

STANTON ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Stanton St John Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2022** at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors: Andrew Clark, Clare Ferguson, Luke McClaren, Greta Shepherd, Michiel Stofferis, Tim Bearder (District and County Councillor) and 12 members of the public; no clerk present.

1. Apologies: PC Natasha Davis, Dawn Taylor (SSJ WI), John Shaw (Dr Pink's Charity), Alison Finch (Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity), Nicola Mallows (Gresswell Environment Trust), Anthea Beresford (Vicar, Four Parishes)

2. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

Hello everyone and thank you so much for coming along to our Annual Parish Meeting.

I am now going to report on what the Parish Council has been up to over the last year and look at some of the things we have achieved and some of the things we hope to achieve in this next year. This coming year will be the last year of this current Parish Council before elections planned in May 2023 when you will all have the chance to get rid of us and vote in a new Council, for which I hope many of you will stand!

Now, in the first instance I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their diligence and integrity where they have undertaken tasks on behalf of the Council. Thank you, all of you.

We started our past year while we were still in virtual mode, meeting on Zoom, and very soon we had a series of resignations led by the then Chair. We were left inquorate with just 2 of the six Councillors remaining. Two District Councillors kindly agreed to be engaged to help appoint four new Councillors which was duly done by a prescribed process.

Following this fresh re-start, Julie Stoye, our erstwhile and very capable Parish Clerk indicated that she would be leaving for Mexico at the end of the year, and we were faced with a further process of replacement.

Well, who could match her skills and abilities? We started to look in November and though appointing someone for the 1st of January this year we have not found someone with whom the task has been embraced. Amazingly Julie maintained her internet connection with us and has given us some extra support over the early months of this year. We will soon be looking again for a more local person who will be able to help us out.

Through these circumstances we have had to contend with some major strategic issues in planning the future at the District and County levels. These were the SODC Local Plan 2035, and the County Council looking at its Plan to 2050. Further to this we have had the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and the Arc to contend with where central government had planned to build 1 million homes between Oxford and Cambridge with some 300,000 looking to be placed in Oxfordshire. We think that this plan has now been cancelled (hope).

We have been part of local alliances to maintain awareness of the government's strategies for this area and have been able to successfully defend ourselves against over-development with the 'Stop the Arc' group. However, the SODC Local Plan 2035 has been pushed through under legal threat from central government (Mr. Jenrick) and locally we are faced with a major development in our Green Belt called 'Land North of Bayswater Brook'. This has provision of some 1100 houses which through the deceitfulness and impudence of Christ Church College is likely to be crammed with 1430 houses pressed into the same area in Beckley and Elsfield parishes; the motive for this is likely to be money, and the SODC is noticeably weak on resisting this. My thanks for our local resistance group here goes to Ginette Camps-Walsh from Beckley, and Lisa Buchan from Elsfield, who have led our local group which includes Stanton St. John, Forest Hill, Barton and Sandhills local Councils.

The development planned is likely to be submitted as a Planning Application in the autumn of this year. The main issue for all the villages in the four parishes is Transport and Infrastructure all of which is ignored and excluded from the plan so far by the developers Dorchester, with no mitigation provision for us villages at all. This is likely to seriously affect traffic in our villages and our connection to Oxford.

On a different but related note, parishioners may have booked and used the Otmoor Flyer which is still supported by this Council, but also – with thanks for the work that John Stradling (Beckley) and John Battye have done – we are able to access the H5 bus service between Bicester and the John Radcliffe Hospital with stops at New Inn Court near the White House on the B4027 and adjacent the Crematorium.

The major piece of work being undertaken by the Parish Council is through its Traffic Working Party, where with the support of our County Councillor Tim Bearder, we are scheduled to have a 20mph speed limit installed in the village later this year. This is in addition to the illuminating 30mph VAS sign which has been installed on the Bayswater Road near the Crematorium. You should have received '20's Plenty' bin stickers to herald the introduction. Further work is planned by the TWP who intend to offer two areas of verge protection and pedestrian safety measures, in Cox Lane and at the top of Pound Lane, subject to affordability and local consultation on the proposals which are derived from the village traffic survey of 2020.

The Parish Council has undertaken preliminary research into the re-ordering of the car park access lighting and is looking into the installation costs of EV charging points at the Village Hall.

Furthermore in the Village Hall, other achievements have been adding the final components for the projection and sound installation in the Village Hall to allow the film club to flourish, and the Council's supporting of the very first Village Christmas Celebrations in December.

The allotment gates have been repaired and the dog bin and footpath sign at the Village Hall have been moved along with the provision of an additional litter bin. Soon, once it has arrived, we hope to have a new noticeboard installed adjacent the Village Hall entrance doors so the old one can be removed, revealing the defibrillator.

Courtfield Road, Hillcraft Road and into Middle Road up to the Talkhouse have had a deep clean.

Finally on a positive note.....

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration is planned for the Village Hall Car Park and Millennium Green in early June, a bring-and-share lunch gathering, and furthermore I would like to thank Emily van Evera who has organised the planting of two field oak trees near the footpath toward the Great Wood. These trees are from the Royal Windsor Great Park, so we have a very real celebratory part of the Queen's Green Canopy here in Stanton.

Thank you.

Andrew Clark
Chair of Stanton St John Parish Council

3. Report from Tim Bearder, County Councillor

TB presented the chart below showing which areas of responsibility are handled by which level of local government council: county, district and parish:



TB's main priority is to help conserve the environment and community of the area.

A lot of work is also currently going into the Ukrainian refugee welcome programme, with 130 families being welcomed in Oxfordshire so far.

Buses: a very ambitious programme was submitted to the National Bus Improvement Programme, but it was allocated less than 25% of what was requested. OCC is now looking at other ways in which local services could be improved, including rural services.

“Connecting Oxford” is a major package of measures designed to reduce car traffic in the Oxford area, and to aim for zero carbon. A key element is electric buses.

4. Report from Tim Bearder, District Councillor

TB is pleased to have been able to provide support funding for the work towards a 20 mph zone in Stanton St John, and to offer a contribution towards possible new chairs for the Village Hall. A new SODC grant fund is now available for the current year.

Other key current issues are:

- Civil enforcement of parking infringements
- Review of street lighting policies, with a view to enhancing “dark skies” where possible
- Review of tree policy, with the aim of increasing the number of trees

5. Report from Thames Valley Police - PC 6128 Natasha Davis (been in post since mid-March 2022)

A brief overview of incidents in Stanton St John between 01/01/2022 -01/04/2022.

There have been 8 reports which can be broken down into:

- 3 – Driving/road related incidents – 1 collision recorded on Bayswater Road with minor injury
- 1 – Fraud
- 1 – Burglary (break to a garage, tools stolen)
- 1 – Criminal Damage (fence was damaged)
- 1 – Hate incident (neighbour dispute)
- 1 – Report of shooting pheasants on private grounds near to public footpaths.

In terms of the Bayswater Road Junction, I think this would be one for consultation with the County Council to see if there are any road safety measures, they could consider/implement. I have had a look over the last 12 months of data on the TVP system and there was a serious collision in November 2021 and approximately 3 none to slight injury collisions over the 12-month period.

A couple of useful resources for the Parish Council if you are not already aware of them:

www.police.uk (crime stats, although this does cover the broader area of Wheatley and Chalgrove not just the Parish of St John) and www.crashmap.co.uk – provides collision stats (this is not provided by the Police, so I cannot vouch for its accuracy but it seems to be fairly accurate).

If there are any other public safety/crime concerns, please let me know and I will do what I can to see what can be put in place to help.

(AC noted that there have been two recent additional incidents: further damage to a fence, and damage to church windows.)

6. Reports from Village Organisations

6.1 Cairn's Fudge Cricket Club

CFCC still going strong and trying to improve both on and off the cricket field. We have recently changed leagues. This was down to the Oxford Cricket Association merging with the Cherwell Cricket League. We are in Division 5 in the new structure, and as we settle in, we think we are at the correct level.

We have gained many more recruits from SSJ. Such as Luke and Chris who live directly on the ground, plus many more from surrounding villages.

As for the ground itself, we have cleared behind the pavilion of all the old metal and rubbish. Painted the pavilion to try to let it blend in with the surroundings. Purchased new site screens and covers, as well as investing in the actual playing surface at the ground.

We will continue to keep the whole recreation field as tidy as we can for the benefit of the whole community.

Next Steps: I would like a 40' ISO container to put in our ground equipment as I am worried for the safety in the sheds. More litter bins and also benches would be wonderful around the rec.

Anyone wanting to use the ground, please let us know and we would be happy to facilitate.

Jamie Clark

6.2. Millennium Green Trust

The Millennium Green played host to our first village winter celebration around a Christmas Tree. This was a fun time of festive food and carols which it is hoped will become a regular annual event.

During the course of the year one of our original trustees, Richard Ebbs, decided to retire after 21 years as our treasurer and we have appointed a new trustee, Julian Henry from Hillcrest here in Middle Road, and a new treasurer, Karin Harnden.

The field is still rented from us by farmer Jamie Clark (nephew of Ted, our original tenant) from Aston Rowant, for grazing, and he is continuing currently, despite the reduction in the single farm payment following Brexit. How long this remains the situation will be clearer when the diminishing grant finally disappears in 2027.

The planting of a tree band at the bottom of the Millennium field has been postponed as we have run out of the right season to progress the project.

The Platinum Jubilee lunch celebrations will take place in early June on the Green and the car park at the Village Hall to which you will all be welcome.

The Trustees' thanks go to Nicola Mallows and the Gresswell Environment Trust who have kindly sponsored the mowing of the Green area over the past year.

Looking ahead, we have two weddings to look forward to in the summer and this is a reminder that the Green is available for event parking at the Church and Village Hall, and so anyone wishing to hire the Green for occasions like these can do so. There is no fixed fee but the trustees encourage a donation of a suggested amount of £30 for its hire.

Thank you.

Andrew Clark
Chairman of Trustees

6.3. Otmoor Flyer Organising Group (OFOG)

Report from OFOG on the Otmoor Flyer Minibus Service

1. Background: The organisation was set up in 2016 after subsidies to the existing bus service were withdrawn by Oxfordshire County Council
2. A committee was set up with membership from Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley and Horton cum Studley which runs the bus service. OCC provide the bus and the driver and charge the committee a monthly rent. The committee are all volunteers.
3. To meet the costs the committee rely on 2 sources
 - Grants from the Parish Councils
 - Receipts from fares

This has proved adequate since 2016 and the service has proved popular with a number of regular users. Tickets are not limited by time and entitle the holders to 10 single trips to or from Oxford or Headington.

4. For the future the committee has currently funds which would fund 5/6 months rent but as with many issues today, some uncertainties exist for the future

Malcolm Leeding – Parish Transport Representative for Forest Hill and Member of the OFOG committee.

A parishioner queried the benefit to Stanton St John, on the grounds that parish money supports it, despite the fact that it is not used by many people from Stanton St John.

AC explained that SSJ regards this as a community service for the wider area.

Another parishioner pointed out that the usage will have been severely impacted over the last two years by the Covid pandemic, and reminded the meeting that none of us knows when we might become unable to drive, and would then be very glad to have such a service.

A parishioner observed that the high step up into the bus makes it difficult for passengers with reduced mobility. ML explained that OFOG and OCC are aware of this issue and it is expected to be addressed by the next update to OCC's bus stock.

6.4. Stanton St John Film Club

The Stanton St. John Film Club restarted in the Village Hall in October 2021 after a 1½ year absence due to the Coronavirus lockdowns. Since October, five films have been shown and attendance has gradually increased. With financial help from the Parish and District Councils, the Film Club has funded and installed a professional film screen, an overhead laser projector and a high quality sound system in the Village Hall. Special thanks goes to Zander Cornish-Moore, David Cornish and Les Simmonds for helping to install the equipment. The equipment is gradually being used by other local groups such as the Parish Council and the Women's Institute.

Now the equipment has been installed, we have lowered the entrance fee to £5 for the films. Since October 2021 a small profit (£116) was generated, which will be used for further enhancement of the Village Hall and equipment maintenance/enhancement. The Film Club intends to continue to show 6-7 films per year to promote social cohesion in the village and hopes for a good attendance during the future screenings.

Michiel Stofferis
Chair Stanton St. John Film Club

6.5. Stanton St John Village Hall Management Committee

Report by Russell Warner - for and on behalf of St John Village Hall Management Committee

The Stanton St John Village Hall Management Committee Trustees' main responsibilities are Village Hall maintenance, Village Hall bookings and facilitating Event management when these involve the Village Hall as a venue or as a part of a wider Stanton St John event planning team.

Management of the Village Hall

The composition of the committee has decreased prior to and during the period of lockdown under Covid restrictions. This has arisen due to a combination of departure of committee residents from Stanton St John and in some sad cases the loss of members following serious illness. The current Trustees are Russell Warner, Paul Landsdowne, Lorna Bevan, Dave and Sheila Pullen.

Many in the Village will be aware that the lettings and maintenance managed by both David and Sheila Pullen will now be severely impacted due to the poor health of Sheila Pullen. Our best wishes and thoughts are with both David and Sheila at this time.

In the immediate short-term David Pullen will handle the current regular bookings that are made in the Hall, but this is a very short-term solution. Potentially Judy Nisbet may be prepared to take-over this role when the need arises, and this will be discussed with Judy to confirm this is the case and a hand-over process will be instigated.

During the period of Covid no direct fundraising activity took place and whilst the Hall was closed under the Covid lockdown regulations the focus for the Management Committee was Covid compliance, Covid safety procedures and the weekly reporting procedures required by Allied Westminster, the insurance company responsible for the insurance of the Village Hall. It was also possible to undertake a commercial deep clean of the premises as the prospect of the easing of Covid restrictions were to be removed. This was commissioned in April 2021.

Community First Oxon and Covid lockdown

The Village Hall has joined Community First Oxon, a community development Charity which works

alongside ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). During the period the Village Hall remained closed under the Covid lockdown conditions regular monitoring of the information supplied by both organisations took place. This led to on-going implementation of the required measures, monitoring, cleaning, and sanitising equipment and other changes required within the Government legal framework.

The final re-opening on 19th July 2021, following a restricted earlier re-opening in June, was undertaken based on guidelines and agreed actions outlined within the 50-page extensive document and documentary appendices issued on behalf of all Village Halls in Oxfordshire and approved by both ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) and Community First Oxon.

Open Proposal and future Management of bookings on-line

The possibility of a more on-line bookings procedure is being considered. The Hallmaster Village Hall Booking System carries the endorsement of Community First Oxon and has been chosen by ACRE to be promoted as the preferred booking system for Village Halls throughout Scotland and Rural Community Councils in England. It provides a reliable and easy to use online reservation system for Village Halls, Church Halls, Clubhouses and Community centres. It would be possible to provide access through a link in the Parish Council website with appropriate contact details on the website. The cost including the on-line booking management software and invoicing is £187 plus VAT annually. This will be an action point for Russell Warner working with David and Sheila Pullen. The access to the software can be through the Parish Council website. This will also only be implemented with the agreement of Judy Nisbet if agreement is secured to take the role.

Event Management

No events have taken place during 2021/2022 and with the removal of the Covid restrictions there is an interest in launching events following the great success of the Christmas Carols concert and craft stalls in December. This will be followed-up with the interested parties and any other volunteers will be welcome.

Donation

A donation was received from the estate of Roy Roden, a former stalwart of the Village Hall committee and loved and respected resident of Stanton St John. This was specifically requested to be allocated to any improvement project being undertaken to the Hall. The full replacement of all curtains and blinds was in progress and agreement was secured from Mr Roden's sons that this constituted a worthwhile project. We thank the family for this kind and generous gesture.

Maintenance and improvements

General maintenance continues to be undertaken by David Pullen and Russell Warner. The full replacement of curtains and blinds in the Hall was completed in September. A recommendation for improvements and repairs to the Village Hall roof is now being put forward.

Summary

The structure of the VHMC continues within the Charitable Trust format with 5 Trustees in place. Covid has impacted significantly on the use of the Hall but this is now increasing with bookings alongside the Film Club and other regular bookings returning and expanding. The increase in event planning will again place the Hall in the centre of the Stanton St John community and this will be the prime focus for a non-Covid 2022/2023.

The VHMC is proposing a small increase in booking charges.

6.6. Stanton St John Charities (Report by Richard Ebbs, presented by AC)

The Charity consists of a group of endowments which provide income to help parishioners with winter heating costs. The Trustees consist of an Ex-officio Trustee who is the Vicar, two nominated Trustees appointed by the Parish Council for a period of four years and two co-opted Trustees appointed for a five year period. Just before lockdown and the Covid-19 outbreak Sue Baker was co-opted as a Trustee to replace Mr Roy Roden who had acted as Chair for many years. There is currently a vacancy for a

nominated Trustee following the death of Mr Charles Merry. This will be arranged with the Parish Council in due course.

Applications are invited annually from individuals or families who would benefit from extra help with heating costs. In the past this was in the direct delivery of coal but with different heating systems applicants currently receive a cheque. Notices are placed in the Village Shop and in the Parish Newsletter in October; previous recipients are contacted personally by letter. Any person within the parish may apply but help is usually restricted to those who are dependent on the State Pension or Benefits or of restricted income. It is also helpful if neighbours or friends of infirm or housebound parishioners could inform the Trustees of deserving cases. With the current pressure on heating costs the demand for help may increase.

The income from the endowments is distributed between the applicants. The income for 2020/21 was £635 and five applicants each received a payment of £175.00 The Trust maintains a small surplus on account to deal with variations in demand.

Details of the Charity can be found on the Charity Commission website by entering the registration no. 202853.

Richard Ebbs
Trustee and Clerk to the Trust

6.7. Dr Pink's Charity (Report provided by John Shaw and presented by AC)

Robert PINCK or PINK, (1573–1647), was the eldest son of Henry Pink of Kempshot in the parish of Winslade, Hampshire, by his second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of John Page of Sevington.

He was admitted to Winchester College in 1588 and matriculated at New College, Oxford in 1594, was elected fellow in 1596, graduated B.A. in 1598, and M.A. in 1602. In 1610 he became Proctor, and in 1612 Bachelor of Medicine. In 1617 he was elected Warden of New College, and in 1619, he was admitted to the degree of B.D. and D.D. From 1620 he was Rector of Stanton St. John, Oxfordshire. He was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford by Convocation in 1642. In those unstable times Dr Pink was a Royalist and imprisoned for some time by the Parliamentarians.

Dr Pink died on 2 Nov. 1647, and was buried in New College chapel. He was much lamented by the members of his college, because he had been a vigilant, faithful, and public-spirited governor; by the poor of the city of Oxon because he had been a constant benefactor to them . . . and generally by all who knew the great virtues, piety, and learning of the person (Athenæ, iii. 225).

He left books to New College Library, a legacy to the Bodleian, and many other benefactions (Notes and Queries, 8th ser. vii. 306).

A small collection of verses 'In honour of the Right Worshipful Dr. Robert Pink' was published in 1648. They describe his love for learning, and, punning upon his name, term him 'the pride of Wykeham's garden, cropt to be made a flower in Paradise.'

Dr Robert Pink is a registered charity, registration number 309160. The current trustees are Sheila Pullen, Deirdre Young and John Shaw. Elaine Warner is secretary and trustee. Dr Pink's makes small awards (up to about £150) to support the education of people less than 25 years of age normally resident in Stanton St John. Awards have been made for the purchase of tools for apprenticeships and more for the purchase of books and other items to support continuing education after leaving school. Applications are welcome at any time and should be made to the secretary. Grants are awarded annually, and successful applicants are not eligible to reapply.

During the year 2020 one application was received and was successful in receiving a contribution to their cause. No applications were received in 2021.

6.8. Gresswell Environment Trust (Report provided by Nicola Mallows and presented by AC)

Gresswell Environment Trust (GET) continues to support the Parish Council on various local projects, and in particular in regard to LnBB, with the concerns about increased traffic coming onto Bayswater Road then using Shepherds Pit Road / B 4027 to access the A40 .

GET also helps maintain SSJ church and churchyard, meeting running costs over and above what SSJ Parish Council allocates via the precept.

We have helped plant and maintain trees in strategic positions throughout the parish.

Nicola Mallows, 20th April 2022

6.9. Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity (Report provided by Alison Finch and presented by Greta Shepherd)

Over the past twelve months, the Charity has granted £36,986 to applicants across the area of benefit – Forest Hill with Shotover, Stanton St John, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley and the ecclesiastical parish of Elsfield.

We currently have nine Trustees, two of whom, Clare Bishop and David Foale, are appointed by Stanton St John Parish Council. Seven other representatives from the other parishes make up the Board. We meet four times a year, and our AGM is in November.

This year, bursaries were awarded to a range of successful applicants, and included: tools for an apprentice electrician, laptop computers for secondary and university students, sporting equipment, residential science courses, fees assistance for students studying for Masters degrees in art, physiotherapy and teaching, music lessons, and specialist equipment for an applicant with special educational needs.

The Charity is in good order - we have filed our accounts with the Charity Commission, and advertise regularly in the Four Parishes Newsletter and on the 'We Love Forest Hill and Stanton St John' Facebook page. We are keen to consider applications from a wider and more diverse range of individuals within the area of benefit, and would appreciate it if the Parish Council could spread the word about the valuable work that we do.

Alison Finch
Chair of the Trustees
Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity

6.10. SSJ Transport Representative

Report by John Battye

For the benefit of SSJ residents to have a better bus service I made the proposal for the H5 bus service to have two bus stops: one near the intersection of the B4027 and the Shepherd's Pit Road (SPR) and the other near the intersection of the SPR and the Bayswater Road. Note that my proposal for the stop at the intersection of the SPR and the Bayswater road has been implemented. It is referred to on the Stagecoach H5 bus service timetable as "Barton Stowford Farm".

The Barton Stowford Farm bus stop to go to Bicester is very close to the Crematorium's exit gate. It is not marked with a bus stop sign, but by a 1.6 m high black and white horizontally banded pole to which is affixed a framed H5 bus timetable and a small 30 mph sign. The H5 bus stop to go to Oxford is on the opposite side of the Bayswater Road, and unmarked. It can be taken to be roughly opposite a point mid-way between the entrance and exit from the Crematorium, i.e. a trace further down the hill than the stop to go to Bicester. It would be useful if SSJPC installed a marker post at this location.

Contrary to some reports it is no longer necessary for a passenger to let the bus company know of one's intention to use the H5 service. One merely needs to stand at the appropriate place at the appropriate time and put out one's arm.

As was reported some time ago H5 bus stops have been set up on the B4027 near what used to be called by some "the white house" i.e. near the intersection of the B4027 and the little road that goes directly towards Beckley church. Some refer to them as the "Beckley stops". The exact position of the stop for getting on the bus to go to Oxford, and the exact position of the stop to go to Bicester are marked by conventional looking bus stops. However, the current H5 bus timetables provided by Stagecoach does not include these stops marked on its schedule. Similarly my recent call to the Stagecoach information service revealed that they did not have knowledge of the existence of the Beckley stops, either. I discovered that the Stagecoach information service is run from Gloucester and they do not seem to be too well informed about what is happening in the Oxford/Bicester area! The H5 buses do stop at the Beckley stops if required.

The H5 bus timetables are available, and downloadable from the web and, according to my very limited experience, are currently accurate, i.e. the H5 buses run accurately to time.

They run every hour from 6 am to 19.20 pm out of Bicester, and from 6.58 am to 20.13 pm from the JR. As the current timetables do not mention the Beckley stops it is advisable to use the same times as those published for the Barton Stowford Farm (BSF) / Bayswater crematorium. The journey time from BSF is about 40 minutes. That from BSF to Headington about 10 minutes.

Fariba and I have used the H5 from BSF / near the crematorium to Bicester and back. On the outward journey we were accompanied by only one other passenger all the way to Bicester, except for the last mile or so. On the return journey we travelled completely alone except for the first mile or so out of Bicester.

The bus travels through a number of villages each of which has bus stops for the H5 service. I have often seen the H5 buses going up the Bayswater Road completely empty. Talking to the bus driver on our way to Bicester a few days ago he reported that he had just driven from Bicester to Oxford, empty! It is obvious that the H5 service is not much used and so it will not be unlikely if it gets withdrawn in the future. Otherwise it is not only a waste of money but also environmentally unfriendly.

I believe that for residents of SSJ it is about as far to walk to the Beckley bus stops as to those at BSF, but perhaps it is safer to walk to those stops near the crematorium because the road has less traffic and it is generally slower, otherwise neither of the routes have a footpath at present. Of course one can drive a car and park it on the grass verge on the Shepherd's Pit Road near its intersection with the Bayswater Road, and then walk to the BSF stops. It is actually convenient to use the H5 to go to Headington where one can then pick up many other bus services.

In connection with my second proposal of a bus stop near the intersection of the B4027 and the Shepherds Pit Road (SPR), if the speculation about making the Bayswater Road, SPR into a one way system should be implemented, then there will be a possibility for a second stop near this location. In that case it would be advisable that traffic is one way from the Bayswater Road, along the SPR towards SSJ. This because the H5 travelling from the JR / Oxford would then have to run along the SPR towards SSJ. This would better suit those returning from Oxford, likely in the evening when light might be failing.

I continue to believe that SSJPC should not be contributing a subsidy of £500 per year to support the Oxford Flyer. This not only because to my knowledge only one or two persons in SSJ occasionally uses it. Thus the residents of SSJ are subsidising those other villages that use it much more, principally Forest Hill, I believe. There are plenty of other things within SSJ that the money could be spent on, e.g. keeping the footpaths cleaned so they are suitable for safe use.

I point out that the 'Pick-Me-Up' bus service is available* to the residents of SSJ when required and the fare is £3.00 for each journey. That is only twice the charge made by the Oxford Flyer, which provides an extremely limited/restricted, inconvenient service. Note that besides SSJPC paying the subsidy to the 'Oxford Flyer' its passengers are also charged to use the service, even if they are OAPs. As long as OCC is

getting money from somewhere, anywhere, I don't believe there is any incentive for them to provide a better bus service for our villagers. All OAPs in the villages from which the bus service has been cut in recent years are being victimised.

In my experience although OCC is now run by the Labour/Liberal/Green Party, as far as the transport is concerned there seems to be no difference what so ever, from what we had before. Many buses are still running almost empty. Many people are still driving their cars into town. The consequence of this is of course that the environment is being damaged just as before.

*(*Oxford Bus Company has now confirmed that the Pick-Me-Up service was in fact discontinued in June 2020.)*

16.11. Stanton St John WI (Report provided by Dawn Taylor and presented by AC)

As ever, our aim is to provide friendship and educational entertainment for our members. Still coping with Covid Lockdown restrictions, Stanton St John WI continued with its meetings, sometimes via Zoom. In an attempt to maintain social contact with other WIs, we used Zoom to share some monthly meetings and talks with Charlton on Otmoor WI.

Our first "real" meeting was held as a Garden Party in Fariba Battye's garden, where we had a wonderful demonstration of "modern" flower arranging. Fresh air, sunshine and space made this a safe option.

Face-to-face meetings in the village hall resumed slowly but only after a risk assessment was completed. The hall, its kitchen, our cupboard and its contents were thoroughly cleaned, crockery and cutlery washed and surfaces disinfected. Sanitiser, paper towels and surface wipes were available on entry, seating was spaced generously and windows were kept open.

In August we had a long-awaited trip to Sunnyhill Vineyard in Horspath. This involved a tour and talk about organically grown fruit and vegetables and grapes, followed by "educational" wine tasting. In September the rescheduled and much reduced Otmoor Challenge provided us with an opportunity to provide refreshments and fundraise.

Our 99th Birthday lunch was held in The Talk House. It was well attended and gave us a feeling that we were slowly getting back to normal social life.

The Committee agreed to stand again, and Dawn Taylor was re-elected as President. Di Davidson stood down as Secretary in October after three and a half years of sterling work, much during Covid restrictions. Rita Sumner took the role of Secretary whilst continuing as Programme Secretary and Membership Communication System representative. Judy Nisbet continued as Treasurer.

The biggest change however, was the "enlargement" of Stanton St John WI, when we welcomed members from the former Horton-cum-Studley WI.

Sad news of the deaths of two stalwart members of Horton-cum-Studley WI (Julie Ogden and Ann Tuckley) was followed by news of our own Betty Carter having a serious stroke which resulted in her recent death.

Long standing Sheila Pullen has also had a series of strokes and she is no longer able to join us in our meetings. Olive Lees, also another long-standing member, has also been unable to continue as a full member although she has joined us for special events.

At the moment membership stands at 29 and our Treasurer reports that funds are in reasonable shape even after subsidising Denman at Home online courses.

We look forward to celebrating our Centenary Birthday in November 2022.

7. Open session: suggestions and proposals from the floor

A parishioner mentioned concern about cyclists travelling at high speed down Mill Street, and asked if anything can be done to reduce the danger to both pedestrians and cyclists.

Another parishioner asked if the council could write again to MidWest about their trucks, including cement mixers, using the village as a through route, despite their previous agreement to reroute.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

DRAFT