



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th June 2018 in the Community Centre, Stoke Hammond.

Present: Cllrs: M Robinson (Vice Chairman), D Page, M Berrow, K Johnson, G Lane, Parish Clerk Sue Severn, Cllr Ben Everitt (AVDC), 6 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**
Cllrs Hazel Turner, Noble.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest in matters on the agenda**
None.
3. **Public Participation Session**

Fenny Road Revised plans had been shown on AVDC portal but were then removed. A parishioner was concerned about the plans and the fact that the architect has told her that changes shown were in error on the AVDC Portal.

The Clerk will write to AVDC planning to request the matter be deferred to the September meeting, advising that the PC does not meet in August and the matter is one of major concern to Parishioners. Cllr Everitt asked to be copied in to the correspondence and said he would support this request to allow the matter to be carefully considered and a response framed in September.

Burst water main in Fenny Road Has taken two months to be repaired and the main has burst twice. Water has seeped into parishioner's driveway. He understands all the road drains are blocked. After discussion it was recommended that as many individuals as possible should report this and any other road issues to www.fixmystreet.com. This is considered important, particularly in view of the diversions will be in place resulting increased traffic in the village when the Stoke Hammond bypass is closed for repair during summer. Excess water from blocked drains, burst mains etc., could be hazardous.

Footpath down Tyrells Lane there is a blocked drain in this location. To be reported.

Cllr Ben Everitt advised that Cllrs Janet and Neil Blake have stepped down from their AVDC cabinet roles. The new leader elect is Anglea Macpherson, a county councillor and formerly deputy leader. He believes this is positive, Cllr Macpherson being a County Councillor gives AVDC the ability to speak to BCC on Unitary direct.

The Council Tax and government Grant are still short of meeting the cost of services in the District, and as it grows the gap will grow. Locally raised revenue is essential. AVDC has a balanced budget for next four years, without closing vital services. They face difficult choices and must raise revenue from other sources.

They currently sell their expertise to other councils. The best way is to experiment and use the lessons learned going forward to decide whether or not new initiatives should continue.

Cllr Lane asked if any review of commercial activities was being undertaken. Cllr Everitt said they were always under review and must make a profit. The subscription services launched were not successful. Council to Council selling was successful, but would not be sustainable long-term.

AVDC will work to maintain continuity and retain good staff in place. Cllr Lane asked about lessons learned from AV Broadband. Cllr Everitt said that the key lessons learned included the need to improve financial reporting and governance. Transparency must be addressed these matters are currently being implemented across the commercial portfolio and in future more robust processes will be in place when setting up commercial businesses and services, and in reporting finances. Cllr Everitt stated that the AV Broadband report makes hard reading but he assured the meeting that the AVDC was now determined that the lessons are well learned, and implemented.

4. **Minutes of Parish Council 5th June 2018**

The Minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5. **New land & other land**

- Cllr Johnson provided an update on the new land at Bragenham Side. The architects are working on a 'vision plan' and feasibility for the land and village hall building, attempting to include as many facilities as possible. It is hoped this may be available for the September PC meeting. The land survey is completed and plan awaited.
- **Other village land:** The Trustees of the Community Centre have agreed the forms of words to transfer the right of way to the new land from the Community Centre car park at the front.
- **Land Request Policy:** The Policy, as circulated was proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Page, agreed unanimously.

6.

Finance

Mrs S Severn	Net salary £344.40, office provision £50, phone/software/wifi £40, Mileage £35.10	£469.50
G Noble	Expenses: June	£41.20
CS Maintenance	Grass cutting CSM0373 Grass verges June	£640.00
Stewkley Enterprise Agency	Green Team June TBA (allow £500)	
Marcus Young Landscapes	Grass cutting Bragenham Side outside garages	
		£1,150.70
Direct debit/standing order payments		
Sage Accounting	Payroll software	£7.20
Survey Monkey	Montly direct debit survey software & hosting	£35.00
NEST pensions	PC and Employees' contribution to pension	£24.60
E-on	Monthly charge electricity	£74.72
HMRC	Income tax deducted/NI	£84.00
	Total payments	£225.52

The payment run as circulated was agreed as circulated. Proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Lane, agreed unanimously.

7. The accounts to end of May and June were approved, as circulated. Proposed by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Lane, agreed unanimously.

8. Planning:

18/02044/APP 12 Brook Farm Close, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9FN

Addition of 30cm trellis to existing garden wall.

Councillors commented that this did not require planning permission and were concerned that the householder has been advised to apply, paid a planning application fee and the matter sent for consultation. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head of Planning, copying Cllr Everitt who undertook to raise the matter. Councillors further request that AVDC Planning refund the application fee in this case.

9. Highways, footpaths & footways, lighting

New Land

Cllr Johnson provided an update on the new land at Bragenham Side. The working group had met the architect who was working on an outline plan and 'vision plan' for the land and village hall building, attempting to include as many facilities as possible. Topographical and services surveys have now been undertaken on behalf of the PC which is required before drawings can be done. It is hoped this may be available for the September PC meeting.

Devolved services

Cllr Robinson advised Councillors that he felt the offer of potentially increasing devolved services from BCC next year was a risk. After discussion it was felt that more information was needed to make any decision and the Clerk was asked to write to BCC to clarify what was being offered for Councillors' consideration. This was agreed.

In terms of Devolved Services continuing, as currently, from March 2019 it was agreed that Stoke Hammond PC should renew the Agreement next year. Proposed by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Johnson, agreed unanimously.

10. **Access to new land:**

The Clerk advised that the Trustees of the Community Centre had now agreed the form of words to provide access to the new land at Bragenham Side via a new car parking area at the front of the Community Centre with improved vehicle access.

11. **Best Kept Village Competition**

Cllr Lane reported that the village was looking very good with grass cutting up to date, probably assisted by the weather. He had ensured bus shelters, noticeboards, signs etc., were in good condition and up to date. The judging criteria circulated had been checked off against the list. Judging was expected to take place within the next two to three weeks, date unknown.

12. **Community Centre**

Cllr Page reported that the Pensioners' tea which was taking place on Saturday had 18 bookings, any others who wished to attend needed to let her know immediately for catering planning.

A quiz night is being planned for September, the date will be confirmed and published in the next SH News.

13. **SH News**

The new colour cover was proving popular with different photographs for each edition.

14. **To report on meetings attended**

None.

To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 4th September 2018

There being no further business the Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm