

**Minutes of the Stoke Hammond Parish Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Noble (Chair), Cllr Venn, Cllr Ajaz, Cllr Champion, Cllr Julier, Kelly Harris, Clerk & RFO & 13 members of the public (MoP)

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Newing and Cllr Sharkey.

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

No interest declared.

**3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The draft minutes were agreed unanimously and approved and signed as a true record by the Chair.

Proposed: Cllr Julier / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Agreed unanimously

**4. Finance**

a) To agree the September payment run as circulated:

**STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN September 2023**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk	Clerk salary for August and any related expenses	£884.40
SLCC	Membership renewal	£177.00
NALC	Making the planning system work for local councils - course for Cllr Newing	£52.04
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit fee	£378.00
RTM Landscapes	Grass cutting - August	£1,290.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,781.44</b>

Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Agreed unanimously

b) To re-approve the August 2023 payment run as circulated:

c)

**STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN August 2023**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clerk	Clerk salary for July and any related expenses	£846.00
RTM Landscapes	Reduce tree on The Green	£216.00
PW Landscapes	Dig out & replace post bottom of Church Road	£60.00
Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council	Newton Leys Pavilion Hall Hire for July PC meeting	£33.00
Cllr Greg Noble	July expenses - SH & NLS News & travel	£35.40
RTM Landscapes	Grass cutting - July	£1,290.00
BCQ Group	SH & NLS News printing costs	£808.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,288.40</b>

Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Agreed unanimously

d) To agree the accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> June and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 as circulated

Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Agreed unanimously

## **5. Update from Unitary Councillor**

There were no Unitary Councillors in attendance and no update was provided.

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

There were no planning applications to discuss.

## **7. To report on any Highways, Footpaths & Footways and Lighting matters**

### **• To discuss traffic, parking and speeding issues in the parish**

- Cllr Noble opened this up to the public to make their feelings known.
- A MoP queries whether anything could be implemented without Unitary Cllr Gomm being in attendance, but Cllrs explained that we are able to go to Highways direct.
- A MoP felt having chevrons installed would be the most effective way to slow the traffic down.
- Cllr Noble suggested setting up a working group that could report back at a PC meeting.
- A MoP felt it should not have to be the responsibility of parishioners to be out catching speeding motorists and that the police should be doing more. Cllr Noble advised that our PCSO has said two police officers are required to catch speeding motorists and they do not have the resources available.
- A MoP felt the new MVAS signs are “useless” and far too small to be effective. Cllr Noble felt this comment was unfair and explained why it is important that we have these machines to collect data which can be used as proof that other measures are required.
- A MoP who lives by the Lindens mentioned the speeding issues in this part of the parish where she believes speeds of up to 80mph are reached. The police have informed her that unless there is a fatality, they will take no action.
- Cllr Venn talked about the speed camera on Fenny Road and that it is an old-style camera which Bucks Council will not pay to reinstate.
- Cllr Ajaz explained that the PC is doing what it can to implement changes, but they are not an overnight solution. However, they can be monitored, and the data used to help to move things forward.
- For the PC to hold more speed watch sessions, more volunteers are needed. The PC has previously advertised for volunteered via the SH/NLS News, however, only 4 people came forward (2 of these are Councillors). 3 volunteers are needed to run a speed watch session. 3 MoPs agreed to join speed watch and provided Cllr Noble with their contact details.
- A MoP believes there has been an increase in freight lorries using Newton Road and Cllr Noble suggested the PC could write to the companies they belong to if we know who they are.
- A MoP felt the parking outside of the pub has slowed the traffic down, but also believes a chicane would be a better solution. Cllr Noble explained that Highways would need to assess and approve the location for a chicane and explained that it took him 12 months to have the 3 MVAS locations approved.
- Cllr Champion informed the MoPs that the PC will be publishing the data from the new MVAS machines on our website monthly and a link to this data will be published on Facebook. With this data, speed watch could target the times we know are an issue with speeding, but only if we have enough volunteers. He advised that chicanes would take a long time to implement, but there are things we can do ourselves now.

- Cllr Noble advised there are limitations to speed watch, for example they cannot be run at 5am and the locations have to be approved and safe for both volunteers and drivers.
- A MoP advised speeding isn't just an issue on the main road and that Bragenham Side is like a "speed track". She feels the road is "lethal".
- Cllr Champion confirmed that Bucks Council do not support 20mph limits and a MoP suggested calling a meeting with Cllr Peter Cooper who is championing 20mph to find out his thoughts.
- Cllr Noble suggested including a flyer with the next SH/NLS news to find out parishioner's thoughts and what solutions they would like to see. Feedback will be sent to the Clerk to collate, and extra flyers will be left in the shop, pub and sports club.
- A MoP questioned whether it is possible to add speed watch signs around the village and it was confirmed that there is one on Newton Road, but the PC will investigate putting up more. **Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Noble confirmed we can add 20mph signage to lampposts and the Clerk will look into costs to do this. **Action: Clerk**
- A MoP mentioned the school bus that drives along Newton Road every day at 3.18pm which she believes is speeding. Cllr Noble suggested she make our PCSO aware of this.
- A MoP asked whether the PC could look into cutting the bush outside of Phobes Orchard at the junction with Leighton Road as it is restricting the view of the road. **Action: Clerk**

#### **8. To provide any updates on the Neighbourhood Plan**

- The PC is still waiting for confirmation that we will receive a grant to cover the costs for the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. The grant has been applied for and we hope to hear some positive news shortly.

#### **9. To provide any updates on S106**

Cllr Champion confirmed that discussions with landowners and research into converting the field next to the community centre into a football pitch are ongoing.

#### **10. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements**

- The Clerk confirmed August had been a quiet month and there was nothing else to report that had not already been mentioned.

#### **11. To decide the next steps for the purchase and installation of a Christmas tree in Newton Leys South**

- The Clerk had circulated prices for the purchase and planting of the tree, battery operated lights and CAT scanning to Cllrs prior to the meeting.
- Cllrs agreed to order a 3-3.5m tree from RTM Landscapes at a cost of £1,500 +VAT. This price includes the price of planting the tree.
- Cllrs agreed to option 1 for the battery-operated lights – supply of 8no. 10mtr/100 LED dual colour lights, connectable up to 40mts (4 sets), PVC cable and 2no. battery packs at a total cost of £183.58+VAT.
- Cllr Champion advised a CAT scanner can be hired for £40 per day and he is happy to organise this and conduct the scan of the area prior to the tree being planted. The Clerk is to speak to Cllr Sharkey about this as it is believed that her husband can supply this equipment. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Champion**

Proposed: Cllr Julier / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Agreed unanimously

Cllr Champion and Cllr Ajaz confirmed they are happy to be responsible for watering the new tree on a regular basis, and Cllr Champion will take responsibility for charging and changing the batteries on the lights.

#### **12. To consider the quote received for repairs required to the Bragenham Side gym equipment and agree next steps**

- Cllr Noble confirmed the price of the repairs to the gym equipment and playpark is £5602.45+VAT.

- Cllr Champion questioned whether S106 money could be used for this, and the Clerk will contact Joe Houston at Bucks Council to confirm. **Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Champion questioned whether the shoulder press should be removed completely as this needs to be completely replaced and removing it would bring down the costs significantly.
- Cllr Noble felt the cost of the repairs was fair, given that very little money has needed to be spent on the park and gym equipment in the 7 years since they were installed.
- The Clerk stated that the playpark repairs should be considered a priority due to safety.
- Cllr Champion proposed that we speak to Bucks Council regarding using S106 money for the repairs and replacement of the shoulder press, and if we are told no, the PC should cover the costs in full.

Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Ajaz / Agreed unanimously

### **13. To consider the quote received for repairs required to the Bragenham Side play park equipment and agree next steps**

As above (agenda point 12)

- Cllr Champion proposed that we speak to Bucks Council regarding using S106 money for the repairs and replacement of the shoulder press, and if we are told no, the PC should cover the costs in full.

Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Ajaz / Agreed unanimously

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

Cllrs have not attended any meetings since the last PC meeting.

### **15. Community Centre: to report on any matters for the Council's attention**

Cllr Noble confirmed a new Treasurer has been appointed, so he will now step back from this responsibility.

### **16. Sports Club: to provide any updates/report on any matters for the Council's attention**

Julia Walker confirmed that a cricket tournament was due to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> September, and village cricket with a live band in the evening takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

There is now a village vets football team in place.

Fireworks will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the Sports Club will submit a Community Funding Application form to the PC for a £350 contribution. The Clerk advised that this form would need to be received by 27<sup>th</sup> September to be included in the October agenda.

### **17. Public Participation Session**

- A MoP would like to see toilet facilities provided at the play park. Cllr Noble advised there is a clause on the land stating that no buildings can be erected. However, the Clerk will speak to Joe Houston at Bucks Council to see if S106 money could be used in this way. **Action: Clerk**
- A MoP mentioned his frustration that the signs informing residents of the work being carried out on Hillersdon Chase were not placed on Newton Road. Cllr Noble stated he understood his grievance, and explained how the PC had contacted UK Power Networks several times while the work was ongoing and received no response.
- A MoP questioned what is happening with the cars parked on the grass verge opposite Tommy's Carwash. Cllr Noble confirmed Bucks Council and the police had been out, but nothing has been done so far. A MoP suggested the owner of the Marina was only allowing boaters to park one car onsite, and the grass verge was being used if they had more cars to park. The Clerk will contact Highways to see if anything can be done. **Action: Clerk**

### **18. To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

Cllrs agreed unanimously to this date and the meeting will be held at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side.

**19. To resolve to close the meeting**

Cllr Noble explained that the next agenda point was closed to the press and public due to the sensitive nature of the business. He thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 20.55.

**19.1 To discuss staff matters**

Cllrs resolved to increase the Clerk's salary as agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Ajaz / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Agreed unanimously

Chair: .....

Date: .....

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