



LEONARD STANLEY

P A R I S H C O U N C I L

Minutes of the Leonard Stanley Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th April 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present:- Councillors W Bevan, C Connett, M Forder (Chairperson), R Gaunt, C Jones & J Wiseman

Observing:- District Cllr N Studdert-Kennedy and County Cllr L Williams

Also Present:- District Cllr E Bird, Carlos Novoth from Stroud District Council and a member of the public

1. Apologies for Absence – Cllr P Herbert & District Cllr R Apperley

2. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items – Cllr's Connett and Gaunt - Item 8iii

3. Minutes – It was proposed by Cllr Connett that the minutes of 3rd March 2009 meeting be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Wiseman and carried unanimously.

4. Public Time – The clerk was handed a copy of the petition submitted to the Police reference the dogs kept in Gypsy Lane, and it was requested that the Parish Council write asking for similar action. The clerk stated that a letter has already been sent to both the Police and Dog Warden which raised those concerns, but has not yet received a reply. The clerk will send a further letter requesting assurance that the concerns are being addressed.

5. End of Food Waste Trial – Carlos Novoth from Public Spaces at Stroud District Council and District Cllr E Bird were present to take questions from the public and the Parish Council. Carlos stated that it was a big disappointment to end the trial, but there was no realistic prospect of rolling it out and that it would be unfair to continue it in a small area. He stated that it would cost an extra £2.3 million to roll it out to the rest of the district and a 1% increase in Council Tax would only raise £75000. He stated that the scheme had performed better than anticipated, and the success was partly achieved due to the schemes design, to encourage people to be more aware of what they were throwing away. However, they had not anticipated the extra costs the contractor would charge for this service to continue, he said that it would cost an extra £116000, to retain the service for the Stanleys. It was acknowledged that at sometime in the future it will not be acceptable to put food waste into landfill sites, however Stroud's contract with Veolia runs until 2016.

The Parish Council were unhappy at not being notified before a letter was sent to residents informing them of that the trial would be ending, and that no-one had explored whether the residents of the Stanleys would have been prepared to pay more in Council Tax to retain the scheme. Carlos apologised for not notifying the Parish Council, and stated he had put together a comprehensive plan but simply forgot to consult the council.

The point was raised that there will be heavy fines imposed unless the amount of waste sent to landfill is reduced. Carlos stated that it is the responsibility of Gloucestershire County

Council to meet those targets and not the District Council, although it was acknowledged that it would ultimately be the tax payer who foots the bill.

It was noted that the Audit Commission has just criticised Stroud District Council for not recycling sufficiently, but the figures would show an improvement due to the Food Waste Trial but obviously drop off again as the trial comes to an end. It was stated that other councils achieve their targets through collecting garden waste, which is not being considered by Stroud.

Stroud District Council are hoping to install plastic banks (which take all types of plastic), once the market conditions improve. There is no market in the UK for plastic to be recycled, so the waste is sent to China and Hong Kong, although Stroud District Council would then guarantee that it would be recycled. They will look into installing one of these banks in the Pavilion Car Park, however it would not be possible to install a cardboard bank there, as the access is not sufficient.

Stroud District Council will send out leaflets informing residents of when and what waste will be collected (as from May): Residual waste will go back to being collected in black bags every week, and the green bin recyclables will be collected every fortnight and there will no longer be a food waste collection. As it would cost money to collect, clean and store the wheelie bins, residents will be advised that they can keep them, but must not put them out to be emptied.

6. Update of the Parish Plan – Cllr Forder stated that the Parish Plan group had put together two questionnaires, one designed for the residents of Leonard Stanley & Stanley Downton (copy provided for each councillor) and a shorter one for the neighbouring authorities to establish what facilities are used in their parishes. Feedback from the councillors present, to the content of the questionnaire, was positive.

Cllr Forder stated she hoped that the questionnaire will be ready for distribution in early May and then be collected at the end of May. The Parish Council wished to thank the committee of the Parish Plan for their time and effort they have put in so far.

7. To receive reports from the Clerk on:

- **Work being done in the Pavilion** – The clerk stated that the shower in the Referee’s room has been installed and the new door fitted. Some minor repairs to the external doors have also been done. Cllr Herbert has requested some further quotes for an additional two shower heads to be fitted and some fire doors installed, as it is likely that the football team will be promoted. The quotes will be submitted for consideration at next months meeting.
- **Confirm Date for Annual Parish Meeting and Annual General Meeting** – The clerk confirmed the date for these meetings will be Tuesday 12th May 2009, with the AGM starting at 7pm and the APM at 8pm.

8. Financial Issues

i) The clerk sought approval to pay for the following items to be paid.

Expenses

DATE	PAYEE	PURPOSES	AMOUNT	CHQ NO/REF
23/03/09	GAPTC	Cllr’s Legal Responsibilities Training – (Cllr Forder attended)	£ 30.00	136/ 001870
23/03/09	Steve Marshall	Play Equipment Inspections Feb	£ 9.00	137/ 001871
23/03/09	Steve Watson	Web Hosting (6 months)	£ 41.33	138/ 001872
07/04/09	JNC Ltd	Fire Extinguishers Service	£ 25.59	1/ 001873

07/04/09	Stroud District Council	Tennis court rates	£120.25	2/ 001874
07/04/09	Severn Trent Water	Water Services Bill	£ 77.24	3/ 001875
07/04/09	GAPTC	Annual Subscription	£274.89	4/ 001876
07/04/09	SLCC	Annual Renewal	£ 82.00	5/ 001877
07/04/09	LS Village Hall	Rent for February & March + Community Event	£ 35.00	6/ 001878
07/04/09	Steve Marshall	Play Equip Inspections March + Grass Cut and repairs	£123.50	7/ 001879
07/04/09	R Biddle	Cleaning March	£100.00	8/ 001880
07/04/09	M Forder	Chair Allowance March	£ 10.00	9/ 001881
07/04/09	I Litton	Litter pick, stationary, milk & Annual Office Allowance	£206.32	10/ 001882
07/04/09	I Litton	Clerk fee including adjustment of pay as per NALC & 5 hours overtime	£329.63	11/ 01883
07/04/09	Gloucestershire County Council	Pension Contributions March	£ 80.30	12/ 01884
07/04/09	Ken Greenway	Fit Shower & door in Pavilion	£958.00	13/ 01885
07/04/09	Mr J Whittard	Service Boiler in Pavilion	£ 60.00	14/ 01886

These payments were proposed by Cllr Gaunt and seconded by Cllr Jones and passed unanimously.

ii) Financial Risk Review and Internal Financial Checks: The clerk stated that Cllr Gaunt had agreed to take on the role of Financial Overseer and that a Financial Risk Review had been undertaken.

Cllr Gaunt also checked the latest bank reconciliation and did an internal audit check on the following payments: Cheque no 001727, dated 6 May 2008 for £887.13, payable to TW Hawkins & Sons, Cheque no 001758, dated 17 July 2008 for £2325.00, payable to Advocate and Cheque no 001856, dated 3 February 2009 for £277.84, payable to I Litton.

iii) To consider a grant to Friends of Leonard Stanley School (FOLS) towards their Save the Pool Campaign

The clerk stated that FOLS needed to raise at least £3600 for a new liner for the pool, and has so far raised approx £1500, with further fundraising activities such as a fashion show, sponsored swim and the school fete planned. The clerk also confirmed that the Parish Council accounts had sufficient funds (under s137) to allow for a grant, if the council wished. After some consultation, to ensure that giving a large donation would benefit the community, a proposal was made.

It was resolved to grant The Friends of Leonard Stanley £1000, for their Save the Pool Campaign, (but no further requests for grants should be made this year from FOLS). This was proposed by Cllr Bevan and seconded by Cllr Wiseman and unanimously agreed.

iv) Dog Bin at Seven Waters (see item 12). The overall cost of this will be approximately £300.

9. Planning

Planning Applications

Since the March meeting the following has been received:

Permissions:

S.09/0182/FUL Grange Close House
S.09/0191/FUL Montrose, The Street

Consents:

S.09/0112/LBC Downton Farm
S.09/0224/TPO Tannery House

Withdrawal of Application:

S.09/0109/FUL Downton Farm – change of use of 4 redundant barns to 4 dwellings.

Appeal:

S.08/2066/FUL Oaklea - Erection of dwelling. Amended site plan/parking arrangement received. It was agreed that a our original objections should be reiterated.

10. Correspondence

Details of the correspondence received during March had been circulated and the schedule forms an integral part of these minutes. The correspondence files were available for inspection at the meeting. The Clerk highlighted the following items:

From a resident at Stanley Downton – Youngsters congregating at Beards Mill

From Stroud District Council – Core Strategy Issues

11. To discuss and approve Employment Policy – Cllr Forder stated that she had recently attended some training with GAPTC, and from that it emerged that the Parish Council should have an Employment Policy in place. The Parish Council currently has two employees, The Clerk and the Cleaner of the Pavilion. Cllr Forder and the clerk have worked together and adapted a model from GAPTC, (copy already provided to Councillors).

It was proposed by Cllr Bevan and seconded by Cllr Connett to adopt this policy and unanimously agreed.

12. To Consider installing a dog bin at Seven Waters – Cllr Forder confirmed that the Dog Warden had made a site visit and confirmed it a suitable place for a dog bin. (The site proposed is by the litter bin and notice board at Seven Waters). It was noted that the litter bin at Seven Waters is currently being used to dispose of dog fouling bags.

It was proposed to install a dog bin at Seven Waters by Cllr Wiseman and seconded by Cllr Bevan and passed.

13. Update on the Community Information Event – Cllr Forder stated that the event was well attended and that all the organisations (who confirmed that they would be present), did turn up. There has been lots of positive feedback both from the residents who came and the organisations, who felt that the idea should be adopted by other parishes.

14. To receive a report from Cllr Bevan reference Life Skills Centre Presentation

Cllr Bevan stated that there will be a 45minute presentation at Ebley Mill on Wednesday 15th April, at 7pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The idea of the Centre is to show youngsters through simulators on how to react in emergencies like a fire in the home.

15. Councillors Submissions -

Reminder: The AGM will commence at 7pm and the APM at 8pm on Tuesday the 12th May 2009.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th May 2009 in The Village Hall at 7.00 pm.