

# STADHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and AGM held on Monday 1st May, 2012

Clerk: Paul Isaacs, 11 Thame Road, Great Milton, Oxon., OX44 7HY

<b>Attendees</b>	Daf Phillips (Chair) (DP), Golda Nann (Vice-Chair) (GN), Michael May (MM), Sarah Street (SS), Liz Eales (LE), Brian Goddard (BG), Paul Isaacs (Clerk) (PI), Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (OCC) (LLG), Cllr Phil Cross (PhC), Cllr Marc Hiles (MH) and 15 members of the public.
<b>Apologies</b>	Ann Stead (Community Buildings Project)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action						
058/12	<b>Welcome</b>	The Chair, DP, welcomed the attended audience and introduced the AGM. Cllr MH was unable to stay for the remainder of the meeting.	<b>DP For info.</b>						
059/12	<b>Minutes of the 2011 AGM</b>	The minutes of the 2011 AGM held on 9/5/11 were confirmed, approved and signed by the Chair. Proposed by GN, seconded by LE.	<b>For info.</b>						
060/12	<b>Local Police Report</b>	Diane Nash (Thames Valley Police) presented a short report. The key area was that crime has reduced by 13% over the year. The next 'Have Your Say' meeting in Stadhampton will be held on Saturday May 19th, 5-6pm.	<b>For info.</b>						
061/12	<b>Report by the Chair</b>	DP presented a comprehensive written report for 2011/12 (fully appended). DP commented on a variety of issues including the following :- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financial Reporting</li> <li>2. The Village Green</li> <li>3. Alotments</li> <li>4. The Community Building Project</li> <li>5. Community Led Planning</li> <li>6. Easements for Vehicular Access</li> <li>7. Unauthorised Parking</li> <li>8. Bus Services</li> <li>9. Village Maintenance</li> <li>10. PAGE</li> <li>11. Thames Valley Police</li> <li>12. The Stadham website</li> </ol>	<b>DP For info.</b>						
062/12	<b>Financial Report</b>	The Clerk presented the 2011/12 summary accounts to the meeting (appended).  <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Precept income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11,355.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Day to day expenditure</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£11,181.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserves c/f @ 31/3/12</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£26,346.54</td> </tr> </table> <p>The summary accounts were approved. They were proposed by SS, seconded by MM. The accounts will now be verified at internal audit and presented for national audit in June 2012.</p> <p>The budget setting meeting for 2012/13 will be held in December 2012 so that an early decision can be made regarding the 2013/14 precept.</p>	Precept income	£11,355.00	Day to day expenditure	£11,181.77	Reserves c/f @ 31/3/12	£26,346.54	<b>For info.</b>  <b>Approved</b>  <b>For info.</b>
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063/12	<b>Other Reports</b>	<p><u>Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)</u>  Cllr. Lorraine Lindsay-Gale presented a written report (fully appended). LLG commented on the following issues :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council Tax freeze</li> <li>2. Revised plan for County Libraries</li> <li>3. Minerals &amp; Waste Core Strategy 2012-2030</li> <li>4. Community Infrastructure levy</li> <li>5. Changes in the County education system</li> <li>6. The Big Society fund</li> <li>7. Highways Localities Fund</li> <li>8. County Council Boundaries Review</li> <li>9. New County Council Leader - Ian Hudspeth</li> </ol> <p><u>South Oxford District Council (SODC)</u>  Cllr. Phil Cross commented on the following issues :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2.5% decrease in Council Tax</li> <li>2. Proposed reduction in Councillor numbers</li> <li>3. Shared services between SODC and the Vale</li> <li>4. 'Deep cleansing' for Stadhampton will take place later in the year</li> </ol> <p><u>Community Buildings Project</u>  David Fordham presented a progress report and stated that the CBP committee is extremely grateful to the Parish Council for the £15,000 towards set up and architects fees.</p> <p><u>Parish Plan</u>  Cllr Liz Eales reported on the initial Open Evening and the first two steering group meetings held to date.</p> <p><u>Diamond Jubilee</u>  SS and Sue White gave a brief update regarding plans for the 'Big Lunch' on June 3rd. Food tickets will be £7.50 but other activities will be free. The Jubilee committee will use the pavilion for water and storage. The Parish Council grant of £2,000 towards the event will be used to purchase two marquees and Jubilee mugs for the children of the parish. Proposed by LE, seconded by SS.</p>	<p><b>LLG For info.</b></p> <p><b>PC For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>Decision</b></p>
064/12	<b>Open Forum</b>	Allotments - concern was expressed about the proposed increase in allotment rents for 2012/13 (especially given that there is no water supply). It was agreed that the allotment rents be discussed further at the 29/5/12 meeting.	<b>For info.</b>
065/12	<b>Election of Officers</b>	<p>The Clerk took over for the election of officers.</p> <p>Daf Phillips stood down as a Parish Councillor and Chair and heartfelt thanks were given to Daf for his unstinting and sterling work. His wisdom will be greatly missed.</p> <p>Brian Goddard also notified the meeting of his decision to resign as a local councillor due to family commitments. Again Brian was thanked for his short period in office.</p> <p>Mick May agreed to stand as interim Chair.  Proposed by GN, seconded by SS. Unanimous.</p> <p>Liz Eales agreed to stand as Vice-Chair.  Proposed by MM, seconded by GN. Unanimous.</p>	<p><b>For info.</b></p> <p><b>Elected</b></p> <p><b>Elected</b></p>
066/12	<b>Close of the Annual Parish Meeting &amp; AGM</b>	The Chair closed the 2012 AGM at 8.10pm. The meeting then moved on with normal committee meeting business.	<b>For info.</b>

**Tuesday 1st May, 2012**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING and AGM**  
**Chairman's Report**

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According to the old adage: "All good things must come to an end sometime", now is the time for me to retire from Stadhampton Parish Council, because currently it is a strong team, with full quorum of numbers, with another person ready to be co-opted to maintain that situation at the next Parish Council Meeting on 29th May. With this strong, vigorous and harmonious team of Councillors, superbly supported by a very professional and industrious Clerk and Responsible Financial Operator in Paul Isaacs, the Council is very well situated to serve the Parish really well for many a year.

The past year in the Parish has been extremely lively, with many, many activities, some of the the most significant of which are:

1. **Financial Reporting** - after inheriting a somewhat confused Reporting/Auditing situation, Paul Isaacs spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to ensure that this year our Audit received a clean bill of health from the mandatory Auditor, BDO - thank you, Paul
2. **Village Green**
  - a) **Play Area** - this still represents a hive of activity throughout the year and is extremely popular. It undergoes annual inspections by RoSPA and quarterly ones by an independent party as well as the continuous overseeing, regular maintenance and provision of monthly reports in accordance with HSE requirements, by George Bowden - thank you George.
  - b) **Giffords Circus** - last year this was a complete sell out well before the event - Giffords have agreed to make a special dispensation this year to ensure tickets are made available for local residents; have asked if they can extend their stay from one week to two for 2012 - a sure sign of success, thank you Giffords.
  - c) **Traylen's Fair** - again a very successful event resulting in another booking for 2012 and will hopefully become a regular annual feature.
  - d) **Stad'm Fireworks** - again, what a fantastic success - the fact that everything seems to work like clockwork always disguises the tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scene in preparation, operations on the night and clearing afterwards - Sue White and Mike Horn, please accept our hearty appreciation and please convey it to all of your team, - not forgetting the 'bucket shakers'!
  - e) **Boot Sales** - sadly, there weren't any in 2011/12 as we were unable to find replacements following the retirement of the core Team that made it such a success over the years - a belated thank you to Ann Tothill and the Horn brothers. With a bit of luck, there may be a little bit of light over the horizon as we have been approached by an experienced event organiser, based in Watlington, to organise a trial revival on the August Bank Holiday.
3. **Allotments** - this year individual agreements were prepared by the Clerk for every allotment holder - a legal requirement. These were delivered to everyone and recorded, together with records of payments. The system has worked effectively and will form the basis of annual Allotment agreements. The administration has been carried out impeccably and things have gone very smoothly - thank you Julian Humm for your supervision.
4. **Community Building Project** - thanks to Ann Stead and her dedicated very professional team, this project is going from strength to strength - hopefully the

£15,000 support grant that we awarded them will kick-start some of the large funding applications that are in the pipeline in order to maintain momentum and keep to schedule.

5. **Community Led Planning** (the "Parish Plan") - after years of being on the back-burner, it is really gratifying to see this project was reignited with enthusiasm and energy by Cllrs. Liz Eales and Brian Goddard. Analysis of the information gathered and solicited from every individual in the Parish will be absolutely invaluable in guiding and determining how the Parish will develop in future years - **what will Stad'm be like in 5, 10, 50, . . . years' time?** - now everybody, but everybody, will have his/her say! A very big thank you to Liz and Brian
6. **Easements for Vehicular Access over Parish to Adjoining Property**
  - a) **Church Farm Barns** - after many years of negotiation, an agreement, acceptable to both parties, which also is deemed acceptable by the Valuation Office, has been arrived at finally. As an undertaking by the recipients, for the repair and improvement of the surface of Copson Lane between the main A329 and the entrance to Church Farm, is an integral part of the agreement, it is necessary for the Parish Council to enter a formal agreement with Oxfordshire District Council to certify that the former ensures that any work carried out, is to the standards required by the latter. Darbys, Parish solicitors, have been promised an imminent draft of this agreement.
  - b) **Horseshoes** - as the only entrance to the parking space, on the northern side of this house, is from Copson Lane it should be necessary for the users to negotiate an Easement Agreement with Parish Council in order to enjoy continued use of this facility - Parish Council is currently taking legal advice on this matter
  - c) **Anvils** - the occupiers of this property have submitted a claim to the Land Registry for the footpath between the front of the house and the main A329 and a small section of the land providing access to the parking spaces at the rear of these new houses to be registered in their name. As some parishioners, who have lived in the Parish for many years prior to the initiation of this development, have pointed out to Parish Council, and also, have produced supportive documentary information, that this small section of land does in fact belong to the Parish, it is necessary for Parish Council to decide whether to object to this claim, or not; the deadline for any objections to be submitted has been extended, by request of Parish Council, from 25th April to 4th May, so that it can be discussed at the 1st May meeting
7. **Unauthorised Parking on Parish Property** - how to manage this problem, so that it is fair and reasonable for all concerned, has been the subject of debate at numerous Parish Council meetings over the years and still remains a to be resolved satisfactorily. However, instances of displaying 'car for sale' on the Green have been addressed immediately they are reported, and more often than not have been dealt with successfully
8. **Bus Services** - subsequent to change of operators, these services were severely disrupted on the grounds of economy; however thanks to the concerted actions of the districts and parishes affected, they have been somewhat re-instated - thanks are due to Cllr. Golda Nann for continued an valiant efforts on this issue
9. **General Village Maintenance**
  - a) Litter Collection - due to consistent and thorough collection by Michael Bates, all Stadhampton public areas have been kept very clean and free from litter - thank you Mike

- b) Dog Fouling - in response to numerous complaints from Parishioners, Parish Council has erected several more bins at strategic points and posted more display signs
  - c) Grass Cutting - in order to keep the grass under control in the various small segments of Parish land, George Bowden has used his mower extensively and these areas are always looking good - thank you George
  - d) Stream clearance - as a result of some unknown person cutting down branches of the weeping willow by the bridge, and not removing them, the stream was partially blocked - the Green Family, who own the land on the other side of the stream at that point, kindly volunteered to clear this and also to tidy up the stream itself so that the water could flow freely, even under flood - they did a really professional job and the Stream now looks superb - thank you Messers Green.
10. **PAGE** (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction) - as Cholsey, the site originally chosen for the next gravel extraction are objecting violently PAGE is setting up a further fighting fund as a precautionary measure. Stadhampton Parish Council has resolved unanimously to have £1000 in reserve on readiness, should this occur.
11. **Thames Valley Police** - TVP have been very supportive over the years, have attended Parish Council meetings now and again and have consistently held 'Have your Say' meetings on the Green. The next one is on Saturday 19th May between 5:00 and 6:00 in the afternoon, when our new PCSO Matthew Taylor will be there to listen to, and to give advice to anyone who has a problem. In particular, though, I would like to thank PCSO Chris Ratcliff, who has regularly, over the years, kept us informed of any incidents in the area as well as always being on hand when needed.
12. **Website** - last but by no means least, who remembers [www.stadhampton.com](http://www.stadhampton.com)? A few years ago it was alive and flourishing with all the up to date gossip etc., but when Graham left the Crown, it fell asleep. Well, I'm delighted to report that it is 'on the air' again, thanks to Ben Vincent and Ken King; further, Ken has just put up another one: [www.stadhampton.org](http://www.stadhampton.org), with all gossip virtually as it happens! - also, on this one, one can register for receipt of Statham News by email every week - fantastic - thank you both very much

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your continued support and encouragement over the years I have been involved, not forgetting those who pointed out the numerous mistakes I have made, so that I did not repeat them - a valuable learning tip - and boy wasn't it a steep learning curve!

Thank you all  
Daf

Dafydd Phillips  
1st May, 2012