

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present

Mr S. Packer (Chair)

Mrs M Shaw (Parish Councillor,)

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) (7.55- 9.05)

Mr G. James (District Councillor)

Mr C Oakhill (Village Hall Committee)

Mr NP. Chamberlain } Playground

Mr S. Lane } Group

Mr R. Watson-Greaves (from 7.50)}

Mr J.Luck (Resident)

Mr S. Bilous (until 7.50) } Rugby Club

Mr R.Morgan (until 8.05) }

Mr Packer opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1) Apologies

Ms C. Braun (District Councillor)

Ms L. Cohen (County Councillor)

2) DPI Declarations and Dispensations

There were no declarations.

Mr Packer and Ms Hudson both said that they had posted comments about the Rough Hill cottage planning application on SDC website in a personal capacity as they are close neighbours. They have no pecuniary interest and were not deemed as being excluded from any discussion. (45/23)

3) Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 26th October 2022

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting was proposed by Mrs Shaw, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. They were duly signed. (46/23)

4) Matters Arising From the Minutes

- adoption of the Parish and Town Councils' Charter was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Mrs Davidson and carried unanimously. (47/23)
- Mr Luck has cleared the vegetation which was blocking the pavement outside Eaves Cottage, for which the Council is very grateful. (48/23)
- the litter pick took place and was very successful with 20 people filling almost 30 bags of litter and rubbish. The Council is grateful to them all. (49/23)

All other matters arising are dealt with later in these minutes.

5) Reports by County and District Councillors

Cllr Cohen's report is attached. (50/23)

The District Councillors' report is also attached. (51/23)

Cllr Tucker will check with Cllr Braun whether any of the money available for walking and cycling projects can be allocated to smaller councils. [Action Cllr Tucker](#) (52/23)

6) Planning Matters

New Since Last Meeting

- S.23/0262/TCA, Lamport Court, T1-T7 - Removal of basal growth all around. (53/23)
- S.23/0227/FUL, Stinchcombe Village Hall, Erection of extension to kitchen & store plus additional first floor room above. As a member of the Village Hall committee, Mrs Shaw did not take part in discussion of this application. Mr Oakhill said that there have been several objections lodged on the SDC website but also several comments in support of the application. There had been several public consultations as a result of which the plans had been changed to address concerns raised. The Council has some concerns about the potential reduction in parking spaces which could result in more parking on the road and asked to see detailed plans for the allocation of parking spaces but agreed to support the application. [Action Clerk](#) (54/23)
- S.23/0193/LBC, Rough Hill Cottage Wick Lane, Demolition of modern additions & extensions. Refurbishment & extension of listed cottage. There are some concerns about the limited parking available at the property which could result in parking in the layby and increased traffic problems on Wick Lane. A comment to this effect will be posted on the SDC website. [Action Clerk](#) (55/23)
- S.23/0192/HHOLD, Rough Hill Cottage Wick Lane, Demolition of modern additions & extensions. Refurbishment & extension of listed cottage and conversion of outbuilding. As above. [Action Clerk](#) (56/23)

Decided Since Last Meeting

- S.23/0055/DISCON, The Ridings Wick Lane, discharge of condition 2 (enhancement of biodiversity) from S.22/0250/HHOLD. Permission. (57/23)
- S.22/2700/FUL, Land At Parford Farm Wick Lane, temporary rural workers dwelling and erection of agricultural buildings with yard. Refused. (58/23)
- S.22/2702/FUL, Lorridge Farm Bristol Road, erection of new commercial building and Change of use to commercial yard area (retrospective). Withdrawn. (59/23)

Still Undecided

- S.22/1462/FUL, land At A38, Bristol Road, Berkeley, construction of straw barn. (60/23)
- S.22/0817/AGR, Land At Stinchcombe, erection of agricultural building. Prior Approval or EIA required. (61/23)

There has still been nothing heard from the enforcement team on the possible need for planning permission for the groundworks at the rear of Townsend Farm. The Clerk will chase this up. [Action Clerk](#) (62/23)

A concern has been raised about the removal of a section of hedge near Bengad Stud on Wick Lane. The enforcement team has been looking into the matter but Mr Watson-Greaves explained that a new, safer access is being created to replace the existing gate which will in turn be replaced by new hedging of the same type as the existing one so no hedging will actually be lost. The clerk will inform the enforcement team of this. [Action Clerk](#) (63/23)

7) Footpaths and Rights of Way

Details of plans by the Rugby Club and Mr Luck to reroute footpaths CST19 and CST21 are attached. (64/23)

Mr Bilous explained that there is a need for more space for the Running Club and to reduce over-use of the current pitches. The Running Club has yet to finalise its plans but there is likely to be a training area for mini-rugby inside a running track. It was felt that the new footpath route would provide better views but should preferably be stile-free. DRFC will replace stiles on its land with hunters' gates as required by SDC Planning. Mr Packer suggested inserting a "dog-leg" into the path to take it closer to the Jubilee Oak which was agreed subject to agreement by Mr Mac Donald and PROW. Subject to this change the Council is happy to support the change. (65/23)

The "No Through road" sign missing from Old Hill Lane has been replaced after two years but the new sign is inadequate. Mrs Shaw will email Cllr Cohen about replacing it. [Action Mrs Shaw](#) (66/23)

Mrs Shaw said that there is a stile down which is believed to be the responsibility of Mr Jones. Mr Kirkham will speak to him about this. [Action Mr Kirkham](#) (67/23)

The boulder is still on the bridle way and Mrs Shaw has sent photos to PROW. (68/23)

Mr Davidson will attend the next meeting for which he is available. (69/23)

8) Highways

Installation of the traffic-calming measures has been delayed as the contractor has not submitted the necessary sketches to Streetworks, so the forms will need to be resubmitted. Mr Watson-Greaves may know of an alternative contractor and will make enquiries and liaise with Ms Hudson. [Action Ms Hudson and Mr Watson-Greaves](#) (70/23)

Results of the traffic survey on Tait's Hill are attached. They would suggest that the speed limit should be reduced from 50 to 40mph. (71/23)

Ms Hudson has drafted a document with suggestions for a 20mph speed limit campaign for the lanes near the planned Church Field playground and community space, which she will circulate along with a suggested supporting letter to be sent to Siobhan Baillie from various village bodies. [Action Ms Hudson](#) (71/23)

9) Facilities

New Playground

The next stage is to finalise the lease on church field between the PC and PCC. Ms Hudson and Rev Crocker have been working to get the necessary documents in place and Ms Guy has recommended a colleague who would be willing to handle the lease at a reduced rate, though it was agreed that an exact figure is still required in order to proceed. [Action Ms Hudson](#) (73/23)

The application for the CLPUD needs to be in the name of the Parish council though it is not clear who should sign it. Mr Lane will try to clarify this and Ms Hudson will also speak to Mr Pinch's daughter about this. The Diocesan Board need to be satisfied that the solicitor selected to draw up the lease has appropriate experience unless their own solicitors VWV are used. [Action Ms Hudson and Mr Lane](#) (74/23)

The Playground Group should shortly be able to move forward on costings before further consultation with residents. (75/23)

Existing Playground

Ms Hudson and Mrs Shaw have met with DRFC representatives who have agreed to keep the current play surface though with provision of a fence and sign making it clear it is the responsibility of the Parish Council. Mr Oakhill confirmed that the VHC are happy for the Hall car park to be used for the playground and for a direct access to be created, though this would not be paid for by the VHC. A decision is needed as to what equipment to include and Mr Chamberlain and Mr Lane will forward some catalogues. [Action Mr Chamberlain and Mr Lane](#) (76/23)

Ms Hudson will draft a document on responsibility for maintenance before DRFC's management meeting on 31st March. [Action Ms Hudson](#) (77/23)

10) Environment

There were no environment issues.

11) Financial Matters

The Statement of Payments and Receipts was signed by Mr Packer and Ms Hudson. (78/23)

Authorisation for payment of £42.50 to Cotswold Marketing and £11.89 for Clerk's materials was proposed by Mr Packer, seconded by Ms Hudson and carried unanimously. (79/23)

The proposed change of bank account is ongoing. [Action Clerk](#). (80/23)

12) Councillors' Reports

Mr Longstreth has informed Mrs Davidson that the snowplough needs repair and is currently not usable. Ms Hudson will ask Mr Davis to phone Highways to establish whose responsibility this is. [Action Mrs Hudson](#). (81/23)

Mrs Shaw needs more walks leaflets for the Welcome Packs. Mr Packer will look into printing costs. [Action Mr Packer and Mrs Shaw](#) (82/23)

13) Proposed New Code Of Conduct

There are still some areas of confusion in the wording of the document, particularly in distinguishing between the Town, Parish and district Councils. Mr Packer proposed and Mrs Shaw seconded adoption of the Code subject to passing on this concern to SDC. The motion was carried with four votes in favour and one abstention. [Action Clerk](#). (83/23)

14) Plans for the Coronation of King Charles

The hog roast has been booked and booking of a band and children's entertainer is in hand. The next committee meeting will be on Monday 27th March. (84/23)

15) Data Protection

There were no Data Protection issues.

16) Items for Website

The Clerk will post a reminder about the questionnaire about the future of the swings which went out with the last Stinchcombe News. [Action Clerk](#). (85/23)

17) Dates of Next Meetings

Wed 3rd May 7.00pm, Parish Assembly
7.30pm AGM
Wed 7th June 7.30pm
Wed 19th July 7.30pm
Wed 6th Sept 7.30pm

18) Councillor's Resignation

At the end of the meeting, Mr Packer offered his resignation from the Parish council with immediate effect. (86/23)

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

STINCHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF 15TH MARCH 2023
STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Building Society balance on 1st February £14,282.82

Receipts since 1st February

Donation for Village Gateways £ 3,000.00
Payment for newsletter £ 30.00

Payments since 1st February

Cestrian Signs (VAS posts) £ 399.56
SLCC Subscription £ 73.00
JACS(UK) (Village gateways) £ 5,098.03
Cotswold Marketing (newsletter & flyer) £ 42..50

Building Society balance on 15th March £ 11,699.73

Authorisation is sought for

Cotswold Marketing (newsletter & flyer) £ 42..50
Clerk's materials £ 11.89

Prepared by

Approved by

E.N. Bradley
Clerk & RFO
March 2023

S.Packer
Chairman

K.Hudson
Vice Chairman 15th

Stroud District Councillors' Report – March 2023

Report of meetings during February 2023

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

Council Meeting – 16th February

The **council's budget** was approved unanimously. Details are reported below in the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting update below. In summary, the budget represents a just below 3 per cent rise in the SDC element of council tax. SDC services make up approximately 11% of the overall Council Tax bill.

Included in the budget is new funding for projects benefitting local communities and the environment including:

- £764,000 towards renewable energy projects at The Pulse and Stratford Park leisure centres and the Museum in the Park
- an additional half a million pounds for walking and cycling schemes, including accessibility for public spaces
- £150,000 on top of £300,000 already committed to play areas, for Stratford Park
- Part-funding for 15 homes for people fleeing conflict
- support for voluntary sector organisations who work with refugees and asylum seekers.

The council will continue with 100% Council Tax Support for people in need.

SDC services include waste and recycling, planning, environmental health, parking, parks and recreation, leisure centres, The Museum in the Park, canal restoration, animal welfare, benefits administration and advice, elections, youth work, upkeep of open spaces including Selsley Common and Cam Peak and Long Down upkeep, plus licensing and flood management.

Other items:

- Recommendations from the Audit & Standards Committee were approved (noted below) including the Unified Code of Conduct for councillors.
- As a shareholder of Ubico - agreed that SDC will support the variation of the Forest of Dean District Council's contract with Ubico.

- Agreed to extend the operation of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC) beyond 31 March 2023 so that funding from business rates can continue to be allocated on a county wide basis.
- Approval of the Civic Timetable for 2023/24.

Audit & Standards Committee – 7th February

The committee discussed numerous agenda items as follows:

- The Unified Code of Conduct for councillors
- implementation of the Contract Management Framework – progress noted.
- Update on the Out of Hours Service performance – particularly in relation to council houses' heating problems following the cold weather in December.
- The Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy And Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2023/24 (including the Ethical Investment Policy). Financial pressures on council budgets were noted – particularly for the Housing Revenue Account.
 - The Annual Governance Statement and progress with the improvement plan
 - Corporate Risk Register Update
 - Progress with the Internal Audit Plan

Strategy & Resources Committee – 2nd February

Council Tax The meeting discussed the budget for 2023/24 and agreed an increase in council tax by 3 per cent to £229.17 at Band D, an increase of less than 13 p per week for the services provided by Stroud District council. Approximately 12 per cent of the total council tax bill goes to Stroud District Council. The final budget will be approved by Council on 16th February.

Council house rents Council house rents, shared ownership rents, garage rents and landlord service charges will increase by 7 per cent, in line with the recent Government policy statement on rents for social housing. Car parking charges for most of the SDC chargeable car parks in Stroud will be frozen in 2023/24.

The council has to manage inflationary pressures (currently over 10 per cent). However, due to the funding settlement this year there is scope for some additional work to be included in the budget for 2023/24 for regeneration work (extending 2 posts), climate and nature action (extending 2 posts), a new (mostly grant funded) scheme to install renewable heating at the leisure centres and museum in the park, supporting the county-wide Climate Leadership Gloucestershire group, supporting equalities and wellbeing, renovating the play area in Stratford Park, and supporting refugees, through purchase of the 15 new homes and some additional funding for local voluntary support ([link](#)).

There are a number of inflationary changes in the budget, including the recent (nationally agreed) local government pay award which has added over £400,000 to this year's budget, and a number of supplier contracts which have increased in price (by £1.71 million) including energy contracts. The largest single increase is for the Ubico contract. Ubico is a Teckal /local authority owned company, and the SDC contract with Ubico will increase to almost £7.8 m in 2023/4. Ubico provides household waste, food waste, garden waste and recycling collections, street cleansing and grounds maintenance for Stroud district.

Reports were also presented on Leadership Gloucestershire, the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, the Regeneration & Investment Board, Brimscombe Port redevelopment, the Canal Project and the Fit for the Future modernisation plan.

Environment Committee update

The February meeting of the Environment Committee was cancelled, as there were few decisions to be taken by the Committee. The Committee Chair, Cllr Chloe Turner and Vice Chair, Cllr Robin Drury-Layfield, provided members with an update on environment work that has been going on since the previous Environment Committee meeting in December, as follows:

- **Strategic Planning** - the Local Plan Examination in Public begins on 7th March, and will continue over the subsequent months. You can view the sessions even if you are not participating (though they will not be recorded to view at a later date). The programme and other details are here <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/stroud-district-local-plan-review/local-plan-examination>.
- **NPPF** – SDC will be submitting a response to the government's consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>.
- **Biodiversity** – the new Strategic Lead on Nature Recovery and Biodiversity, Rebecca Charley, is now in post. Rebecca joins SDC from the National Trust (more on her experience here <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-charley-29bb9526>) and is well connected in the county's ecology and land community. (GCC have also just taken on a biodiversity officer, Adam Spokes, and the Local Nature Partnership have a new Manager (Nicola Hillary) and it's encouraging that this important work is now being properly resourced.
- **County climate work** - Glos City is recruiting for a Countywide Climate Coordinator - a senior role to support Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2121330/job-description-strategic-climate-change-lead-final-2023.pdf>
- **Natural Flood Management** the Project Officer continues to work with new landowners across the various catchments of the Frome and tributaries. The stakeholder panel chaired by Cllr Chloe Turner meets again in June including a site visit.
- **Air Quality** – the **Environmental Health team** are following up on the initiatives discussed

at a briefing in the autumn, and they are awaiting the outcome of the GCC review of air quality work across the county in March.

- **Stonehouse Bristol Road Station** – the steering group signed off the Strategic Outline Business Case for a new Stroudwater station at Stonehouse and it was submitted by the deadline of the end of September last year. They're still awaiting the decision from DfT as to whether there will be national government funding to progress to the next stage of Outline Business Case.
- **Deposit Return Scheme** - Following the lengthy government consultation period, SDC finally have confirmation that a Deposit Return Scheme will go ahead in October 2025 for plastic (PET) bottles, steel and aluminium drink cans <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introduction-of-a-deposit-return-scheme-in-england-wales-and-northern-ireland> This will have implications for SDC as to the volume and type of recycling collected as well as funding for the service. Further details are expected through the stakeholder engagement process.
- **Waste & Recycling** – officers continue to review the materials that SDC can collect and where we can add more, along with the makeup of and ongoing electrification of the SDC fleet, in the light of the Deposit Return Scheme and other national changes, plus technological developments.
- **Single use plastics** – information sheet recently published providing an update on SDC work: <https://stroud.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7533/2023%20February%20-%20Single%20Use%20Plastics.pdf>
- **Walking and Cycling** – officers are looking at progress with current projects and to review options for funding new projects.
- **Applications for the Bicycle Mayor** for Stroud District have now closed and we are awaiting a response from BYCS (the body that governs the Bicycle Mayor scheme worldwide) on the selection process.
- **2030 Community Engagement Board** – this group is focused on partnership working on the climate and nature emergency with representatives from education, charity, business and youth and will particularly inform the SDC approach to communications and community engagement.

Tricorn House, Cainscross, Stroud – redevelopment

SDC issued a statement on 17 February: “We share the community’s concerns over the future of Tricorn House in Cainscross, Stroud, which has stood empty for more than 20 years. Bringing this site back into use is a key priority for the council. We have been working behind the scenes for many years to encourage the owner of Tricorn House to bring the site back in to use. The new ownership of Tricorn House presents an opportunity to finally achieve that. We have been in contact with representatives of the new owners of Tricorn House to advise them on their plans for its redevelopment and we have encouraged them to share these plans with the wider community.”

There is already a planning authorisation in place for the site under permitted development right Class O (reference S.20/0759/P30, May 2020). This allows the conversion of the former office building to 44 residential units. This type of permitted development proposal is not required to provide the level of detail normally expected with a full planning permission. The owners have recently submitted a planning application for some limited changes on the site: erection of a bat house and changes to the windows (reference S.23/0153/FUL). This application is currently open for consultation and can be viewed at www.stroud.gov.uk/planning.

Community Infrastructure Levy allocations

Following the February Strategy & Resources meeting, SDC has confirmed the project which will receive CIL funding.

£195,239 has been allocated from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to help ensure that any additional pressures created by housing growth in the district are provided for.

Funding this year is:

- £75,000 - New Barn project in Wotton-under-Edge which is a new build community pavilion with sports changing rooms, a function room and community café.
- £75,000 - major resurfacing works to the Dudbridge to Ryeford cycle track which is a key strategic route for more sustainable non-motorised travel.
- £25,000 - South Gloucestershire & Stroud College 14-16 Create Centre which offers an inclusive alternative for pupils who may not find mainstream secondary education suitable.
- £20,239 - public realm design works to Berkeley town centre which will look to making improvements to how people use and enjoy the public areas in the centre of Berkeley.

Stroud District Council has been collecting Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments on new housing developments since April 2017. CIL funding helps to ensure that any additional pressures created by housing growth are managed sustainably. It provides investment into important new services and facilities that will be needed and enjoyed by local residents. The resulting community benefits will be widely used and valued by local people for many years to come.

Since the council started collecting CIL, the Strategic Infrastructure budget has received £1,849,710 (April 2017 to March 2022). Each year, SDC invites partner organisations to bid for CIL funding to support the delivery of capital infrastructure projects. Projects are awarded funding when they support priority Planning Policies, as set out in the council's Local Plan.

Stroud tenant voice picked for national role

A key voice for Stroud District Council tenants has been selected to help Government and ministers improve social housing.

Ian Allan from Dursley has been accepted onto the Social Housing Quality Resident Panel. The

panel consists of 250 social housing residents from across the country who share their experience directly with Government and ministers on how best to increase the quality of social housing. Ian was one of more than 1,000 social housing tenants who applied. The panel consists of a broad mix of social housing residents who are best equipped to provide their experiences on social housing matters and to discuss with ministers the Government's social housing quality programme.

SDC news – annual copy

Stroud District Council News, which is published annually, is being sent to more than 54,000 households across the district. It provides information about initiatives, projects and services provided by the Council. It costs 28p per copy to produce and distribute and is printed on FSC certified paper. [SDC News 2023](#)

Consultation on proposed changes to planning fees

The District Councils Network has highlighted the Government's consultation on proposals to increase planning fees. The consultation on the proposals is open until 25 April and details can be found [here](#).

In summary, the government is proposing to:

- increase planning fees by 35% for major applications and 25% for all other applications
- introduce additional fees for bespoke or 'fast track' services
- make an annual inflation-related adjustment to planning fees
- ring-fence additional fees income
- introduce double fees for retrospective applications
- remove the 'free go' for repeat applications
- reduce the Planning Guarantee from 26 weeks to 16 weeks for non-major applications
- build planning capacity and capability within local authorities, including challenges in recruitment and retention, and how these can be addressed
- introduce a prior approval fee for the permitted development right allowing the Crown to develop sites within the perimeter of a closed defence site.

Survey Dates from 02/02/2023 to 08/02/2023

Introduction

This survey was carried out by means of an automatic traffic counter connected to pneumatic tube sensors, attached to the carriageway surface. With a good road surface and careful installation a high degree of accuracy is possible. It is expected that traffic flows are within +/- 2% and speeds within +/- 3% overall. Surveys are carried out over a period of at least 7 days. These results have been averaged over a 7-day period.

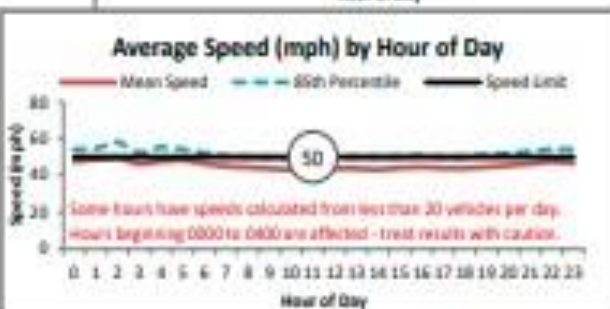
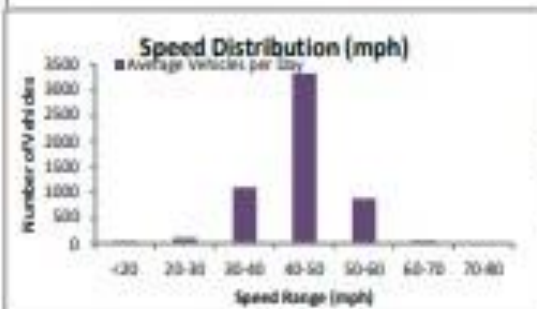
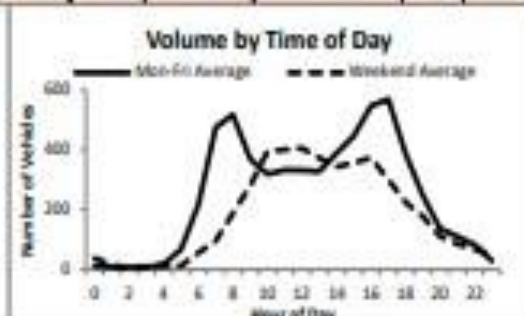
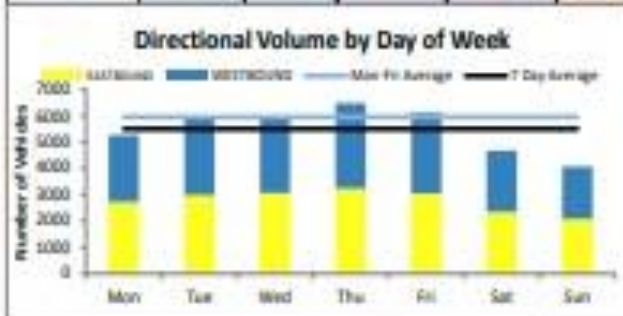
Mean Speed is the measurement used nationally in the assessment of speed limits. The 85%ile speed is the speed at or below which 85% of vehicles are travelling. All Speeds are given to the nearest mph.

Traffic volumes are usually averaged over 24 hours and 7 days to reduce the effect of daily variations and give the best indication of overall traffic. In the table below, volumes are rounded to the nearest 10 vehicles, but individual classes are given to the nearest vehicle. Therefore some rounding differences may occur.



Summary of Results

	Volume (All Vehicles)		24 hr Average Speed (mph)		7 day Average Vehicles by Class						
	7 day Ave	Mon-Fri Ave	Mean	85 %ile	Pedal Cycle	Motor Cycle	Car or Van	2 or 3 Axle Rigid Lorry	4 Axle Rigid or Articulated Lorry	Bus	Other
EASTBOUND	2780	3010	46	52	5	9	2655	85	13	30	6
WESTBOUND	2710	2940	43	49	9	11	2588	79	13	9	6
Combined	5500	5950	44	50	14	20	5242	163	25	39	12



Vehicle Classes (see table above for more details)



Dursley Rugby Club
Briefing to Stinchcombe Parish Council Meeting 15th March 2023
Proposed Footpath Diversion

1. Background

In 2019/2020 Dursley Rugby Club purchased approximately 6.25 acres of land to the rear of the Village Hall from Gloucestershire County Council.

As part of that purchase, the Club also applied for Planning Permission for Change of Use from agricultural to sporting use. This permission was granted on 6th November 2020.

Since that time, the club has undertaken various works linked to the conditions and requirements of that change, including removal of some hedgerows, and replacement planting around the perimeter of the land, and undergrounding of the power line.

Work has been slower than originally hoped due to the uncertainty created by the pandemic, but we are now able to proceed with preparing the land more fully for actual sporting use.

To achieve this we now need to apply to divert the footpaths on the land, and we are keen for the council and the local residents to understand the reasons for this, and to answer any questions prompted by this application.

All of the changes we have made, or plan to make, were described in the presentation we made to the council and local residents in December 2019.

2. Which footpaths are we talking about?

Please see attached maps.

The footpaths in question are CST19 and CST21.

2.1 Original proposal - Please see Map 1 attached:

The original proposal (dating back to 2019/2020) was only to divert CST 19, on a route to the northwest and around the perimeter of our new land to rejoin CST21 at the stile which then leads into the field owned by James Luck. See Map 1.

2.2 Revised proposal - Please see Map 2 attached:

However, having liaised with James Luck and Sandy McDonald, we now propose a different diversion which we believe will be better for footpath users by removing the need to return to CST21 down one side of our land, by following a route across James Luck's land and rejoining CST21 in the field owned by Sandy McDonald.

This is rather complicated to describe in text but hopefully is easy to see in the attached maps!

3. Why do we need to divert footpaths?

3.1 CST19

The diversion of footpath CST 19 is necessary as it crosses our land in a way which will make it incompatible for safe use by sporting users and footpath users at the same time. It will also restrict our ability to prepare and maintain the land.

3.2 CST21

The additional diversion of CST21 we believe is advantageous in several ways:

- It reduces the extent of the actual length of the diverted route on CST19 in order to get back onto CST21 making it better for footpath users
- It reduces the footpath presence on the rugby club land which is advantageous to the Club
- The diversion at point A to H takes walkers over the site of the Roman Villa
- It is advantageous or of neutral impact for James Luck, Sandy McDonald and the owners of Townsend Barn.
- The Millennium Oak is still visible from the path near point F.

4. Stiles & gates

The Rugby Club and James Luck will undertake to install gates (either kissing or hunter's) at the junction points (see Points A, H & G on Map 2) in place of stiles (there is no stile at Point B).

The existing stiles at Points C & E on Map 2 will be removed or stopped up.

5. Next steps

We will be guided by the council, but at present we propose to share this proposal with local residents via the Stinchcombe e-News and also offer an opportunity for a meeting with residents if there is demand for it to explain the above proposals and its rationale.

We will then make a formal application to the Stroud District Council for the diversion.

6. Conclusion

We hope that this briefing explains what is to be proposed, and why, and that the Parish council will feel able to support (or at least not object to) the proposed diversion.

We will be very happy to answer any questions that members may have.

Simon Bilous
Project Manager
Dursley Rugby Club

James Luck
Landowner
Stinchcombe

