

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held on
Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Newing (Chair), Cllr Humphreys, Cllr McNally, Cllr Noble, Cllr Sharkey, Cllr Venn,
Cllr Willingale, Joanna Simonds, Clerk & RFO & 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Unitary Cllr, Phil Gomm

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To update on the Parish Councillor vacancy

The Chairman confirmed it was with regret that he had to announce the resignation of Cllr Willingale, due to personal circumstances. A casual Councillor vacancy has therefore arisen, and under the Local Government Act 1972, sections 87 and 89, the Clerk will tomorrow post a notice of vacancy.

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

- *Rights of way, there is discussion going on to possibly devolve the maintenance to PCs, this is a topic we have discussed at your PC previously and I'm sure some parishioners would welcome that.*
- *From October of last year there was alleged issues with the school bus to High Ash School being dirty, late and going off route, our Officers have and will be monitoring this service, so if any parishioners have further issues let me know or via the Clerk. An issue sadly arose from me investigating with the school and parishioners from Newton Leys (Bucks) that some children from NL were missing out on possibly using the school bus service.*
- *Proud of Bucks Award. I nominated someone from your parish with a little help and they are on the short list ...judging is going on with results out soon ...GOOD LUCK.*

5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 11th January 2022

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

6. Finance

a) To agree the February payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN February 2022

Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary for January and any related expenses	£496.00
Marcus Young Environmental	Dog & Litter bin waste emptying for 2021	£3,101.28
Lamps & Tubes Illuminations Ltd	Jubilee flags and bunting	£156.31
Mr G Noble	Cllr expenses relation to the SH & NLS News	£32.65
	To replace broken post on the Newton/Church Rd junction	£48.00
PW Landscapes	Feb-March 2022 SH & NLS News	£583.27
Rush & Warwick Ltd		
	Total	£4,417.51

Proposed: Cllr McNally
Seconded: Cllr Venn
Agreed unanimously

b) To agree the accounts to 31st December 2021 - Agreed unanimously

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

- The hedge adjacent to Tyrells Manor, where it was starting to grow over the pathway has been cut back of any offending branches, and the residents also kindly cut back some branches between Tyrells and the zebra crossing, as well as picking up lots of litter, which was good of them.
- Concerns on the canal edges raised at last month's meeting have been passed on to the Enforcement Officer at the Canal & Rivers Trust who is escalating matters.
- The broken path adjacent to Tyrells Manor, down towards the shop has been reported, and the path outside 22 Fenny Road escalated. Our LAT hopes to have the work carried out in the coming months, along with other repairs on Leighton Road by the railings. All three areas have now been marked out.

- PC Carter said he saw sense in getting Police protocol updated when they need to close the bypass, requesting that traffic be diverted towards Tommy's car wash roundabout and into the village that way, rather than having articulated lorries coming down Newton Road. However, he said that in reality, he could not promise to make this happen as too many variables would not allow him to ensure every officer is aware or has the local knowledge.
- Regarding gullies, TfB have a reactive job in to clear the gullies on Leighton Road from the top of the hill at Tyrells Manor to the Dolphin, but anything else will have to wait until the cyclic gully emptying resource comes to Stoke Hammond. If any of our gullies are causing actual flooding issues, they will be dealt with, but otherwise we will have to wait for the time being.
- Quotations are being reviewed to replace the planters at the bottom of Old School Lane, and the Clerk is working with Eileen Curry to present the best options for Cllrs review.
- Tyrells Gardens is on Bucks Councils capital works programme, and our LAT assures me he is doing all he can to squeeze it into the programme for the upcoming year.

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

No planning applications were received since the last meeting.

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

- A parishioner mentioned there was a massive amount of fly tipping down Dorcas Lane, which she has reported. She added that most mornings there are also McDonalds wrappers at the top of the concrete path and asked whether it might be possible to install a litter bin next to the dog bin. Cllrs agreed this was a sensible purchase and asked the Clerk to organise. **Action Clerk** The Clerk was also asked to write to McDonalds to bring this issue to their attention, and to see whether they would be prepared to contribute to the cost of the bin. **Action Clerk**
- A parishioner asked whether there was any update from Cllr Gomm on his project to get the layby tidied up as it continues to be an eyesore. The Clerk was asked to email Cllr Gomm **Action Clerk**

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

- The first scoping session took place last Wednesday. Those Cllrs present, said it was a very helpful meeting. Our consultant is now writing up his report on recommendations for next steps and moving forward with working groups, and those Cllrs involved in the project will get another date in the diary for its first Steering Group session, which will include members of the public.
- The Chairman asked those members of the public present, who regularly attend the PC meetings, whether anyone felt they might be able to spend a few hours a month getting involved and joining the Steering Group, to have a say in how the village might look in the future. Three members of the public agreed to put themselves forward.

11. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

In Cllr McNally's absence, Cllrs Noble and Venn met up with the Newt Conservation Partnership regarding the possible re-instatement of the Church Road duck pond. The main points that came out of the meeting were that:

- The expert concluded that restoration of this type of pond is outside of the Newt Conservation Partnership remit, so if the PC wanted to continue to explore options, they would need to employ a suitably experienced geologist/hydrologist to assess the water quality and whether the spring which is likely to have fed the pond is still there.
- Given the location, archaeology also needs to be taken into consideration, although the pond was filled in relatively recently so it may not be an issue.
- There were concerns that the pond is surrounded by roads on three sides and so it might be difficult to restore it to its original footprint. There are also health and safety considerations because there is so little space between the road and the pond.
- The expert concluded that if we have opportunities for wildlife pond creation or restoration in other parts of the village, we should let her know as they would be happy to take a whole parish approach and review where ponds used to be, based on old maps. She also pointed out that they can fund woodland and hedge creation/restoration for private landowners or farmers. Cllr McNally said he would investigate hydrologist quotes to test the water. **Action Cllr McNally**
- Cllr McNally has received the go-ahead on the noticeboard but the Defibrillator needs electrical source to keep the charge and the pads warm. There is an electrical substation down there and the company that look after it have all the contacts to speak to Network Power to see if it can go on that wall. We hope they'll confirm this is ok so we can press forward, but it is a slow process.

- With Cllr Humphrey's assistance, Cllr Venn confirmed he has located an old village pump to replace the box that currently sits on the Newton Road/Church Road junction. Cllrs agreed a maximum budget of £300, to include the trough, and the Chairman asked Cllr Venn to confirm all the details in writing so that Cllrs can approve the details offline. **Action Cllr Venn**

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

- The CC are doing well with bookings through to the tail end of next year.
- Following some hot water issues, the Committee have agreed to install an instant hot water heater which will service both the sink and toilet taps in the meeting room.

13. 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To receive an update from Cllr Noble

- All the village organisations met just under two weeks ago to brainstorm various ideas, and an outline itinerary for the 4-day event has been published on the back of the SH/NLS News. A second planning meeting will take place tomorrow evening to progress matters.
- Cllr Venn confirmed he'd just, during the meeting, received confirmation that a grant application that he and the CC had submitted to the Lions Club has been successful, and that £500 has been awarded towards the Jubilee celebrations.

To consider the purchase of a Queen's Jubilee bench as circulated by the Clerk

- Cllrs agreed to purchase two Jubilee benches from David Ogilvie; exact locations to be confirmed, however, one will be located in Newton Leys South and the other in the village. **Action Clerk**

The Chairman referred to the £1,000 that the PC set aside for the Jubilee celebrations and mentioned that because we are now looking to do a 4-day event, the costs will be higher than originally anticipated and, this being a significant opportunity to bring the community together, he asked that Cllrs consider potentially increasing the PC contribution. As planning meetings progress it will become clearer as to what additional funds may be needed, but for now, the Chairman asked Cllrs to keep this in mind for future discussion and agreement.

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 village speed indicator and questioned whether it was working correctly. Cllr Noble confirmed we have had some issues with the batteries, however, the indicator itself should be working fine. Following a lengthy discussion on speeding, Cllrs asked the Clerk to get updated prices on the quotation she's previously presented to Cllrs in March '21. **Action Clerk** The Chairman in turn said he would also do some investigation into average speed cameras.
- A parishioner commented that it is very regrettable that Cllr Gomm is not attending our meetings and hasn't done so since last September. He understood that there is no obligation for a Unitary Councillor to attend our meetings, however, he expressed strongly that part of the democratic process of standing for Council and getting elected to such a role, is engaging with voters and attending meetings. He asked that the PC feed this information back. **Action Clerk**

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

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 21:10

Chair: Date: