

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

Present: Cllr Malcolm Newing (Chair), Cllr Alan Humphreys, Cllr Stephen McNally, Cllr Greg Noble, Cllr Fran Sharkey, Joanna Simonds, Clerk & RFO, Unitary Cllr Phil Gomm & 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr David Venn

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022

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

4. Finance

a) To agree the March payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN March 2022

Payee	Detail	Amount	
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary for February and any related expenses	£794.00	
Neil Homer (RCOH Ltd)	Neighbourhood Plan - 4 days of professional fees for project inception, scoping session and report	£2,730.00	Agreed unanimously
W Robinson & Sons	Cast iron village hand pump and base	£145.00	
	Total	£3,669.00	

b) To agree the accounts to 31st January 2022 - Agreed unanimously

5. Annual review and approval of the Parish Council Financial and Management Risk Assessment
Proposed: Cllr Sharkey / Seconded: Cllr McNally / Agreed unanimously

6. Update from Unitary Councillor, Phil Gomm

- Cllr Gomm said it was good to be back but reminded Cllrs he had said last Oct that during the winter months, and with Covid restrictions, he and colleague Unitary Cllrs would not attend every meeting. He added that parishioners are more than welcome to contact him directly by email or telephone, and that he'd brought some business cards this evening that he would leave with the Clerk.
- The Budget review has now concluded and can be reviewed on the BC website.
- The Boundary Commission work has commenced with Bucks recommending 98 Cllrs for the 2025 elections. Local organisations and community groups can input with the consultation open until 4th April. The Chairman asked that whilst Wards themselves are being reviewed, might Parishes also change, i.e. could we end up in a Ward without NLS? Cllr Gomm didn't believe that to be the case.
- Some nightwork is scheduled on the bypass, whilst the railings are being replaced.
- Working on resolving the issue where some of the children in Newton Leys on the Bucks side are not currently being picked up for the Great Brickhill school bus run.
- At Cllr Gomm's request, the Clerk made an introduction last week to the gentlemen looking to get the Bucks owned Phobes Orchard spinney tidied up. Cllr Gomm will take this forward.
- Congratulations to Claire Critchlow who received a Proud of Bucks award.
- Cllr Gomm referenced item 15) of the Jan '22 minutes, where it talked about a speeding task force discussed in May, starting this was actually discussed in July. He added that a speeding task force is not now happening but instead BC are working individually with Parishes.
- Referencing the Feb minutes re Tyrells Gardens being on the Capital Works Programme, Cllr Gomm said that was not his understanding and that rather than discussing such matters with the LAT, they should be brought to his attention. The Clerk said she would forward her email to Cllr Gomm where our LAT had confirmed in writing that Tyrells Gardens WAS on the programme. **Action Clerk**
- Regarding the layby, Cllr Gomm confirmed it was still in the pipeline and would be dealt with.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Gomm for his update, adding that although there will not now be a council wide approach to speeding, there may be learnings Cllr Gomm can share with us from other Parishes.

Clerk's Update

- No elector requests were made of Bucks Council to hold an election for our Councillor vacancy, so the process to co-opt will commence this week.
- Two Jubilee benches have been ordered; one for SH and one for NLS. Expected delivery mid-April.
- Quotes are being collated to repair the Bragenham Side garages roof, damaged in the recent storm.
- The bin ordered last November for outside the shop has arrived and is being installed next week.
- The Canal and Waterways Trust continue their work by the 3locks where they've emptied a section of the canal so that the full height of the wall can be exposed and then rebuilt. The canal edges are on their radar but I've not yet seen a date for this.
- A village pump has been sourced and ordered and will be delivered next week.
- Following complaints of litter at the top of the concrete path on Newton Road, McDonalds have kindly agreed to supply us with a litter bin, free of charge, and Marcus will add this to his weekly emptying.
- A replacement tree has been ordered for The Green; a Red Maple, and this will be planted by RTM in the next 4/5 weeks, as planting cannot wait until the Jubilee celebrations in June.

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

22/00613/APP – STOKE HAMMOND - Brook Farm, Leighton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DD

Erection of 42 residential dwellings including associated parking and landscaping

Following lengthy discussion and listening to parishioner input, Cllrs resolved to **OPPOSE** this application on the following grounds:

- The VALP states there should be no more growth considered in the Stoke Hammond parish until 2033. We accept the original 33 home development (16/02432/AOP & 19/03246/AOP) as included in the VALP assessment, however, this new application with an additional 9 homes should be refused if the VALP is to maintain its credibility.
- There are far too many houses included for the size of the plot, and the new plans look like a glorified car park, all squeezed into too small a space.
- Whilst some of the original residents would have had one new house overlooking them on the original plans, with the new design, some could potentially now have three houses overlooking them, therefore changing the outlook for the original homeowners.
- Again, comparing the original design with the revised design, although there are no open spaces, the original drawings did appear to have some trees. The new design aspect looks like a totally different plot, with no green spaces anywhere.
- Little consideration has been given to noise and vibration from the adjacent Railway Line and A4146 Bypass, and the PC strongly request new surveys be carried out. Not only were the published surveys carried out in 2016, but the extra traffic now using the bypass must be taken into consideration.
- Some of the current Brook Farm Close properties closest to the railway line have windows without ventilation to keep the noise out. In contrast, the new houses, despite being closer to the railway, are proposed to have standard windows with vents.
- There are no planned amenities for this increase in properties.
- The original application had a mix of housing whereas this new application is entirely made up of affordable housing, totally changing the design.
- This proposed development is contrary to the policies described and not only now changes the character of the area, it is also in conflict with H1 of the Local Plan.
- Parking is already a major issue, and with the garages having been removed, the majority of parking is in front of the properties, causing concern that visitor parking will spill out into the existing Brook Farm Close roads.
- Brook Farm Close is quite narrow and the months and months of disruption that residents will have to endure would be further aggravated if it were to be 42 rather than 33 new homes built. This would take its toll not only on the residents of Brook Farm Close but also the entire village with the higher level of HGVs on our small roads.

In conclusion, since Brook Farm was first built, the demographics have changed significantly and the increase in homes is based on out-of-date survey information from 2016, and so to re-iterate, Cllrs strongly oppose this application.

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

The Clerk to forward a copy to Cllr Gomm once the PC comment has been submitted. **Action Clerk**

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

- To review the updated solar panel speed sign quotation and decide on next steps
Following discussion, Cllrs resolved to purchase 3 solar panel speed signs **Action Clerk**
Proposed: Cllr Noble / Seconded: Cllr Humphreys / Agreed unanimously

A parishioner mentioned the state of the village drains and asked when something would be done about them. Cllr Gomm said that with the heavy rain of late, it has highlighted some of the very bad drains across the Ward. He said a message would be going out on the Village FB page asking parishioners to make Cllr Gomm aware of any that are still overflowing. The Clerk said that all drains had already been reported and she would forward to Cllr Gomm the January email exchange she'd had with the LAT on drains. **Action Clerk**

The Chairman conscious to not overload Cllr Gomm, said that if there were two things the PC would really like him to deliver on for us, that would bring a lot of happiness to parishioners, they would be (i) clearing all the drains and, (ii) re-surfacing Tyrells Gardens.

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

The Chairman confirmed the initial review of the scoping survey has taken place and the consultant has produced a draft report. The first 13-member Steering Group will take place next week; this includes 8 members of the public and 5 Cllrs. The Chairman confirmed he would be putting together a formal written report on the survey as those that completed it deserve to see that the PC have seen everything that was written down. He added that generally, people are keen to retain the shape of our village, they want it to remain a village, they are concerned about speeding and parking, all of which relates to the fact that the village has grown by 30%. And, 98% of people said they wanted the pub back, and that wasn't even a specific question!

10. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- Cllr McNally said that on the duck pond, he is waiting on quotes to come back from hydro companies.

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

- The Community Centre has had a new coat of paint.
- A music night is planned for Sat 2nd April where a number of bands have been secured including 3X, the Rock Choir, Les the Hairdresser and, Vicky and her band. There will be hot food and a quiz and tickets are still available.

12. 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The third meeting of the Jubilee Committee has taken place and the four days as previously communicated, are looking as follows:

- Thursday – late afternoon on the sports field, aimed at children, there will be a couple of fairground rides and then a BBQ and music, finishing off with a beacon lighting at 9.45pm.
- Friday - a sports/games afternoon with three different age groups and mixed fun for seniors and juniors, including welly wangling and an archery experience. In the evening a barn dance and hog roast.
- Saturday - a treasure hunt around the village, a tree planting ceremony on the green, and in the afternoon/evening, a Derby Race Day, hopefully with a Tote operating, a Jubilee concert screening and a picnic in the park.
- Sunday - the big lunch street party in Bragenham Side with a children's entertainer.

With regards to funding, this being such an important four days for the community, the Chairman proposed increasing the PC funding budget from £1,000 to £3,000.

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

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

None

14. Public Participation Session

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

- A parishioner asked whether (i) there was any news on the pub, and (ii) would the collective of the PC have any bearing on changing the name, if the parish wanted it to be changed.

The Chairman said he was only able to comment on two things here (i) as previously mentioned, the PC wrote to the owner of the pub last Sept asking to have a chat with us about the pub, but no response was ever received, and (ii) not a fact, but the latest rumour is that the owner is in negotiations with a purchaser.

- A parishioner mentioned that during the storms, you suddenly become completely aware of what trees are where and what is moving and quite a lot are on village land and sitting over power cables. He asked whether there were any plans to undertake any remedial action tree surveys. Cllr Noble mentioned that we had a tree survey carried out for the entire village, some years ago and it would be worth checking how long ago that was and how often one should carry out such inspections. The Clerk to investigate **Action Clerk**
- A truck is leaving Winslow on Friday heading to Poland with supplies for Ukrainian refugees. If anyone is able to make a donation, they are specifically looking for blankets, yoga mats (for children to sleep on), sleeping bags, nappies and sanitary products. The Clerk said she would put something on the Village FB page **Action Clerk**
- Another parishioner asked if there was anything that can be done to refresh the zebra crossing and change the lights to LEDs. The Clerk will investigate **Action Clerk**

15. To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting - **Tuesday 5th April 2022** at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 20:50.

Chair: Date: