

Minutes of the Meeting

STOKE ORCHARD PARISH COUNCIL

Held in the Tredington Village Hall on 6th August 2009

Present:- Cllr P Holliday, Cllr R Chatham, Cllr A Troughton, Cllr C Flowers, Cllr M Masters, Cllr S Darnell, Mrs C Reid (clerk) and 24 Parishioners.

1. Apologies for Absence – Borough Cllr A Keyte, County Cllr G Shurmer
2. Declarations of Interest – There were no Declarations of Interest
3. To discuss/view the CRE Planning Application No. 09/00612/OUT Parishioners were invited to give their views and ask questions before the meeting started. One parishioner said there was nothing in it for the village. It will change from 80 houses to 200 houses. He was worried about the traffic and had done a survey which showed an 8 % increase which will increase to 1400 total which will pass between 7am-9am. He also mentioned the school would not be big enough to take the extra pupils.

Another Parishioner said that her and her family had 3 cars on their drive. Redeveloping the CRE site as proposed, may be the only effective way of dealing with an industrial site that causes persistent nuisance to residents. If the redevelopment provided community facilities, then this would help to reduce car journeys.

Cllr Masters gave the CRE Site History.

Cllr Chatham explained about traffic levels in 1940's and 1950's in that there were a lot more heavy goods vehicles then. Concern was raised about pollution at the site ever since it was built at the beginning of the war, initially as a defence site, and then used for Coal Research to strengthen the coal industry.

In 1826 Census – most residents of Tredington and Stoke Orchard worked in Tewkesbury or Cheltenham. In 1940 – 1950, there used to be a shop at 'The Park' (where the tip is now) and a bus service ran on the hour. Stoke Orchard had a substantially increased population during and after the war, and a shop and bus service played a vital role in dealing with that.

Mrs Christine Adamson brought history up to date regarding the Residents Association, and the Parish Council objecting to former CRE site proposals of 200 or so houses on the site. Mrs Adamson also asked why the houses could not be reduced in number by confining development to the south side of the Dean Brook?

Cllr Holliday commented that The Environment Agency after 2007, now calibrates the CRE site into 3 flood zones. The application confines the residential redevelopment proposals to the ridge contour zones, clear of flooding, which are on either side of the Dean Brook.

Cllr Chatham responded to the comment made about the school as a School Governor stating the school would strongly welcome and already have plans for new classroom and sports hall. If houses were built, it could provide an opportunity to increase the numbers to hopefully 80+. He also stated the quality of teaching was very high and happiness of children showed that. The governors welcome the application and any new children.

A parishioner suggested that maybe a purpose built school could be included in the plans? Cllr Chatham said it could be looked into, as this is just an outline application.

A parishioner asked if there were any plans to widen the road? Cllr Holliday replied that it had been the focus of intensive discussion to address. There are no walk/cycle paths to Bishops Cleeve, we have requested safety measures from Grundon in their recent planning application. Although Cllr Holliday believes there maybe traffic restrictions on the bridge in future.

Parishioner asked about the Community Shop. Cllr Holliday replied there were lots of successful community shops and with the assistance of the Plunkett Foundation and another partner (maybe Co-op) it should hopefully ensure the shop serves the community.

A Parishioner asked how big is the community bus? Cllr Holliday replied that the bus would be likely to be a 16 seat, and the project outlines a substantial budget. A Parishioner questioned this, and suggested that everyone would still use their cars? Cllr Holliday explained that Tirley had a successful community bus and it was important that the proposed bus had a start up budget, and was supported by the community for the needs of the community. It would probably not be a free service.

Cllr Darnell read the Parish Councils proposed response on the planning application.

4. Update on The Swilgate Bridge – Cllr Chatham explained that in 2008, The Parish Council had received a written commitment from Glos. Highways to replace the bridge. A 50 page report on the hydraulic capacity of the bridge had now been produced by Atkins, which Cllr Chatham said he would read for the next meeting. He also said he would do the same with the Environment Agency Report. A working party of Cllr Chatham and two residents was formed to scrutinize the information, and they will report back to the council in September.

5. Dates of Next Meetings
Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 7.30pm
Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at 7.30pm