

PAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.55 P.M. – IN
RICHMOND CARE VILLAGE**

Present: Cllr Martin Slinger Chairman
Cllr Edward Crownshaw
Cllr Ann Daniels
Cllr Ian James
Cllr Rob Lewis
Cllr Abigail Smith

In attendance: 1 Member of the Press
District Cllr Nigel Cooper
District Cllr Julie Job
District Cllr Keith Pearson
County Cllr Keith Rippington

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - To hold a question and answer session with Officers from Stroud District Council in regards to Stamages Lane Car Park.

Detailed below are the Questions raised and the answers received:

1. Why was no consultation carried out with the Parish Council / Traders / Public prior to increasing the charges?

The car park is already regulated by tariff and these have simply been increased to ensure they remain appropriate and proportionate. No-one wants to pay more to park, but after six years of stagnation a rise is now deemed necessary.

2. When the fees were increased in 2011 a full consultation, which included the Parish Council was undertaken, what is the difference now?

A full parking review has not been undertaken, as it was in 2011. Tariffs have simply been increased to ensure they remain appropriate and proportionate. We are undertaking a wider parking review next year with a view to reviewing provision in some of the other market towns.

3. Please note that when Stamages Lane Car Park was free (like many other Parish /Town car parks in the District), it was being abused, the Parish Council asked for a nominal fee to be introduced which would give the District Council enforcement powers. Therefore, was any consideration given to this background when reviewing further increase in fees?

This is often the rationale for introducing charges. Free car parks can tend to attract more residents and traders, than visitors and this impacts the vitality of the centre.

4. Why was it considered appropriate to commission an external consultant to produce a report?

We wanted independent assurance that an increase in our existing parking tariffs was appropriate.

Questions relating to the ARUP Report?

5. How much did the report cost?

£3,840

6. Introduction - Can you confirm that the assertion in the Introduction that SDC commissioned the report to include current thinking and relating this to the local context has been satisfactorily covered in the report?

We are happy that the report gave an overview of current themes and trends in parking and that appropriate benchmarking was illustrated. Obviously SDC Officers are better able to translate these wider findings to a local context. The report was ultimately intended to give oversight.

7. Page 2 – Please can you take note that Stamages Lane is very rarely at 100 % capacity, so can you assure the Council that no credence was given to the assertion that ‘cruising’ for parking will generate congestion and generated extra additional millage?

We are aware that Stamages Lane Car Park is rarely completely full.

8. Page 8 – 2.4 Do you agree that the statement that people expect to pay more for parking in the Town Centres than out of Town Retail outlets is applicable to Painswick?

Yes, people expect to pay for parking in Towns but not in Retail Centres that are generally ‘out of town’.

9. If yes then why is Parking free in many other Towns / Villages throughout the District?

We are undertaking a wider parking review next year with a view to reviewing provision in some of the other market towns. Recommendations were made to introduce further parking regulation in 2011, but this wasn’t enacted.

10. Page 14 - 3.1 - Why does the report make mention of a two-tier local government arrangement in the area, when quite clearly throughout the District it’s a three-tier scheme? The two-tier arrangement is mentioned throughout the report...

A two tier local government structure is common terminology to describe the landscape in Gloucestershire.

11. Is this the reason why Painswick Parish Council was not involved in the consultation?

No

12. Page 16 – 3.3 – The report details that no car park increases have been applied since 2011 at that the average RTI per annum is 2.43% increase, on this basis the base rate of 20p for the first hour would now be 23p, why was it

decided to increase base rate to 40p – a 100% increase?

We accept the 1 hour tariff point is seeing a 100% increase. However, had tariffs been reviewed annually in the period, it is likely a minimum 5 pence increase per annum would have been implemented. Had this have happened, the same tariff point would now stand at 50 pence.

Conclusion:

The Parish Council is concerned about the total lack of consultation, whilst it understands that SDC has a statutory power under the Off Street Parking Places Order of 2010 to increase parking fees, the Council believes that under the terms of the current National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) it has not been clearly demonstrated in the ARUP report that the “increase in fees will not undermine the vitality of its Town Centres”

Recommendation:

The Parish Council asks that the proposed car parking increases be deferred until a full strategic parking review is conducted throughout the District, which will involve a full consultation process. If the car parking charges are not deferred then this Council may consider consulting with both Stroud and Stonehouse Town Councils with a view to seeking a Judicial Review (JR).

Further detail, questions and supporting information will be noted and taken away from the meeting for review by the officer with delegated authority to implement the tariff increase. A formal response will follow

1. TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs James Cross, Roey Parker, Rosie Nash, Mike Fletcher and Steve Morris.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2017.

The Minutes were approved and signed.

4. TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR MATTHEW BIRCH.

The Council accepted the resignation of Cllr Birch. The Members agreed that in the Public Co-Option Notice details of the basic commitments of being a Councillor should be published, i.e. meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

5. MATTERS OF URGENCY

There were none.

6. TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Cllr Keith Rippington updated the Council on County Council matters. He also reported that the drain cover along New Street is still loose.

7. TO RECEIVE THE MONTHLY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor Nigel Cooper updated the Council on District Council matters.

8. TO CONFIRM THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MADE DURING ITS MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2017.

a. To continue with the Apprenticeship Scheme and to start the recruiting process in January 2018.

The Council agreed to continue with the Apprenticeship Scheme, thanks were extended to Mr George Hodder, the Handyman for his excellent tuition of the current apprentice and helping her achieve her NVQ ahead of schedule.

9 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM ST MICHAELS TO ERECT A SIGN ON THE TOWN HALL OUTER WALL.

The Council agreed that it could not support this request as the Town Hall is a Grade II public listed building and advertising of this nature was not appropriate.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD SCHEME – Foundation to Gold Application:

a. To confirm attendees for the Panel Meeting on Friday 20th October 2017. It was agreed that Cllr Martin Slinger, Ann Daniels, Rob Lewis and Rosie Nash would attend the panel meeting.

11. COUNCIL TRAINING EVENING.

a. To confirm attendees for the Council Training Evening to be held on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 6.30pm. Members were asked to confirm their availability to the Clerk by email.

12. RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER REPORTS

a. To agree payments in accordance with the budget as listed in the attached report.

The Council agreed to the following payments as listed in the RFO report.

b. To receive the quarterly budget v expenditure review.

The RFO detailed the budget v expenditure review which was accepted by the Council.

13. WARD REPORTS

- a. Cotswold Way Gateway Meeting.** Cllr Ann Daniels reported that a Gateway Meeting is to be held on Monday 23rd October 2017 at 10.30 hours in the Parish Office.
- b. Road Slippage.** Cllr Ian James again reported the road slippage along the B4070 by Bidfield Barn, this should now be considered as a priority case as the drainage system has failed.
- c. Large Pot Holes.** Cllr Ian James report two large potholes at the junction of Beech Lane with Vicarage Street.
- d. Crossing Point Surveys.** Cllr Abigail Smith reported that the result of the recent A46 crossing point surveys were disappointing, this, she believed was because of the survey point being in the wrong position, she will liaise with County Highways in order to have another survey completed in a more realistic position.
- e. Edge Village Hall.** Cllr Martin Slinger reported that the Village Hall restoration project has now been fully completed and that the Hall is now open for normal use.
- i. Sheepscombe – Council Question and Answer Session.** It was agreed that Cllr Ian James would liaise with the Clerk in order to arrange a further Questions and Answer session in Sheepscombe as the last event was very successful.

14. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

There were none

15. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – to be held on Wednesday 15th November 2017, in Painswick Town Hall.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.57 PM