

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STOURTON WITH GASPER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023, At Stourton Memorial Hall
(www.stourton.org.uk)**

The meeting was opened at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllrs C Spencer (Chairman), R Higgs, N Hoare, J Joyce, Cllr Gray
Mrs F Hill (Clerk)

Cllr George Jeans Wiltshire Council

PUBLIC SESSION

4 members of the public were present.

1 member of the public asked if there had been any update on a mobile mast . The parish Council have had no update. There is a new mast in Kingston Deverill which is partly operational.

1 member thanked Cllr Hoare for organising the Litter Pick. She also was concerned about some hedge clippings that had not been cleared up. She will contact the landowner.

1 member applauded the speed with which Wiltshire Council repaired a pothole on Bonham Lane

Wiltshire Council

Cllr Jeans informed the meeting about the new requirement for ID in order to vote at elections, local or general. He explained that having a polling card would not be sufficient and if voters did not have driving licence, ID cards or passport there were special exemption forms they must apply for. **Cllr Spencer** said we would publicise this in the Upper Stour magazine.

Cllr Jeans has already reported the fly-tipped rubbish in the layby.

SGPC 22/43 TO RECEIVE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllrs Niemand and Fearon sent their apologies which were **APPROVED**.

SGPC 22/44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(i) To consider any written requests for dispensations by the clerk. The clerk had received no declarations of interest.

(ii) To receive any declarations of interest – no further declarations were received

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Stourton and Gasper Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

SGPC 22/45 It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on the 30 November 2022 as a true record.

Proposed Cllr Joyce, seconded Cllr Hoare

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

[for-against-abstain]

SGPC 22/42 ACTIONS (not covered by other agenda items)

Cllr Hoare **THANKED** everyone for their time and effort during the recent litter pick.

SGPC 22/43 CLERKS REPORT

(i) Cllrs **NOTED** the annualised hours of the clerk work out to approximately 9 hours per month rather than the current 6. It was **AGREED** to consider contracting the clerk to work 9 hours and defer the decision until the May Annual Parish Meeting. This will have a correlation with holiday pay.

(ii) Councillors **RESOLVED** to pay the Clerk approximately quarterly rather than annually. This will tie in with the regular meetings May, September, November and March. It was **NOTED** this will make little impact on payroll as AOS has to file a report every month regardless of whether there is a payment. It was suggested if this was the case to pay monthly but the Clerk preferred to tie in with meeting dates.

Proposed Cllr Hoare, seconded Cllr Higgs

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (iii) Councillors **RESOLVED** to fund half the cost for the Clerk to start her FILCA qualification. The total price is £120 + VAT. The Clerk will approach Zeals Parish Council for the other half.

Proposed Cllr Higgs, seconded Cllr Joyce

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (iv) The Clerk presented three different options to purchase a new council laptop. Cllrs **RESOLVED** to ask the Clerk to purchase one from Westcotts for £473.50 and to share the Microsoft Office annual cost with Zeals Parish Council.

Proposed Cllr Higgs, seconded Cllr Joyce

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

SGPC 22/44 FINANCE MATTERS

- (i) Councillors **NOTED** the balance of the account. £12,093.61 as at 31/01/23
(ii) The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following: and additional amounts that come in after the agenda is sent out.

Westcotts	Council Laptop	£473.50	
Microsoft	Microsoft Office 365	£29.99	
AOS Ltd	Annual Payroll 22-23 and production of P60	£77	Chq 380
Mrs F Hill	Salary pd Annually approx. 137.75 hours @ £12.06 Holiday based on contracted hours of 6 per month @ £12.06 £96 Home Working £75 Expenses nothing claimed	£1826.11	Chq 381

Proposed Cllr Joyce, seconded Cllr Gray

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (iii) It was **NOTED** there were no payments paid out under delegated powers

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SGPC 22/45 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (i) Applications to consider at the meeting: including any that come in after the agenda is sent out - NONE

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- (ii) Councillors **NOTED** these applications had been considered/determined since last meeting:

PL/2023/00758	Proposed works to trees in conservation area	No Objection	
PI/2023/00059	Proposed works to trees in conservation area	No Objection	No Objection
PI/2022/09485	Installation of signage and dog waste bins	No objection	Approve with Conditions
PL/2022/08096	Change of use from grassland to storage	No objection	Approve with Conditions

SGPC 22/46 MONTHLY CHECKS FOR DEFIBRILATOR

Council was asked to find a volunteer to take over from former Cllr Booth and to check the defibrillator each month. Former Cllr Booth is willing to pass on the information and train the new person. A member of the public present, Mr Erik Ruane, volunteered to take on this role. The PC thanked him and the **Clerk** will pass his details on to Former Cllr Booth.

The **Clerk** will also send a letter of thanks to former Cllr Booth for all her hard work over the last few years.

SGPC 22/47 WINTER SNOW PLAN

- (i) Council was asked to review the current winter snow plan which is not working as it should. The spreader was supplied to the Parish Council from Wiltshire Council and operated by the National Trust to spread salt. However, this has not been authorised by Wiltshire Council in the recent bad weather. There was an update from the National Trust to say they do not have manpower or insurance to continue this role.

Two options were suggested

- a. The Parish Council takes back the spreader and finds someone who has a tractor or vehicle able to tow it and salts Gasper Street and other roads when the need arises.
- b. The Parish Council acquires some more salt bins and forms a 'WhatsApp' group and volunteers hand spread Gasper Street when required

Cllr Jeans pointed out that we required a snow plan and cannot use the spreader on public highways without the specific authorisation from Wiltshire Council.

Councillors **RESOLVED** that **Cllr Higgs** would investigate the feasibility of plan a. He would also set up and co-ordinate a gritting group on 'WhatsApp'. **The Clerk** will email David Button for new bins and copy Cllr Higgs in.

Proposed Cllr Higgs, seconded Cllr Gray
Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

- (ii) Council discussed the ice that forms on Gasper Street from the spring. It was **NOTED** that caution must be adhered to and by blocking or redirecting the flow of water this could result in further leaks onto the road.

It was **RESOLVED** not to pursue this at this time

Proposed Cllr Higgs, seconded Cllr Gray
Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

SGPC 22/48 ROYAL MATTERS

- (i) Coronation of King Charles III

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee were giving a mug to every household.

The Church will have a special service that Sunday

Suggestion that the Parish Council put on a tea party on the Sunday. The hall is booked out all weekend. Discussed if a picnic would work but weather and lack of facilities deterred this suggestion being pursued.

It was **NOTED** there was £250 budgeted in November for an event.

It was **RESOLVED** that **Cllr Spencer** would approach Kilmington to see if Kilmington would be agreeable to Stourton joining their Coronation event at the Home Guard Club.

Proposed Cllr Joyce, seconded Cllr Gray
Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

SGPC 22/49 STOURTON LANE

- (i) Council discussed at length how to resolve the issue of traffic at the pinch point on Stourton Lane. A resident had forwarded a suggestion which was considered. Concern was raised that putting the signs close to the corner would be ineffective as people are inevitably travelling slowly at that point and 40 mph signs could actually encourage vehicles to increase speed. Permanent signs are a better solution than painted signs on the road which result in recurring cost to repaint them. Also It was **NOTED** that the issue was more pinch-point than speed. If timings were out two vehicles meet at the narrowing and cannot pass without difficulty.

It was **RESOLVED** to request a quote to assess feasibility for more effective signage such as 'vehicles in middle of road' signs.

The Clerk will put the broken sign on the MyWiltsAPP again and hopefully this will be addressed this time.

Proposed Cllr Higgs, seconded Cllr Spencer

Resolved 5 – 0 – 0

SGPC 22/50 CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence sent through to the Clerk was NOTED

- (i) Email thread with resident regarding the survey results (previously circulated)
- (ii) **Letter from Wiltshire Council 9/1/23 – Election Costs (previously circulated)** The four yearly cost of regular election will be approximately £275. (Interim elections due to councillor resignation would result in the parish being liable for approximately £6000).
- (iii) Letter from resident regarding mobile mast 12/1/2023 (previously circulated)
- (iv) Member of public's email regarding Stourton Lane – circulated further email received 24/1/23 (previously circulated)
- (v) Email from WC regarding the spring / ice on Gasper Street 1/2/23 (previously circulated)
- (vi) Email thread with resident and Wiltshire council 24/1/23 (previously circulated)
- (vii) Email from Wiltshire Council re road works in Gasper Street
- (viii) Letter received 20/2/23 from resident in Stourton Lane with suggestions to alleviate the issues.

SGPC 22/51 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Niemand will update Council on the December Lights event at the next meeting. He will have met with local representatives by then.

SGPC 22/52 DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

- 3 May 2023 Annual Parish Meeting
- 3 May 2023 Annual Parish Council Meeting
- 3 May 2023 General Parish Council Meeting

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the matters above in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Meeting closed at 7.30 pm