

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held on
Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Newing (Chair), Cllr Humphreys, Cllr McNally, Cllr Noble, Cllr Sharkey, Cllr Venn, Cllr Willingale, Joanna Simonds, Clerk & RFO & 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Unitary Cllr, Phil Gomm

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Update from Unitary Councillor, Phil Gomm, received by email as follows:

- *Happy New Year to you all and I'm looking forward to personally engaging with you very soon at meetings and moving projects and matters forward.*
- *Planning... As Members we are soon to start Surgery's per Ward with the Planning and Enforcement Officers to discuss applications, objections, enforcement and other issues.*
- *Boundary Commission believe ready for the next election 98 councillors will be enough for Buckinghamshire, many of us agree but the process for this is still going through.*
- *From the draft minutes dated Tuesday 2nd November 2021 I've picked up for my attention.*
 - *Planning YELLOW NOTICES (in future please let me know ASAP to investigate and resolve)*
 - *Public Participation session*
Speeding - This is in hand to introduce traffic calming measure throughout the Ward including Stoke Hammond. Cllr Noble was chosen to be connected with me representing Stoke Hammond PC with these matters, so between us we will put a report together ASAP bringing you up to date and a plan.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021

Agreed unanimously

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

5. Finance

a) To agree the January payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN January 2022

Payee	Detail	Amount	
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary for December and any related expenses	£816.00	Agreed unanimously
Reids Playground Maintenance	Repair of the zipwire	£1,422.00	
	Total	£2,238.00	

- b) To re-approve the December payment run – Agreed unanimously
- c) To agree the accounts to 30th November 2021 - Agreed unanimously
- d) To approve the draft budget for 2022/23 – Agreed unanimously
- e) To approve the 2022/23 precept figure of £55,120 – Agreed unanimously

6. Update from the Clerk on matters arising since the last meeting:

- The Fenny Road hedge work was carried out on 10th Nov, and the large “self-set” tree in the Manor Close Flogas compound that I mentioned at the Nov meeting has been massively cut back.
- The new village gateway entrance signs on Newton Road (by Dorcas Lane) were installed last week, and the broken post by the pump at the bottom of Church Road replaced with a new one.
- With rumours circulating regarding the Methodist Church, that the nursery has pulled out, the Clerk reached out to the owner, who confirmed it is still his intention to open the nursery sometime this year. He also mentioned he has a list of people that are wanting to enrol their children there.
- Highways have got back to me regarding our request to have Scotts Close and Manor Close grass areas included in the Devolved Services agreement. It transpires, these areas are not maintained

by Transport for Bucks but by the Street Scene team but there is potential for these to be included in our devolved services agreement when they get reviewed early 2023.

- During Christmas and New Year, I was contacted regarding a broken branch on Fenny Road which I got the emergency team out to survey. Tree surgeons later attended and cut back everything that was a potential safety hazard on the tree.
- The planters at the bottom of Old School Lane are in a poor condition. Having surveyed them, they need to be replaced, so I shall reach out for quotations and aim to get this on the Feb agenda.

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

21/04120/APP & 21/04121/ALB – STOKE HAMMOND

Stoke Lodge, Lodge Lane, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BU

Cllrs resolved to OPPOSE this application on the grounds previously agreed last November.

Proposed: Cllr Noble / Seconded: Cllr McNally / Agreed unanimously

Ratify the five December planning applications for:

21/04238/APP - Oakwood Grove Farm, Church Road – NO OBJECTIONS

21/04297/APP - Stoke House Farm, Stoke Road – NO OBJECTIONS

21/04278/APP - 56 Dickens Lane, Bletchley – NO OBJECTIONS

21/04404/APP - Land to the East of Fenny Road - OPPOSED

21/04492/APP - 14 Phoebes Orchard – NO OBJECTIONS

Agreed unanimously

On the subject of planning, the Chairman mentioned that the Mount Pleasant planning application has been refused and we now await information on the “Village Green” application.

8. To report on any Highways, Footpaths & Footways and Lighting matters

- Cllr Venn mentioned that the hedge adjacent to Tyrells Manor is growing over the pathway and needs to be cut back. **Action Clerk** to write to residents.
- The pathway heading down towards the shop, opposite Tyrells Manor is breaking up. **Action Clerk** to take photos and report
- The broken fence along the bypass footpath reported by the Clerk back in Oct '21 has still not been fixed. **Action Clerk** to follow up
- The path outside 22 Fenny Road remains in a very poor state and when it fills with water is a dangerous slip hazard particularly when it freezes over in this weather. The Clerk confirmed this was on TfB's action list but would follow up with the LAT. **Action Clerk**
- Some of the village drains remain blocked with weeds growing up through them. **Action Clerk** to escalate this with our LAT.
- The state of the canal bank was mentioned, as you walk down to the 3Locks, and how the canal is getting wider. You can apparently see where there are stakes in the water where the bank used to be but the grass is getting closer to the path and it needs shoring up all the way along that area. The Clerk to get this reported. **Action Clerk**
- One evening last week, the bypass got closed due to an accident near the ASDA roundabout. The Police, it seems were directing traffic to turn right towards to Newton Leys, but then satnavs were sending articulated lorries left onto Newton Road. Cllrs agreed it would make more sense if, when the bypass does need to be closed, that police direct traffic down towards Tommy's roundabout and into the village that way, rather than through the very narrow village road which is clearly unsuitable for articulated lorries. The Clerk was asked to raise this with the Police to see if their protocol could be updated for future bypass closures. **Action Clerk**

9. To provide any updates on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

- The period on the community survey finished yesterday. Responses were a disappointing total of 90, comprising 26 paper copies and 64 online copies.
- Next step is to analyse the data and get a date in the diary with our consultant, Neil Homer, for a scoping session towards the end of the month. Cllr Willingale added that Neil's diary is getting quite busy, so we need to get a date secured asap. **Action Cllr Willingale**
- The Chairman questioned whether we should be working harder at getting more people to complete the questionnaire before we move on to the next stage, or is our time better spent putting more time into the consultation period immediately afterwards. Cllr Willingale's view was the latter.

- In terms of the grant we received, we have until 31 March to use our 15 days of consultant time. If we don't, we will need to refund the money and re-apply.
- With the response rate being so low, Cllr Humphreys asked whether there was any reason why we couldn't continue with the next phase but also push to try to get a few more responses anyway. Cllrs agreed there was no reason why we shouldn't do this. The Chairman added that we also need to get parishioner interest in joining the Steering Group.

10. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- Cllr Venn mentioned the pump at the bottom of Church Road and proposed the PC look again at replacing the current pump with something more authentic. Talk turned to reclamation pumps and Eileen Curry mentioned she may in fact have something along those lines. She and Cllr Venn agreed to take this up outside of the meeting. **Action Cllr Venn**
- Cllr McNally continues to investigate the possibility of resurrecting the old duck pond at the top of Church Road. The ecology team in Buckinghamshire Council initially put him in touch with the NatureSpace Partnership and discussions are now taking place with the Buckinghamshire area of the Newt Conservation Partnership who are looking to establish whether our area of land would be suitable as a compensation site and whether they have the resources to fund and maintain newt habitat there in perpetuity. A site visit has been organised for 28th January.
- Cllr McNally confirmed he is also looking at the possibility of getting a defibrillator and noticeboard installed in Newton Leys South.

11. Community Centre - to report on any matters for the Council's attention

- Cllr Noble commented that the senior citizens lunch had been a great success and paid big thanks to all the helpers on the day, in particular, to Geoff Tredray, who was fantastic in the kitchen.
- The CC are organising a music event on the evening of Sat 2nd April with local bands and food.

12. 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Following the change of date announcement, Cllr Noble confirmed that the big lunch planned for the Saturday, will most likely now be moved to the Sunday. The suggestion remains that the tree on the green, that is due to be replaced, could coincide with the Queen's Jubilee. Cllrs liked this idea. Cllr Humphreys suggested that whilst the Community Centre are providing the venue, maybe the PC should assist in setting up a sub-group. After some discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Noble would reach out to the various groups in the village as the PC representative, with a view to getting a sub-group formed.

Action Cllr Noble

13. Community Fund Application

A funding application was received from the Gardening Club. Cllrs individually scored the application and resolved to support it with the maximum £350 donation. **Action Clerk**

14. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

None

15. Public Participation Session

The Chairman opened the floor to members of the public to raise any items they may have:

- A parishioner mentioned the constant speeding in the village and asked when it would be addressed, adding that the Unitary Cllr had said in May last year that a task force was being set up, but nothing has been communicated since then. The Chairman and Cllr Noble praised the work done to date by Cllr Peter Cooper and confirmed that speeding remains a priority for the PC but that focus these past few months had been spent prioritising the Neighbourhood Plan. Speeding will be addressed.

16. To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting - Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 21:12

Chair: Date: