

STOKE ORCHARD PARISH COUNCIL

held on Tuesday 2nd November 2010 7.30pm at Tredington Village Hall

Present:- Cllr P Holliday, Cllr A Troughton, Cllr S Darnell, Cllr R Chandler, County Cllr G Shurmer, Borough Cllr, A Keyte, Mrs C Reid (Clerk), Mr M Parker (GCC Environmental), Mr R Waters (Glos.Highways) and 9 Parishioners

1. Public Participation (please note any items needing decisions will be carried forward to the next Agenda/Meeting)
There were three main items of public participation Item 7 – School Bus Safety Aspect, Item 5 - Clerks Report Rights of Way Application, Item 6 – Proposed Watercourse Plan and Highway Improvements. Please see relevant item heading for further information.

Parishioner reported bin and dog/bin at Mill Lane Bus Stop needed emptying and needed emptying more regularly.

Action – Clerk to inform TBC

Parishioner asked why compost waste was just being put in ‘normal’ bin by the bin men. Borough Cllr Keyte replied ‘Slave Bins’ were used, but they were normally a different colour so not to cause confusion. He said he would enquire further.

2. Apologies for Absence:- Cllr M Masters, Cllr C Flowers, Cllr R Chatham
3. Declarations of Interest:- Cllr Chandler declared an interest in item 18 Planning.
4. Minutes of last meeting – The Minutes of the last meeting on 7th September 2010 were signed as a true record.
5. Clerks Report (including Matters Arising)

Letter from GCC Rights of Way – Informing that The Ramblers Association had applied for a ‘Modification Order’ for unclassified Road 50445 to add a length of bridleway running though the Parish. - The owner of the land informed the ancient drover route over his land was not the original route as the land had changed over the years. The land owner added there is an enormous amount of wildlife including deer and moths that would be disturbed if the route were opened up. The land owner was also concerned about opening up the route which would be accessible by vehicles and could invite unsavoury behaviour. Pedestrian safety was also a concern over the railway line. It was agreed by all the following statement is submitted to ROW:-

Stoke Orchard Parish Council, via the Parish Paths Partnership, established that it in our rural parish the complex and substantial ROW network is impossible to maintain on an annual basis, even with the support of county ROW.

The proposed Old Drovers Route originally from Cross Hands to Gloucester, may well have followed the route outlined historically. However, the construction of the main Birmingham to Bristol railway in the 1800’s cut across this route and has created a significant barrier.

The Parish Council cannot support the additional maintenance burden of a substantial cross-field bridleway.

The railway bridge, already the site of several serious vehicle accidents, one fatal, without any pedestrian, cycle, or horse provision, is a very hazardous and dangerous route to invite any ROW crossing traffic of any kind.

The former airfield site, unfortunately is already the subject of inappropriate use by both four wheel and two wheel recreational vehicles, with sometimes criminal trespass access into the existing adjacent waste site.

The existing wildlife area with ponds, at the southern section of the former airfield, benefits from being in a discreet location without disturbance. This could be compromised by the proposed route.

*For these sound reasons **Stoke Orchard Parish Council OBJECT to the proposal.***

GAPTC – It was agreed by all the clerk attend the Clerks Networking Course 7/12/10 at a cost of £6

6. Proposed Watercourse Plan and Highway Improvements Decision– Stoke Orchard – Cllr Holliday circulated proposed drainage plan. (enclosed) SOPC request to culvert section of Dean Lane junction. The problem = backs up and then flows backwards. Cllr Holliday stated culverted sections were least trouble and lowest maintenance, Mark Parker (GCC Environmental) said he was happy to review and would report back. A site meeting was arranged for 3/11/10.
7. School Bus Stop Safety Aspect(s) Decision – Stoke Orchard –The safety of school children is paramount, there is nowhere in village which meets the safety audit for a bus stop. Marchants collect and drop of at Banady Lane junction, the road is narrow and dangerous especially for younger students. It was felt by all that the current situation was ‘an accident waiting to happen’. Where the children congregate also stops visibility to drivers leaving Banady Lane. It was agreed by all that Marchants are advised that 2 stops are re-implemented. 1 x Mill Lane and 1 x Banady Lane.

- 8 Railway Bridge Safety Aspect Decision – Clerk advised of a letter sent to Network Rail from the Parish Council requesting more substantial safety. The reply stated that a scoring system had been used on the bridge and had scored 89. The required score for any mitigation measures to be carried out was 90. It was agreed that a reply sent to Network Rail asking them to address our specific safety concerns of embankment incursion causing potential problems.
- Cllr Holliday requested to Richard Waters (Glos Highways) if reflective posts could be implemented to cause more (especially at night) road guidance. RW asked us to revisit when Network Rail had replied to the above problems.
- Action – Cllr Holliday to draft letter to Network Rail*
- 9 Borough Councillors Report –The re-organisation of TBC were now keen with joint use sports centres via schools where the cost of usage was better. The latest one completed (1/11/10) was Bishops Cleeve.
- Borough Cllr Keyte reported the big issue at TBC were Budget Issues.
- TBC still have the 5th lowest council tax in England.
- Future problems are Grants will be cut by 28% - Year 1 - 10%, Year 2 – 9%, Year 3 - 3% and 9%.
- TBC will get 80% of the council tax of every house built after April 2011.
- 10 County Councillors Report – County Cllr Shurmer reported the main issue is the watercourse plan. Tredington Bridge had been delayed slightly as a new adopted water sewer had been identified. Pat Mooney had now organised for the system to be cleaned out with the alterations soon after.
- 30% cuts of £120 million were due to be announced publicly by GCC.
- Tredington Primary School have a vacancy for a Governor.
- Cllr Shurmer also reported that The Local Boundary Commission for England were currently conducting an electoral review of GCC. He said he already had 8 Parishes and to add more would be unrealistic.
- 11 Highways Seminar Report – Cllr Holliday had attended and submitted the following report:-
- Mark Hawthorne emphasized the gravity of coming cuts in services, by showing a pyramid shaped graph of the national debt, pointing to a modest few stones at the base of the pyramid, that represent deficit reduction to date. GCC is facing cuts of 30% of a 409M annual budget, phased mainly over three years. The majority of that budget is allocated for the social care of the elderly and young.
- He highlighted one pertinent statistic for our council, of GCC Waste costs at £ 1M in 1990, and £20+M currently in 2010.
- Good progress has been made with county - wide vehicle accident reductions. Credit is due to the effectiveness of the county road safety unit. (I thought also, that active communities like ours, are a key part of the effective accident reduction activity)
- Head (newly appointed) of Highways, Nigel Tomlinson, said that the current maintenance budget backlog of 91M, is ‘normal’ for local authorities. (Bear in mind that the 2007 floods took the backlog then to around another 30M higher) Gloucestershire Highways is endeavouring to move highway repair activity from re-active, to a greater proportion of planned works, for example moving from 47% currently planned, to 83% planned.
- Jenny Wilkes, Area Manager West, outlined the preparations for winter salting. Currently, 2,500 tonnes of salt are in stock.
- 12 GAPTC AGM Report – Cllr Holliday had attended and submitted the following report:-
- Peter Bungard emphasized the gravity of the cuts, and soberly advised that the cuts in services may well impact upon local town and parish councils. The indications are that, ‘soft target’ services like grass cutting for example, may have to be examined. (In our case, we may lose a proportion of our highways annual grass cutting budget?) In other instances too, Parish and Town Councils may have a greater local services role.
- For our own parish council interest, Peter Bungard also emphasized the substantial twenty year escalation of GCC waste costs.
- For our council, I asked, ‘Is it logical for two small parish councils, Stoke Orchard and Dymock, to receive between us, circa 30,000 tonnes per annum of centralised green waste composting?’
- Peter Bungard replied that personally, he was never able to see the logic of transporting 15,000 tonnes of green waste to for example, Dymock, Forest of Dean district.
- Dymock Parish Council commented that loss of amenity has occurred this summer specifically through local odour, from high volumes of inward feedstock of both in - vessel, and exterior windrow composting.
- For Stoke Orchard Parish Council, I suggested that GCC could cut transport costs by encouraging much more county wide dispersed local composting? Some parishes like Alderton for example, already do this.

Another councillor pointed out that we are in the minority of countries in Europe that doorstep collect. Most countries undertake community waste site activity as the norm, rather than doorstep collection.

Peter Bungard acknowledged this fact.

These were important all authority /community strategic review of budget discussions, particularly for our parish.

13 Cheques/Financial Report

Stoke Orchard Parish Council

Year Ending 31st March

2011

Budget Report

	Spend 2009/10		Spend To date 2010/11	Budget	Income	
Salary	2353.76		1501.10	2400.00	4600.00	Precept
Telephone/email	0.00		0.00	0.00	144.67	Vat Return
Stationery,Post	50.52		36.52	60.00	2.02	Interest
Meetings	109.50		0.00	120.00	607.50	Grass Cutting Assistance
Insurance	234.73		265.51	266.00		
		GAPTC				
Subs	174.43	+GRCC	15.00	175.00		
Training	121.00		20.00	125.00		
		Internal/				
Audit	172.50	External	175.00	175.00		
Amenities	839.50	Grass Cutting	510.00	850.00		
Parish Mag	50.52		0.00	55.00		
Donations	0.00		20.00	20.00		
Website	<u>0.00</u>		102.93	150.00		
	<u>4106.46</u>		<u>2646.06</u>	<u>4396.00</u>	<u>5354.19</u>	
Contingency				958.19	-	
					-	

BANK
ACCOUNTS

Current	575.47
Savings	<u>6590.28</u>
	<u>7165.75</u>

Cheques since last meeting

02/11/2010	John Preece	453	323.13
02/11/2010	Moore Stephens	454	141.00
02/11/2010	Cathy Reid (Clerk)	455	350.28

14 Parish Plan Final Consultation – Clerk read out the following from Cllr Masters

The GRCC has agreed to enter the parish plan and action plan onto their countrywide database. In order to do so, they need formal agreement from the Parish Council at a Parish Council meeting that the Parish Plan is adopted and that permission should be given to the GRCC to enter onto the countrywide database. This should be included in the Parish Council minutes.

It is my recommendation that the Parish Plan is therefore formally adopted and permission given to the GRCC as above.

- i) The GRCC recommend that we separate the Parish Plan from the Action Plan, then include on the website separately. Attached are the two files. The Action Plan will remain a working document and will be updated as actions are completed and priorities change.
- ii) An open question “Do we now remove the action 5.2 – Develop Parish Website, as it is now live?”

- iii) Also, “Should we include ‘Completed Actions’ in the Action Plan document so that parishioners can see what has been completed”? Should there be a paragraph added to the website stating that the first Action from the Parish Plan has now been successfully completed – The Website?
- iv) The GRCC recommend that we add an additional one or two quicker wins in the action plan. Any suggestions during the parish council meeting would be appreciated.
- v) It is suggested that the actions on the Action Plan are reviewed and agreed in order of priority. Also, some may change or be deleted. Any items to be deleted should be agreed at the parish council meeting. I suggest that the following marked in blue should remain on the Action Plan for the future, but not now. All others should be ‘live’ actions. I have added in red, changes I suggest to the wording.

It was agreed by all that in answer to Cllr Masters questions - yes we should remove the action 5.2 Develop Parish Website, yes we should include ‘Completed Actions’; in the Action Plan document and yes, there should be a paragraph on the website stating the Parish Plan had been successfully completed

It was then agreed by all the Parish Plan be adopted by the Parish Council. Cllr Holliday gave thanks to Cllr Masters for his hard work and effort involved.

- 15 Drainage Reports for both Villages – Cllr Chatham forwarded the following report:- I met Pat Mooney today at the entrance to Fiddington Lane re the cleansing of the old Mill Race. It appears that they were not happy about the results of the exploratory work and earlier cleansing so they are going to rip out the exit/outfall box in the ditch line and fully cleanse and investigate the Mill Race once more. Should there be a problem, Pat has agreed to rip out the extension of the old race which was put in when the entrance to Fiddington lane was widened and install a pipe with bigger capacity. He is also looking at the problem I highlighted earlier that although the water can get to the Ditch alongside the Fiddington Lane, the pipes across to the Swilgate and the ditch lack capacity and limit efficiency.

He hopes to improve this and the entrance to the race to get the full potential out of the existing road crossing before looking at a second relief channel.

- 16 Parish Website Update – Cllr Darnell reported the website had had moderate use and would welcome any feedback.

- 17 Cory/Grundon Liaison – Cory - Any complaints about anything contact Cory as well as Environment Agency. Grundons - Several Smells reported.

- 18 Planning - APPEAL – 10/00404/FUL – Use of flat roof as balcony area. Erection of surrounding railings and privacy screen at upper floor level. Replacement of existing double glazed window at first floor level – The Wheelhouse, Stoke Road, **STOKE ORCHARD**

DECISION = PERMIT – 10/00934/FUL – Proposed single storey extension. – White Gables, Dean Lane, **STOKE ORCHARD**

- 19 Neighbourhood Watch - There was no report

- 20 Dates of Next Meetings

Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 7.30pm

Tuesday 1st March 2011 at 7.30pm