



Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 7.30pm

In attendance: Cllrs: G. Noble (Chair), M. Robinson, (Vice Chair), D. Page, M Berrow, G. Lane, H Turner, Clerk Sue Severn and 8 members of the public, District Councillor Ben Everitt, County Councillor Janet Blake

1. Receive apologies for absence. Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr N Blake (AVDC).

2. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting – 2nd May 2017** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2017 were signed as a true and proper record.

3. **To receive reports and matters arising:**

- Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council covering the activities of the Parish Council

The Parish Council started the last year light of one Parish Councillor, following the departure in April 17 of David Rutland, but it was pleasing to welcome Karl Johnson who was Co-opted onto the PC in September 17. Karl's architectural experience is an invaluable asset to the PC. I should at this point thank all of my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for all of their hard work over the last year, with a special thanks to Councillor Hazel Turner for taking the minutes at our monthly meetings – not an easy task!

So what items have occupied us most or raised the most interest, well I guess and in no particular order, it would I think have to be: The Bragenham Side land purchase by the PC., The Dolphin Public House. The Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club, The Canal Winter Moorings on Bragenham Side. And of course, as well as The Dolphin other Planning/New Housing.

So, to the land purchase on Bragenham Side, which was successfully completed in December of last year after a very long and protracted process of negotiations which included the change of use from agricultural to recreational and the erection of a substantial amount of post and rail fencing. £106 monies from the new homes in Stoke Hammond has allowed your PC to purchase this important piece of land adjacent to the Community Centre land that your PC purchased the previous year from BCC. Now to what do we do with and put on this land, which is why we sought your opinions by way of the questionnaire circulated to all homes, the results of which have now been collated and will be discussed later this evening in the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

When last year the planning application to demolish The Dolphin Public House and to build 9 new homes came before us all, one couldn't say it was a total surprise, as for many years the question has been hawked around the village as to what is going to happen with our only village pub? However, there was much consternation about the possible demise of The Dolphin, so your PC took matters in hand, and aside as a PC objecting to the proposed plan, we prepared an objection letter and circulated this to all homes in the village. Some of you responded directly to the AVDC planning department with your comments, but others took up the PC's offer to hand deliver your letters, and we eventually delivered direct to AVDC some 100 letters of objection. We all now know that the planning application was refused on several major points. What happen next, well the applicant has until the 31st of July to lodge an appeal.

The Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club has been such a success that this created its own problems, namely the number of people and their cars arriving in the village on a Saturday morning and converging on Bragenham Side. The football club tried many ideas to alleviate the parking issues and also liaised with the PC to see what possible

solutions could be tried. Several were adopted but none proved a real success. It's the nature of the beast, that we all want to park as close to a venue as possible. The club has now secured the use of football pitches at a school in Bletchley and I can confirm that in the last few weeks since their move the situation on Bragenham Side is much improved.

It would seem that Bragenham Side is getting much mention (and hopefully not because I live on the Side myself) but the Canal winter moorings have caused major issues. The state of the road over the winter was absolutely atrocious, all as a direct result from the vehicles associated with the moored canal boats continually parking on the grass verges which eventually became quagmires of mud which was then being brought onto the road. This was the third year of the winter moorings but most were commenting they had never seen Bragenham Side looking in such a sorry state. Your PC demanded a meeting with the Canals and River Trust which we had in March of this year. They saw for themselves the state of the road and verges. We asked many questions of the Canals and River Trust and as to how they decide on winter mooring locations, what if any facilities do they provide and why do they not consult with the local Parish Councils. They review their Winter Mooring locations at the end of April and they have promised to take on board our comments and report back to the PC in early May, hopefully with a decision to not use this site in the future.

So planning and new housing, probably the most talked about subject over the last few years. Yet again there have been many new applications and we again ask when is it going to stop! AVDC Councillor Neil Blake even made comment at our last PC meeting that Stoke Hammond had taken far more than its fair share, not that that's any real consolation to us. So, what about the much spoken about VALP – the VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN. Well I can at last say that things have moved on, for on the 28th of February this year AVDC announced that they had formally submitted the document to the government for inspection. We now wait to see if the plan is passed, although the government has further increased its new housing targets. But in the meantime, we now have the matter of whether AVDC will continue in its present form for when asked to make comment about the adoption of a single unitary authority for the whole of Buckinghamshire, Sajid Javid the then Secretary of State for Housing stated he was 'minded' to approve the implementation of a single unitary authority. Your PC has been bombarded with communications and invites to attend various meetings promoting the benefits of BCC's single Unitary proposal and likewise the District Councils concept for two new all-purpose unitary councils. Both promise increased efficiencies and more power for decision making to local councils like the PC. We will have to wait and see how things pan out, but whatever the final decision by the Secretary of State it will still require parliamentary approval.

As regards the year ahead, well Stoke Hammond will be larger, we know the bypass is to have £4.5M spent on resurfacing works which will involve closures, and indeed we have just received notice these will take place at times yet to announced between 9th July and the 19th October, so no doubt on occasions we will see increased traffic flow through our village. We've again entered the Best Kept Village competition and are hoping to improving our standing this year. Things will start to take shape on the new land purchase and as ever your Parish Council will be endeavouring to achieve the best we can for you the residents of our Parish.

County & District Council reports

Councillor Janet Blake gave her report for Bucks CC

Minerals and Waste

A 20-year forward plan for the future of mineral prospecting and waste in Bucks has been devised for submission to DCLG to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, and forecast future waste management needs. The plan proposes using significant amounts of employment land (50ha) for new waste facilities, and includes Hydellane Farm near Buckingham, Tingewick Road, Buckingham, Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, Stocklake Industrial area, Aylesbury, and the Woodlands/ARLA site, Aylesbury. It's intended to review the plan every five years.

Active Bucks

Two new programmes will be set up over the next 18 months as part of this initiative, one to target older adults aged 65-plus and another to focus on engaging men and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, cost between £2-£4 per session. Information can be found on the Active Bucks website.

Modern Slavery victim support pilot

This six-month project, started in March, was set up by the County Council's Community Safety Team and will raise awareness, offer support and help those affected by exploitation, or thought to be at risk, to regain control of their lives.

County Council Budget

A revenue budget for day-to-day spending of £336m and capital spending of £122.6m has been agreed for this financial year. This includes a £26.7m investment in highways infrastructure and £36.6m on provision of school places. There is now no government revenue support grant for BCC. A 2.99% increase in standard council tax, along with a 3% Social Care precept, will also apply this year and equates to approximately £1.40 per week for a Band D property.

In addition to the County Council budget, BCC receives £430m from government, £310m of which is passed on to schools and the remainder funds early years and high needs.

Children's Services

An OFSTED report published earlier this year again found children's services remain 'inadequate'. Work is ongoing regarding improvement.

The proposals consulted on last year for the Early Help Service for Families were not as specific as residents would have liked, so more detailed proposals will be put forward and a revised consultation will follow soon. Therefore, BCC will not be implementing the Cabinet decision on 8th January in relation to moving to the new service.

Mobile Libraries

An official report on the future of this service is due to be published shortly.

Transport for Bucks

A £2.78m programme to repair the county's worst pothole 'farms' is to be launched. £1.78m has been received from the Department of Transport repair grants for a plane and patch scheme to resurface stretches of road with multiple defects and will target the county's worst hit roads. Additionally, plans to seek approval for the release of £1m from the Council's reserves will provide more than double the amount of money normally spent on potholes. TfB will continue with the £2m programme to repair potholes and jet patching will be deployed.

A new 'Fix My Street' reporting tool is now available online that's easier to use and more comprehensive for residents.

Oxford-Cambridge arc corridor

Three options have been identified by government: A – southern, Thame past Aylesbury and out to the Stoke Hammond bypass via the A418, B – central, following the route of east-west rail and northern – C – that follows the A421. BCC's Cabinet's preference is for A. An expressway is proposed within the ultimately selected corridor.

Modernising local government

The Secretary of State for local communities has issued a 'minded-to' decision for a single unitary authority in Buckinghamshire. The four district councils in the county believe establishing two unitary authorities, one in the

south of Bucks and the other in the north, would serve residents better. Further representations on the matter have been invited by the SoS, now James Brokenshire, before any definitive decision is made.

District Councillor Ben Everitt report:

District Councillor Neil Blake had sent in a report but District Councillor Ben Everitt stood in for him and gave his own comprehensive report. He told the meeting that it had been a tough year. He paid tribute to AVDC officers who, because of significant financial constraints, had had to reapply for their jobs, even so there had been job cuts and changes to reduce costs. He told the meeting that there had been a 10% headcount reduction. AVDC was not overstaffed, and they had managed to set a balanced budget. As can be seen from other councils locally it is very tight in local government. There is now a cultural change in place meeting the financial gap. AVDC have made efficiencies without cutting services. Major important changes have occurred in IT all information is now on the cloud. AVDC was awarded Digital Council of the Year. Artificial Intelligence is now in place with Alexa. The second anniversary of the Vale Lottery has eased the burden on AVDC providing finance to organisations and local charities. Unfortunately AVDC is now a negative grant council giving more money back to government than it receives. No government grant is now forthcoming. District Councillor Everitt then went on to explain about the new road and development from Oxford to Cambridge, the East West rail link, HS2. He said the government foresees housing growth of over a million homes. It is vitally important that the VALP goes through. The rules will be changed and VALP will need to be reassessed probably in 2 years time. It is crucial that the infrastructure is in place. There are two routes planned the A route is from Thames and goes round Aylesbury. He felt the combination of the A and B route would be the better option. He told the meeting that this may well be the last report he presents to an annual meeting because the future is possibly unitary. However all people really want is good services he said.

Reports from community organisations.

Councillor Donna Page presented the Community Association report:

The Community Association lost one member of the management committee but gained two new. The centre was well used by both regular and occasional hires. The revenue stream from this and other Association organised events, covered the normal running/maintenance costs but also made some Centre beneficial purchases.

Chris Page stepped down as Treasurer. Alison Jackson was appointed into the position and Anne Payne onto the committee.

The Buttons Nursery is the biggest user and the CA also have other regular users. In addition bookings ranged from children's birthday parties to the SHFYC Grand Christmas Ball. The Association again hosted the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch, and a big thank you to all those who helped out on the day.

Financially some significant new purchases were made. 10 large circular banqueting tables along with 80+ new upholstered chairs, and have added catering items within the kitchen and purchased a large marquee available for hire. Some significant maintenance costs have been covered, as a recent water authority inspection highlighted some shortfalls in equipment standards which have been corrected, new fire compliant exit locks and door routes, and upgraded all of the old fluorescent lighting to new generation LED.

As regards fund raising events, the CA held its first car treasure hunt, a family quiz night, a charity fashion show and earlier this year a Table Top Sale. There is already another Table Top/Car Boot Sale planned for Saturday 16th June and a Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea event for Saturday 7th July.

The Community Association is responsible for publishing and distributing the SH News which has seen some significant changes, with greater editorial content and a full colour cover. One of the most popular new features is the 'Spotlight On' and thanks is due to Barbara Munn who came up with idea, carries out the interviews and puts the feature together. Thank you to the Parish Council for their financial support towards the SH News.

Looking forward, the CA hope that some of the new equipment along with further planned improvements like converting the unused playground into an additional car parking area, will continue to make the Centre a place that not only locals but those from outside the village will want to use for their events and functions.

Councillor Hazel Turner presented the Sports Club report:

The AGM of Stoke Hammond Sports Club took place on the evening of 20 April. It was a great pity that it was not well supported despite notification in the village shop window.

The Chairman for the coming year is Joe D’Agostino, with David Garner acting as Vice Chair. Thomas Tooth has stepped down as Secretary due to his forthcoming marriage and ultimately moving away from the village. He was thanked by the chair for all his work for the club. The new Secretary is Keith Chambers. The bar steward is Mel D’agostino. During the year the Treasurer of the club died and Mrs Nikki Gardiner has stepped up to the position. David Tooth remains Membership Secretary. Mrs Valerie Blackshaw was appointed Social Secretary. Mrs June Garner remains as President. The death of Vice President, Mrs Avril Barron was noted.

Mrs Blackshaw reported that the Bingo and fish and chip night had been extremely popular and so it will be run every two months.

Football has been going well; it is possible the first team will move up into the first division, if this is the case the new football regulations state that temporary fencing must be erected prior to a game starting to keep those visitors watching safe. This will be removed at the end of the match.

The Youth teams are expanding rapidly. There are now eleven teams consisting of under 5s, under 11s and under 13s. A playing space has been secured at Water Hall School with three additional pitches. This will ease the playing and parking situation at Stoke Hammond. However the teams wanted to train regularly in the afternoon at Stoke Hammond. This is not acceptable now the cricket season has begun. The children young people and their trainers will be permitted to train on a Monday and Tuesday, allowing time for the grounds men to prepare the field for midweek cricket and cricket at the weekend. There is a very full match programme this summer. Junior Football training will take place between 5.30pm and 8pm.

In looking at the accounts Vice President Mr Terry Turner queried the amount the club was spending on the ‘telephone’ £2,390.75p compared to £637.00 the previous year. The Chair told the meeting that this included BT Sport as well as the BT line/calls etc. It was agreed after discussion that the Club should get rid of this luxury as bar takings over the past year did not justify having it.

Membership costs for the coming year are as follows: £25 for playing members, £30 for a family, Senior Citizens £10 each (for very many years it has been £2).

Non-member teams ground fees will be charged £80 per game, village teams will be charged £70. This is to cover the cost of the ground maintenance - £3,190.99p for the year ending December 2017 and the Building maintenance was £885.60p.

CLlr Mike Robinson reported on the Community Transport Scheme:

There are currently just two drivers and more are needed if possible. One of the drivers is part time. There are approximately one and a half trips a month, and only a very small amount has been spent on telephone calls.

There being no further reports the Chair closed the meeting.

The above is a correct record of the meeting:

Chair.....

Date