



## Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Stephen McNally, Cllr Malcolm Newing, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr David Venn, Joanna Simonds, Clerk and RFO, and 8 members of the public.

Ben Everitt MP joined for part of the Public Participation Session.

### 1. Apologies for absence

None

### 2. Declarations of interest

None

### 3. Public Participation Session

The Chairman opened the floor to members of the public to raise any items they may have, kindly requesting that any matters be raised now rather than interrupting the meeting later on.

- Having previously circulated a review document to Cllrs via the Clerk, Nick Ellins talked about the work he has been doing with Bletchley Park Trust, RAF Hendon (the main RAF museum) and RAF Northolt (the main signals museum) on the important, and little known of, history of RAF Stoke Hammond and Dorcas Lane. He said he came this evening looking for the PC's support in doing something to recognise this special site that's right here in our village. The Chairman shared the three different levels of support Nick had previously shared with the Clerk, these being (i) for the PC to agree to promote RAF Stoke Hammond into the village narrative and public history, (ii) to build RAF Stoke Hammond into the yearly Remembrance Day activities and (iii) to sponsor a commemorative plaque on the village green and maybe a twin at the former gates of RAF Stoke Hammond. Cllr Newing thanked Nick for all he has done to date, knowing what a lot of time and effort he had put in here. He added that he himself had nothing but support in regards to remembering and celebrating the key part that Stoke Hammond played in the Second World War. Cllr Johnson asked whether any special permissions were required by the MOD in terms of the Official Secrets Act. Nick confirmed that we are now in the area where it is not classified; it's incredibly secret, but it's not in the Official Secrets Act. Nick added that he has spoken with the owner of what was RAF Stoke Hammond who is keen that this be remembered. Cllr Lane echoed his thanks and suggested this be added as an agenda item to next month's meeting. Cllrs wholeheartedly agreed this was a good idea. **Action Clerk** Cllr Lane also suggested that further down the line, it might be a nice idea to share more widely Nick's presentation, and hold some sort of event at the Community Centre.
- Charles Kessler referred to the state of the area on Bragenham Side down towards the canal bridge, where this village beauty spot is being ruined by all the parked cars, which as a result has led to dead vegetation, the post and rail fence has been destroyed, gateways are being blocked hindering agricultural activities, and the whole area is now one long mud patch with overflowing ditches. He expressed concern at reading that the Stoke Road layby is to be blocked off, worrying that if parking were to become restricted on the layby, it would likely increase the pressure on the Bragenham Side access point to the canal. He also referred to the big ash tree that was removed and nothing planted in its place, which has resulted in a litter accumulating waste site. The Chairman mentioned that he has previously been in discussion with Soulbury PC who have intimated that they would support whatever route we decide to go down. The Chairman brought Phil Gomm into the discussion and it was agreed that the first step should be to arrange a social distancing meeting for Phil, Mr Kessler and the Chairman. **Action Clerk**
- Malcolm Brown shared his concerns at the proposed planning application for the Three Locks Golf Club and the siting of an additional 119 caravans. The Chairman thanked Malcolm for his comments and confirmed this item would be discussed later in the agenda under planning.

- Ann Payne asked if the Clerk could determine what time of year we should be looking to reduce the height of the tree on the Green. **Action Clerk**
- Ann also asked whether advice had been sought on what should be done regarding all the weeds in the wildflower meadow. The Clerk said she'd reached out to Phil at PW Landscapes who created that area but because it was the PC that had provided the seed, Phil was unable to give a clear instruction. Cllr Johnson suggested it would be a good idea to rotavate the area and start again and this time sow Wildmix 5 wildflower seeds which he said was a recognised wildflower mix. The Clerk to seek Phil's advice here. **Action Clerk**
- Hazel Turner mentioned the fly tipping on Newton Road. The Clerk said she'd taken photos and reported it on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan but when photographing the Dorcas Lane fly tipping yesterday, she'd noticed the Newton Road rubbish was still there so has re-reported it.
- Patrick Mullins raised a few concerns: (i) the rubbish that is being left under the railway bridge - the Chairman confirmed the Clerk has reported this to our local PC Ian Carter of TVP; (ii) the joy riders making a terrible mess of the grass verges as you head towards the bridge. The Clerk was unaware this was still an issue so said she would also bring this matter to PC Carter's attention **Action Clerk**, and (iii) the terrible situation we find ourselves in with regards to people not picking up after their dogs. Phil interjected at this point and mentioned that Bucks Council are considering re-employing a dog warden to try to combat this problem. His view was that it only takes for a few people to be fined and the problem will soon solve itself. Phil said he'd keep the PC updated in this regard.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.  
 Proposed: Cllr David Venn  
 Seconded: Cllr Mike Robinson  
 Agreed unanimously

Cllr Newing asked whether it might be possible to have some sort of record, with an update before each meeting so that we know the action point has either been dealt with or needs to be raised again. The Clerk thought this was a good idea and agreed to instigate a procedure going forward. **Action Clerk**

The draft minutes circulated were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

## 5. Finance

- a) Approval of the February payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 2nd February 2021		
Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary and any related expenses	£876.00
Mr G Noble	Expenses: January 2021	£18.22
Rush & Warwick	Invoice 31469 - Feb-March SH News	£554.00
Marcus Young Environmental Services Ltd	Invoice 3559 - Yearly invoice for emptying of dog and litter waste bins	£2,340.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,788.22</b>

Proposed: Cllr McNally  
 Seconded: Cllr Newing  
 Agreed unanimously

- b) To agree the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
 Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
 Seconded: Cllr Venn  
 Agreed unanimously

6. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendations on any planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent.

**21/00064/APP – Stoke Hammond**

8 Brookfields, Stoke Hamond MK17 9FR

First floor extension over double garage

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTIONS to this application with the caveat that any legislation and developer rules are abided by.

Proposed: Cllr Lane

Seconded: Cllr McNally

Agreed unanimously

**21/00045/APP – Stoke Hammond**

Orchard End, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DH

Demolition of existing garage and the erection of a new garage building

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTIONS with the caveat this garage must not at a future date be converted into a separate dwelling.

Proposed: Cllr Venn

Seconded: Cllr Johnson

Agreed unanimously

**21/00143/APP – GREAT BRICKHILL**

Three Locks Golf Club, Partridge Hill, Great Brickhill, MK17 9BH

Change of use for the siting of an additional 119 lodge style caravans, landscaping and ancillary works

Although not a Consultee for this application, Cllrs agreed, to raise an objection comment to this application on the following grounds:

- This application would be sited on an area of great attractive landscape and the open countryside here should be considered.
- Being on a flood plain, the area is prone to flooding and the extra runoff will certainly raise the risk of flooding downstream.
- The narrow winding access roads with no footpath are inadequate to deal with the inevitable substantial increase of traffic that would result from a development of this size, with resulting weight capacity issues for the project traffic.
- The issue of sanitation and foul sewage disposal is not mentioned in the application but should be an area of concern.
- There would undoubtedly be access issues for emergency vehicles.
- The biodiversity effect of lost hedgerows, fields and open views.

In conclusion, this application, situated on a flood plain, is too large a project, that would massively encroach both physically and visually on the open countryside and wildlife.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Newing

Agreed unanimously

**21/00288/APP – STOKE HAMMOND**

Common Farm, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 0EB

Change of use of Land and Buildings

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTIONS with the caveat that there should be a sign to say that HGV's should only exit to the northerly direction and not go through the village.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Newing

Agreed unanimously

## 7. Emptying of dog waste bins

The Chairman referred to the increasing number of dog owners in the village and the knock-on effect this has had to the dog waste bins usage. For this reason, the contract company we use have proposed that 4 of our 7 bins be emptied twice weekly. The Chairman also confirmed that there would be an increase of 20p per bin empty from 1<sup>st</sup> April, this increase being dictated by landfill tax which is set by Government. Cllrs agreed to the price increase and extra bin emptying, the latter being subject to a review at the end of lockdown.

Proposed: Cllr McNally

Seconded: Cllr Johnson

Agreed unanimously

## 8. Newton Leys West proposal to build approx. 1,100 new homes up to 2033

Following agreement at last month's meeting, the Clerk confirmed she had reached out to Willis Dawson and agreed upon the date of Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm for Willis Dawson to present their proposal to the Stoke Hammond Parish. The Clerk to publicise this meeting. **Action Clerk**

## 9. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting

### • *Update on the Stoke Road layby*

The Chairman advised that an email had been received this afternoon from a resident concerned about the blocking off of the layby. He said that the boaters know they can only moor on the towpath side of the canal as the offside of the canal is private land owned by Bucks. His suggestion was that rather than blocking the layby off, Bucks put signs along the canal side re-enforcing that anyone caught mooring will be prosecuted. Phil commented that although Bucks own the verge, it is the Canal Trust that own the waterways and that is part of why this is such a controversial topic. He added that it might be helpful to have a conversation with the person who'd emailed. The Clerk to make an introduction. **Action Clerk** Phil added that this was also part of the idea behind a temporary closure so Bucks can further investigate the best course of action. He also commented that the only reason the bollards have not been put in place yet is because Highways have been dealing with floods for last 5 to 6 weeks.

### • *Update on new village entrance signs for Newton Road*

Phil said he and Cllr Everitt had attempted to get a definitive answer on this, but Highways have been inundated with flooding and resurfacing work this past week. Phil did confirm however, that the LAT would be reaching out directly to the Clerk on a couple of clarification points he has and that as this has taken so long to complete, Highways have confirmed they will be installing the signs free of charge.

### • *Any updates on speeding control measures*

The Chairman confirmed that during the past month, the Clerk had been in contact with Transport for Bucks and Thames Valley Police to investigate the possibility of reducing the speed limit through the village to 20mph, however, at this point in time, it is not something they will consider and the cost of trying to implement this ourselves would be very expensive and not guaranteed to receive approval in any event. Just an initial site visit consultation is £865 and as changing a speed limit require a legal process, the full cost would be in excess of £10,000. It was agreed that for now, not much could be done.

The Chairman also mentioned that the Clerk is investigating solar panel speed signs and hopes to receive the quotation from SWARCO within the next week.

Cllr Johnson asked, conscious of the speeding issues we have, whether we had any news on when the nursery on Newton Road might be opening. The Clerk confirmed that their website is talking about opening in September, however, she did add that there are a number of stipulations that were made by Planning and Highways that need to be carried out in advance of opening.

### • *Any other matters to report*

Cllr Newing asked Phil Gomm whether he had any update on the parked cars on the verges by Tommy's. Phil referred to the work the Clerk was doing with the local PCO, who has now visited on several occasions. He also mentioned some new legislation going through that would give Highways the powers to remove cars. Phil said he would update on this legislation when he knew more.

Cllr Newing referred to the Mount Pleasant village green application and confirmed that they had now received a letter from the department in question, who confirmed they would be writing again next week.

Cllr Robinson referred to the state of the footpath directly outside 22 Fenny Road. The Clerk said that Cllr Venn had brought this to her attention earlier in the week, so it has already been reported. In fact, Highways have already been out and marked the area for repair. Cllr Venn said he'd also raised with the Clerk the blocked drains on Old School Lane and Church Road and these have also now been reported by the Clerk.

#### **10. Land off Bragenham Side**

The Chairman handed over to Cllr Newing for an update on the work he has been carrying out over the last fortnight. Cllr Newing confirmed he'd been working on a communications paper the aim of which would be a document to be shared with parishioners to cover (i) the history of the land, (ii) the current situation with the project, (iii) what we want to do to further increase parishioner involvement; and (iv) the PC's proposals for the way ahead.

The intention is that in around 4-6 weeks, the PC hope to have this document ready to communicate with the community, through a number of different communication channels, and this would serve to update both long standing members of the parish and those new members who have joined within the last 3-4 years.

The idea behind this is for parishioners to understand as much as the PC do about where we're at and agree how we move forward from here.

The Chairman confirmed that nothing more is going to happen until such time as this document has been circulated to parishioners and the PC will get that document out as soon as they possibly can.

#### **11. Parish Improvements and Enhancements**

The Clerk mentioned that she'd been approached by a couple of parishioners asking whether the PC would consider restoring the old pump on Newton Road back to its original state. Cllr Lane said that he has previously had similar requests. The Chairman suggested this be an item for next month's agenda. **Action Clerk**

#### **12. Community Centre**

The Chairman confirmed that the only people using the Community Centre at this moment in time are Buttons pre-school.

#### **13. To report on meetings** attended on behalf of the Parish Council

Cllr McNally said that he'd attended the Parish Liaison Meeting on 27/1 and just wanted to flag a point related to the East Coast West Coast mainline work, where in Newton Longville right now, they've blocked the road off that goes down to the bottle dump roundabout, so the trucks are turning right which is in turn ruining the tarmac there.

Cllr Lane also attended this meeting and mentioned talk of a Parish Charter that Bucks were looking to get Parish feedback on. The Clerk confirmed she had received this yesterday and would circulate it to Cllrs for review. Cllr Lane suggested that as comments are requested by 7<sup>th</sup> March, this be added as an agenda item for the next meeting so that a parish response could be agreed upon. **Action Clerk**

#### **14. Re-confirm date of the next meeting - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 21:23.

Chair: ..... Date: .....