

# Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council

## Meeting of the Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council held at the Stonehenge Visitor's Centre, Winterbourne Stoke on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at 7.05 pm

In Attendance: Parish Councillors: Dr A Shuttleworth, T Pywell, T Dengel  
Apologies: Nil  
Parishioners: 11  
Clerk: J Carr

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening Statement from the Parish Clerk</b> <p>The Clerk welcomed all present and asked for a volunteer for Chairman. Cllr Pywell volunteered, albeit reluctantly, Cllr Dr Shuttleworth and Cllr Dengel accepted his offer. The new Chairman asked for a volunteer for vice-Chairman; Cllr Dr Shuttleworth volunteered, again reluctantly. Cllr Pywell and Cllr Dengel accepted his offer.</p> <p><u>Post Meeting Note (10/02/20):</u></p> <p>Since the meeting, it has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that the resignation letter from Cllr R Watts was not read out and has not been published. This was an oversight by the Parish Council, for which we apologise. The email of resignation is reproduced in full below:</p> <p>All, given everything that has been going on over the past few weeks, I have been compelled to considered my position on the council. I have been wrestling with this decision, but it is with a heavy heart that I tender my resignation from Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council forthwith. I would be grateful if you would respect my decision.</p> <p>I have enjoyed my time over the past few years and wish the current councillors all the very best for the future.</p> <p>Best Regards – Richard Watts</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Adjournment for Parishioners' Questions.</b> <p><u>Question from Mrs J Pratt:</u></p> <div data-bbox="437 1543 1299 1839"><p>1. I would like to know if the Parish Council will be issuing an apology to the parishioners for its conduct at the meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> November? More specifically, the reading from the 'Councillor's Guide to Handling Intimidation' and the premature closure. All parishioners perceived this as you implying that there was a person or persons present that you, without justification, deemed a threat to safety. This is unacceptable behaviour. In your Code of Conduct it states that 'you are accountable for your decisions to the public', so I am asking if you will be showing some accountability and integrity by offering an apology.</p></div> <p>Cllr Dr Shuttleworth stated that an apology may be issued once it has been established who the Parish Council should be apologising to and why an apology is required. All cllrs agreed that it was unfortunate that the meeting had to be cut short but that in light of information received this was the most appropriate course of action.</p>

Question from Mt J Batchelor:

This was regarding the letter he had received from the Clerk detailing expenditure over £100 in FY 2018/19. He queried the PAYE payment of £1122.40 on 14 December 2018; the Clerk noted that this was an unfortunate typographical error and the value should have been £122.40 in-line with similar payments in July 2018, September 2018 and March 2019.

Questions from Mr D Hillier:

*Mr. Chairman.....*

*I would like to take this opportunity to make 2 brief statements.*  
*Firstly,,, in reference to the Parish Councils meeting held on*  
*Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2019.*

*In particular... the funding of the "Parish Children's Christmas*  
*Party".. Therefore I would like to QUOTE.....*

*"From..... PART 3..... "THE GOOD COUNCILLORS GUIDE"*  
*SECTION 9..... "BEING PREPARED"*

*"It is actually unlawful to make a decision, especially a decision to*  
*spend money, without sufficient (three clear days) warning. Vague*  
*Agenda items that don't specify exact business (such as Matters*  
*Arising, Correspondence and Any Other Business) are dangerous*  
*and should be avoided, because the council cannot make*  
*unexpected decisions".*

*Also..... May I QUOTE,,,,,*

*From....."THE ESSENTIAL CLERK" ... FROM THE WEBSITE OF*  
*THE "SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS" .....SECTION*  
*5..... FINANCE../// ... FINANCIAL PROCEDURES.*

*"Remember, the council must not agree to spend money on the*  
*spur of the moment (they need three clear days' notice) and*  
*individual councillors must never commit the council to spending*  
*money on the council's behalf".*

*Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Parish Council may*  
*have acted unlawfully or improperly in making this decision.*

*D. Hillier. 5 Church Street.*

All Cllrs noted Mr Hillier's concerns over, what he saw as, unlawful actions; however, it was pointed out that Cllrs had been made aware of this request prior to the meeting and that there was a significant urgency to the request because without it there would be no Christmas party for the children of parishioners. There had been no pressure on Cllrs to agree expenditure and all cllrs are aware that pressure will never be made to bear on them for a particular decision to be made.

*Secondly, Mr. Chairman,  
In reference to the draft Minutes published for the meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019.  
I would like to raise a point to the accuracy of the minutes that the Parish Council have duly proposed.  
I totally agree that the Clerk suggested an amount of £400, of which all Councillors agreed.  
However, neither I, or the other 5 Parishioners in attendance that evening can recall the Clerk stating "that the money was available and that such spending was within the powers of the parish Council" and furthermore, I, or any of the Parishioners present can't recall, Cllr. Pywell suggest "that instead of a grant, that the organisers could be granted £400 on which they could drawdown expenditure"- of which apparently was agreed unanimously.  
To conclude, I believe that the proposed draft minutes stated for the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November are an outright Fabrication.  
  
D.Hillier 5 Church Street.*

Cllrs Pywell and Shuttleworth stated that they too had seen this error and that it would be corrected under Item 4.

Question from Mrs K Blair:

Can a co-opted cllr be the Chairman? The Clerk replied yes.

<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies Received</b>	
	No apologies were received.	
<b>4</b>	<b>To confirm the minutes from the previous Parish Council meeting</b>	
	The minutes from the meetings held on 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 and 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 were accepted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk; however, Cllr Dr Shuttleworth pointed out that it was him, not Cllr Pywell, that proposed that the children's Christmas party grant should be drawn-down rather than paid-out in full. The Clerk would update the minutes on the website and amend the hardcopy.	
<b>5</b>	<b>To report, for information only, any matters arising from the minutes</b>	
	<p>The following actions were outstanding from the previous meeting:</p> <p>a. (01/17 – 07) It has been agreed that the Parish requires an Emergency Plan. Cllr Zacks-McGoldrick and the Clerk have made contact with Mr Rennie, who has experience with such matters, but although he is “on-board” he is very busy. The Clerk will ask WALC for advice and a recommendation on other avenues for the provision of an Emergency Plan for the Parish.</p> <p>b. (01/18-02) Since the Chairman contacted and met with the Dog Warden in the village to discuss the issue signs have been erected; however, it</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Clerk - on-going</p>



	<p><b>Training:</b> Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Finance:</b> Money in Account (at close of business 24 Dec 19): £11,481.22</p> <p>Less un-cleared cheques:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Xmas Party Presents</td> <td>£14.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Xmas Party Ents</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC Q3</td> <td>£256.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bawdens</td> <td>£105.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bawdens</td> <td>£105.44</td> </tr> </table> <p>Commitments:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Bawdens</td> <td>£105.44</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bills awaited:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Yellow lines</td> <td>£500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20mph Study</td> <td>£625.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Precept FY20/21:</b> Following discussion cllrs agreed that there was no reason for the current level of precept to be increased, therefore, the Clerk would apply for a precept of £9,090.00.</p>	Xmas Party Presents	£14.99	Xmas Party Ents	£20.00	HMRC Q3	£256.40	Bawdens	£105.44	Bawdens	£105.44	Bawdens	£105.44	Yellow lines	£500.00	20mph Study	£625.00	<p><b>Action:</b> Clerk (01/20-02)</p>
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<b>7</b>	<b>Planning Applications</b>																	
	Nothing to report.																	
<b>8</b>	<b>Services including Recreation Facilities</b>																	
	<p><b>Play Park:</b> The RoSPA report was received in September. There were ten findings: all were assessed as either low or very low risk with no risk score being greater than five. Cllrs discussed each finding. A copy of the report will be available on the Parish Council website.</p> <p><b>IT inc Broadband and Website:</b> There were issues with the website in November and December, but these were swiftly resolved.</p>																	
<b>9</b>	<b>Highways &amp; Byways</b>																	
	<p><b>General:</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Current A303:</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>A303 Scheme:</b> The Inspectors' report should have been submitted to the Secretary of State on the first of January; he has three months to respond. Even if the scheme is not adopted there could still be benefits – for example, the crossroads at the Rolleston Camp could still be altered to reduce the lure of rat-running through Shrewton.</p> <p>Parishioners are reminded that they should keep a close eye on the Parish Council website for updates:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://www.winterbournestokepc.org.uk">www.winterbournestokepc.org.uk</a></p>																	
<b>10</b>	<b>Environment including Emergency Planning</b>																	
	Cllr Dr Shuttleworth raised the issue of a noise nuisance emanating from a residence on the Berwick St James road; it noise appeared to be from motorcycles circulating in the garden. He had contacted Wiltshire Council and	<b>Action:</b> Cllr Dr Shuttleworth (01/20-03)																

	had been encouraged to keep a “sound log” and encouraged others to do the same; he said that he will put details on the website and the Facebook page.	
<b>11</b>	<b>World Heritage Site</b>	
	Nothing to report.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Police</b>	
	Nothing to report.	
<b>13</b>	<b>Reports from Councillors</b>	
	<p><b>Cllrs:</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Village Events Committee:</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been informed that an Events Committee EGM is to be called soon.</p> <p><b>Wiltshire Cllrs:</b> None present.</p>	
	<b>The Next Meeting</b>	
	The meeting closed at 8:40 pm. Future meetings will be held on the first Thursday of alternate months; the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Stonehenge Visitor’s Centre <u>following the Annual Parish Meeting</u> (this will commence at 7:00 pm).	<b>Action:</b> All cllrs.

J H Carr  
Clerk of the Council

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

A Pywell  
Chairman of the Council

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020