on the role of Footpath Warden and is looking forward to getting started.

Dogs

The Parish Council is aware that several landowners are unhappy about dogs being allowed to stray from the public footpaths and associated problems with uncleared dog mess. Unless your dog reliably walks to heel it probably needs to be on a lead to satisfy the legal requirement for “close control”.

The odd dog turd in a large area of grass might seem trivial, but it can transmit parvovirus, intestinal parasites and harmful bacteria to people and other animals. There have been suspected cases of livestock diseases linked to the presence of contaminated dog waste here in Stinchcombe. Dog mess on the rugby fields and cricket pitch is obviously extremely unpleasant for groundsmen and players. There are plenty of bins around the parish that can be used for dog mess so there is no excuse for this inconsiderate behaviour.

The Parish Council is investigating suitable signage and liaising with the District Council Dog Warden.

Proposed Footpath Diversion

There is a proposal by the Rugby Club and owners of adjacent farmland to divert parts of public footpaths CST19 and CST21. Details were published on the parish website by the Rugby Club in March, together with contact details for any questions or comments. The Parish Council voted to support the diversion, subject to the route being brought closer to the Millennium Oak.

Organisations and individuals also have the right to make representations or objections at the next stage when Gloucestershire County Council advertises the Public Path Order.

Environment

The PC is grateful to all those who have planted bulbs and wildflowers on verges in the village and to Trudy Chinn for looking after the planter on The Avenue.

We are pleased to report that the turnout for the litter pick on 12th March was the highest ever. Thank you to all those who participated and to those who regularly collect litter the rest of the year.

Ash die-back work on Stinchcombe Hill is ongoing with significantly infected trees close to public footpaths and bridleways being removed. In the area managed by Stinchcombe Hill Trust, the smaller ones have already been taken out by the conservation volunteers. It will take months for the contractor to complete the removal of the larger trees so it makes sense to avoid standing near any with a red or blue mark, especially in windy weather.

Communications

I am grateful to Richard Bartlam for all his work on the Parish website and Enews and for doing his best to keep Stinchcombe Social a good-humoured and welcoming place.

Thanks also to Nola Bradley, with whom I co-edit the print newsletter “Stinchcombe News”, to the team of volunteers who deliver it and to the businesses that have sponsored it.

Coronation Celebrations

Stinchcombe will very soon be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III. As with the Platinum Jubilee, the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council have worked together to organise events at the Village Hall on 8th May. These include children’s entertainments in the morning and an evening hog roast and bar, with live music from Cat amongst the Pigeons. By the time you read this I hope that many of you will have already bought your tickets.

Welcome Pack

Last but not least, please let the PC know if you get new neighbours. Marion Shaw is currently updating the Welcome Pack and would like to give new residents a hard copy, along with a set of walking and cycling leaflets.

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23– SECTION 1

	Year Ending	31/03/22	31/03/23	Differences
1	Balances brought forward	£9,248.00	£13,396.00	
2	Annual Precept	£5,550.00	£5,650.00	
3	Total other Receipts	£1,863.00	£6,099.00	+£4,236.00 (1)
4	Staff Costs	£1,313.00	£1,344.00	
5	Capital Repayments	£0.00	£0.00	
6	Total other payments	£1,952.00	£11,943.00	+ £9,991.00 (2)
7	Balances carried forward	£13,396.00	£12,288.00	
8	Total Cash	£13,396.00	£12,288.00	
9	Total fixed Assets	35,956.00	£44,319.00	+ £8,363.00 (3)
10	Total Borrowings	£0.00	£0.00	

Notes

- (1) Donations totalling £4,170.00 received from residents towards costs of VAS and Village Gateways
- (2) & (3) purchase of VAS and Village Gateways totalling £8,138.00
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STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Fixed Assets	£44,318.71
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	£ 300.00

£1,567.26 paid in VAT 2021-22 has been claimed but not yet received.

Chairman

Date

RFO

Date

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH 2023

<u>2021/22</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
5,550.00	Precept	5,650.00
14.36	Building society Interest	14.56
292.10	VAT Refund	174.21
<u>1,556.50</u>	Grants and other Receipts	<u>5,910.17</u>
7,412.96		11,748.94
	Total Receipts	
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
1,313.00	Salaries	1,344.00
00.00	Training	00.00
424.08	Insurance	507.71
177.57	Administrative Costs & IT	42.50
109.50	Maintenance & Repairs	211.66
692.72	Special Items	7,761.26
268.74	Subscriptions	143.00
00.00	Donations	300.00
105.00	Audits	110.00
174.21	VAT Payments	1,567.26
800.00	Cost of Elections	00.00
00.00	Grants (Village Hall)	300.00
		12,287.39
3,264.82	Total Payments	
9,248.14	Opening Balance	13,396.29
<u>7,412.96</u>	Receipts	<u>11,748.94</u>
16,661.10		25,145.23
<u>3,274.82</u>	Payments	<u>12,287.39</u>
13,396.28	Closing Balance	12,857.84

NOTES

All figures are in pounds.

All payments listed are net of VAT

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

REGISTER OF FIXED ASSETS

	31/03/19	31/03/20	31/03/21	31/03/22
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	£500.00
Flagpole				£310.74
2 Litter bins				£435.53
Wooden Planter				£225.00
Vehicle Activated Speed Sign				£3,040.00
6 Village Gateways				£5,098.00
Total Fixed Assets	£35,209.44	£35,209.44	£35,209.44	£44,318.71

All assets restated at earliest available Insured Value, i.e. 2005, except Millennium Memorial Plaque (2006), Fountain (2014) Telephone Box (2018), Flagpole, Litter bins, Planter (2022), VAS and Village Gateways (2023)

E.N. Bradley,
Clerk & RFO.
April 2023

Stinchcombe Village Hall

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Activities for generating funds	3	21,763	-	21,763	11,830
Other incoming resources	4	2,667	-	2,667	20,209
Total incoming resources		<u>24,430</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,430</u>	<u>32,039</u>
Resources expended					
Costs of generating funds					
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold and other costs	5	12,865	-	12,865	15,135
Total resources expended		<u>12,865</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,865</u>	<u>15,135</u>
Net movements in funds		11,565	-	11,565	16,904
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		46,873	10,962	57,835	40,931
Total funds carried forward		<u>58,438</u>	<u>10,962</u>	<u>69,400</u>	<u>57,835</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Stinchcombe

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Stroud District Councillors' Annual Report.

Meeting housing needs Since 2014, Stroud DC has built 280 new council homes and works with developers to make sure that *all* new developments provide the right number of affordable homes, as well as the right size, type and tenure, which has delivered 1300 homes affordable homes across the district in the last 10 years. Many Ukrainians have been welcomed to the district over the past year, with Stroud DC support through the Homes for Ukraine programme to conduct the required property checks.

Cost of Living pressures Stroud DC declared a 'cost of living emergency' in November and agreed to allocate an additional £100,000 to help local residents and support front line organisations, including The Keepers in Wotton. Further information and support is available at: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/costofliving>.

Parish and Town Council Charter In December, Stroud DC Council adopted a new Charter which has been developed with representatives from Parish and Town Councils, to promote partnership working and cooperation, focused on themes of consultation, communication, partnership, engagement, and resources.

Equalities Diversity and Inclusion – Stroud DC has organised various local town visits across the district with Gloucestershire Sight Loss Council which has involved councillors touring the town centre, wearing simulation glasses and identifying accessibility issues.

Strategic Planning The Local Plan Examination in Public began in March 2023, and will continue until the summer, followed by a period of further consultation. We hope the final Local Plan will be adopted in 2024.

Council Plan – the plan sets three priorities: Environment and Climate Change; Community Resilience and Wellbeing; and Economy, Recovery and Regeneration, with actions for delivery by 2026: www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1822558/31-council-plan-2021-2026.pdf

Electric road sweeper - UBICO, the Council's refuse contractor, in which Stroud DC is a shareholder, has received their first electric road sweeper in the summer to add to the fleet of eight electric Vehicles and five hybrids. Following suggestions from local school children, the new sweeper has been named 'Tidy Tim'.

Climate action Stroud DC work to tackle climate change was rated as better than last year and on the way up. The 2022 Climate Disclosure Project (CDP) results awarded a 'B' for SDC work. In the area of mitigating and adapting to climate change (which includes flood defences and retrofitting) SDC was given an 'A' grade. www.cdp.net/en



Your District Councillors, Catherine Braun, George James and Ken Tucker

