



**Minutes of the Annual Stoke Hammond Parish Council Meeting
held at St Luke's Church on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Alan Humphreys, Cllr Stephen McNally, Cllr Malcolm Newing, Cllr Fran Sharkey, Cllr David Venn, Cllr Damian Willingale, Joanna Simonds, Clerk and RFO, and 5 members of the public.

Before starting the meeting, the Chairman gave thanks to St Luke's for allowing us to hold our meeting in the Church this evening. He also welcomed the new council and introduced everyone, for the benefit of both new Cllrs and members of the public.

1. To elect the Chairman

For those new to council, the Chairman explained the process of electing the Chair and then asked Cllrs for nominations.

Cllr Venn proposed Cllr Newing
Cllr McNally seconded the nomination

Cllr Humphreys proposed Cllr Noble
Cllr Sharkey seconded the nomination

There being no further proposals, the Chairman mentioned that although not previously done before, Cllr Newing had earlier in the day suggested that the proposed candidates each say a few words on why they would like Cllrs vote this evening. Cllr Willingale said he would welcome hearing a few comments. Before both Cllrs spoke, the Chairman reiterated, for the benefit of new Cllrs, that the role of Chair is to preside over meetings, and on occasion, use the casting vote if necessary. Other than that, the Chair has no more power of authority than any other Cllr. Both candidates said a few words and the election of Chair was then put to a vote.

Cllr Newing received the majority vote from Cllrs Venn, McNally and Willingale. It was therefore resolved that Cllr Malcolm Newing be appointed Chairman.

Cllr Newing thanked Cllr Noble who had undertaken the role of Chair for the past 7 years. He paid tribute to his dedication to the role and said that the new Council would function all the better knowing they continued to have his knowledge and experience in the group.

2. To elect the Vice Chairman

Taking post as the new Chair, Cllr Newing asked whether there were any nominations for Vice Chairman.

Cllr Venn proposed Cllr McNally
Cllr Humphreys seconded the nomination
Agreed unanimously

There being no further nominations, it was resolved that Cllr McNally be elected as Vice Chair.

3. To receive Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms

Declaration of acceptance of office forms were circulated and all seven members signed in the presence of the Clerk.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received earlier in the day from Cllr Phil Gomm, the newly elected Unitary Cllr for the Great Brickhill Ward.

MCN

5. Declarations of interest

Cllrs Noble and Humphreys both declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda.

6. 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.

Ann Payne asked whether any of the new Cllrs would take over maintenance of the Leighton Road end planter that she currently maintains. The Chairman said Cllrs would give it some thought and then took the opportunity to thank Ann for the years she has spent maintaining that particular planter. **Action All**

Ann asked what was happening with the wildflower seed meadow. The Clerk confirmed that the contractor who had initially sown the seed had suggested no further seed be sown for the time being, but instead, the area have a proper cut and then let's see what grows back. The Clerk to ask RTM to get this cut done on their next visit. **Action Clerk**

Sheralee Johnson asked whether new Cllr training would be provided. The Clerk confirmed it would. She also asked to see a copy of the PC's code of conduct and the Clerk confirmed that the code of conduct policy was available on our website but if Sheralee was unable to locate it, the Clerk could email it to her.

Geoff Lane referenced the Gigaclear invitation received by all villagers and encouraged as many residents as possible to attend. Some Cllrs said they'd not seen this event information so the Clerk said she would circulate details. **Action Clerk**

7. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th April 2021

Proposed: Cllr Venn

Seconded: Cllr Noble

Agreed unanimously

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

8. Finance

a) Approval of the May payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 11th May 2021

Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary and any related expenses	£876.00
Mr G Noble	Expenses: April 2021	£17.97
RTM Landscapes	Invoice 2792	£528.00
CS Maintenance	Invoice CSM0438	£540.00
SLCC	Yearly membership	£112.00
BMKALC	Yearly membership - invoice 2893	£281.01
Filciris Limited	Invoice 48453 - additional posts for Bragenham Side	£257.71
Swarco Limited	Invoice 90016873 for new batteries for MVAS	£372.00
	Total	£2,984.69

Proposed: Cllr Noble

Seconded: Cllr McNally

Agreed unanimously

b) To agree the year-end accounts to 31st March 2021

Proposed: Cllr McNally

Seconded: Cllr Venn

Agreed unanimously

- c) To agree and sign the Annual Governance and Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021, subject to sign off by the internal auditor
Proposed: Cllr McNally
Seconded: Cllr Venn
Agreed unanimously
- d) To agree the dates Monday 21st June 2021 to Friday 30th July 2021 for Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return
Proposed: Cllr McNally
Seconded: Cllr Willingale
Agreed unanimously

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

For the benefit of new Cllrs, the Chairman referred to the planning application on last month's agenda where a resident of Brook Farm Close inadvertently became aware of a planning application that would have seriously impacted her property. Rather worryingly, the PC had the previous month, voted in favour of No Objection, assuming as there were no residential objections, that local residents had no issues with this application. However, there were no objections because residents knew nothing about the application. As a result of that, an immediate decision was taken that from that meeting forth, all future planning applications would be published on the Village FB page which clearly reaches the biggest audience.

21/01281/APP – Stoke Hammond

The Mellows, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond
Erection of two dwellings and ancillary infrastructure and access road

The Clerk confirmed that the planning portal shows this application has been withdrawn.

10. 2021 Stoke Hammond Village Show

Cllrs were asked to consider a request for permission to hold the village show on Sat 7th August 2021 on the land behind the Community Centre. The organisers will have full liability insurance and a full risk assessment will be undertaken. This year's show is planned to be more a low-key celebration, geared towards the village coming together to celebrate that hopefully the worst of Covid appears to be behind us. Following a tough year for many, the show committee have agreed to waive the entrance fee and are also asking the PC to also consider sharing the £120 hire fee with the Community Association. The Chairman asked Cllrs to vote on permission to use the land and to contribute 50% of the hire fee, that being £60.

Proposed: Cllr Venn
Seconded: Cllr Sharkey
Agreed unanimously

11. East West Rail

The Chairman asked whether any Cllrs would like to review the EWR non-statutory documentation that the Clerk has received. Cllrs Noble and Venn agreed to take an initial review. The Clerk to hand the documentation over. **Action Clerk** The Chairman said that this is likely to be one of the most significant things that comes our way over the next four years, and in particular for Newton Longville Parish Council, it is a major issue.

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

Cllr Venn said a number of parishioners had approached him complaining about the layby. The Clerk to follow up with Cllr Phil Gomm for an update. **Action Clerk**

13. To report on matters regarding the land off Bragenham Side

- New Working Group

The Chairman confirmed that in previous meetings it had been agreed a new working group be set up. With the elections on the horizon, it made sense for this to be left to the new Council, so the Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

MCN

14. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

The Clerk confirmed she is in correspondence with the Local Area Technician to secure a date in the diary for a site visit to discuss exact location of the new village entrance signs.

15. Community Centre

Cllr Noble confirmed no changes since his last update and that the Community Association are still planning to reopen to members of the public from 1st July. He also mentioned that they are having the road leading up to the centre resurfaced and they plan to do this during the summer holidays. Once the dates are known, the Community Association will inform the Parish Clerk as the playground area will need to be closed for approximately two days.

A Senior Citizens lunch has been organised for Saturday 24th July. This to replace the Christmas Lunch that wasn't able to take place late last year.

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

Cllr Venn confirmed he had attended the recent Newton Leys landfill site meeting and suggested the PC should do as much as they can to support NLS residents and object to any more works being done there. Cllr McNally commented that it is now a planning inspectorate decision and that there would be a public consultation on 6th July. The Chairman's view was that they have a very strong case.

17. To agree the date of the next PC meeting - Tuesday 6th July 2021

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 20:28

Chair: McNally Date: 6/7/21