

**Minutes of the Annual Stoke Hammond Parish Council Meeting held on  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Newing (Chair), Cllr McNally, Cllr Noble, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr Sharkey, Cllr Venn, Joanna Simonds, Clerk & RFO, Unitary Cllr, Phil Gomm & 11 members of the public (MoP).  
Cllr Champion was delayed with traffic and arrived for item 7) of the agenda

**1. To elect the Chair**

Cllr Venn proposed Cllr Newing; this was seconded by Cllr McNally. There being no further nominations, Cllrs voted unanimously to re-elect Cllr Newing as Chair.

**2. To elect a Vice-Chair**

Cllr Venn proposed Cllr McNally; this was seconded by Cllr Sharkey. There being no further nominations, Cllrs voted unanimously to re-elect Cllr McNally as Vice-Chair.

*Before commencing with the main monthly business meeting, the Chairman shared the news that Lawrence Philips had passed away last week. The PC will be sending a condolence card to the family.*

**3. To receive apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

**4. To receive any declarations of interest**

Cllr Noble declared an interest in item 14 on this evening's agenda, that being the Village Show

**5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

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

**6. Finance**

a) To agree the May payment run as circulated

**STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN May 2022**

Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary for April and any related expenses	£846.00
Ellievision AV Ltd	50% deposit for Outdoor LED screen for Jubilee celebrations	£1,050.00
David Ogilvie Engineering	2 x Queen's platinum Jubilee benches	£2,534.40
BMKALC	Annual BMKALC and NALC subscriptions	£289.68
BCQ Group Limited	April/May SH & NLS News	£568.00
RTM Landscapes Ltd	Stoke Hammond tree inspection	£468.00
R Carroll - C&R Concrete Mouldings	Stone horse trough to accompany village pump	£120.00
W J Marshall	21-22 Internal Audit fee	£150.00
David Venn	Expenses incurred in relation to the pump restoration	£45.00
RTM Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting	£1,200.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,271.08</b>

The payment run was agreed unanimously

b) To agree the year-end accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 - Agreed unanimously

c) To agree and sign the Annual Governance and Accounting Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 - Agreed unanimously

d) To agree the dates for the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return – Agreed unanimously

**7. Update from Unitary Councillor, Phil Gomm**

- The issue raised on the Village FB page regarding the High Ash bus route, has been resolved.
- The bridge at the brook reported at the last meeting is still outstanding but work has commenced in the Ward on Rights of Way issues so this should be actioned soon. If any locals would like to volunteer to pick up some of the easier RoW jobs, please drop Cllr Gomm an email and if there are any offers, BC could provide some tools.
- The Community Board funding will open soon with a reduced budget this year of approx. £140K.
- The drain machine will be around again in May, and Cllr Gomm said he'd like to do a walk round and re-note those particular drains that require action. Cllr Venn agreed to pick this up with Cllr Gomm

- There is the big environmental green issue that we're all addressing to bring emissions down. Solar panels are the big one right now, and on 19<sup>th</sup> May there is a new grant that will be available which is paying between 30-40% of the cost, to encourage domestic homeowners to go solar.

**The Chairman asked if there were any questions for Cllr Gomm:**

- A MoP asked for an update on the Spinney tidy up, between Phoebes Orchard and the Sports Field. Cllr Gomm said this was ongoing and he was in touch with the resident that raised the matter.
- A MoP referred to the footpath at the back of the Church which has still not been repaired and is now so bad you can put your foot through one of the bridges. A photo has been emailed to the Clerk this evening to forward to Cllr Gomm for action with the Rights of Way team. **Action Cllr Gomm**
- A MoP queried why the road up to Paper Mill, (with only a couple of houses), has been marked out for repair when Old School Lane remains full of holes. Cllr Gomm was not aware of this and said it could be the Canals Trust doing some work, as the highway only goes to the entrance gate. He said he'd look into the matter, as TfB would certainly have authorised the licence. **Action Cllr Gomm**

**Clerk's Update**

- No update yet on the three VAS applications submitted on 18/3, although the dedicated Parish team, have raised it with the Intelligent Traffic Systems team, who they believe have overall responsibility.
- More reports of dog mess, this time at the CC, when last week a parishioner had taken her grandchild to use the play equipment. People not picking up is still a problem, even by children's play areas.
- Year-end meeting with our Internal Auditor went well and on receipt of this evening's signed AGAR documentation, paperwork will be submitted to the External Auditor.
- The two Queens Jubilee benches arrived last week and are now in storage until installation, and many will have seen that the new village pump and trough have now been installed. A big thank you to Cllr Venn and his two neighbours for all their hard work in bringing this to fruition.
- The Bragenham Side Road closure application for the Sunday of the Jubilee event has been granted.
- I wrote to the Ariva bus company last month reference the speeding bus from the Dolphin that was brought to our attention at last month's meeting. They have been back in touch saying they take such matters very seriously and would be investigating.
- I wrote, with photos, to the Canal and River Trust regarding the deterioration of the path and steps raised at the last meeting. They acknowledged our concern on 14<sup>th</sup> April and confirmed this would be investigated and added to their list of works, if it is not already on there.
- The broken Church Road sign was reported on 26<sup>th</sup> April and Streetscene confirmed the next morning that the concrete posts will be replaced within 30 working days.
- The new batch of flytipping on Dorcas Lane was reported yesterday. Cllr Gomm asked that the Clerk email him the FixMyStreet reference and photos and he would look to get some covert cameras put up. **Action Clerk / Cllr Gomm**

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

**22/01251/APP – STOKE HAMMOND  
Rectory Farm, Newton Road, MK17 0EB**

Cllrs confirmed they had NO OBJECTION with the agricultural building itself, however, they did express concern over the direction of which slurry would run away from the building. Their comment is therefore made on the stipulation that slurry must not run towards the road. Cllrs agreed unanimously.

**22/00780/APP Stoke Lodge**

Whilst the determination date has now passed, a neighbouring property was not aware of this new application, and they believe no yellow planning notices were displayed. After lengthy discussion, Cllrs agreed that the Clerk should write to the Case Officer making the point that we suspect yellow notices were not put up and as such, residents should be given more time to put comments in. **Action Clerk**  
If a satisfactory response is not received, Cllr Gomm said that he would intervene as necessary.

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

- Cllrs agreed to clearing the alleyway weeds between Manor Close and Bragenham Side.  
Proposed: Cllr Venn / Seconded: Cllr Sharkey / Unanimously agreed. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Gomm said he would check to see whether this area is in fact unadopted. **Action Cllr Gomm**

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

- There are now two teams within the Steering Group – the Green team, looking at information related to green spaces, conservation, heritage and rights of way, and the Brown team, focusing on looking at the village boundaries, areas where development could take place, and doing a review which eventually will probably lead to speaking with landowners to get a picture of what we would maybe support if we received an application, and what we would definitely oppose, and the grounds and reasons for that. At the end of this process, we will have a much better understanding of the village itself, and the things that are important to us and that we want to protect, which will eventually be passed to our consultant, who will produce the planning procedures that we would look to adopt and share with people. Cllr Champion stressed the importance of including Newton Leys South throughout this NP process, it representing 37% of the Parish.

## 11. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- Cllr McNally confirmed he'd received Hydrology quotations in the region of approx. £1k, and testing of digging would be another £2k. The Chairman suggested Cllr McNally bring this back to another meeting providing Cllrs with recommendations and options in advance. **Action Cllr McNally**
- Cllrs approved the quotation from RP Brightman to repair the damaged roof of Garage 1 on Bragenham Side. Proposed: Cllr Noble / Seconded: Cllr Humphreys. Agreed unanimously
- Cllrs approved the removal of one of the small Betula trees on The Green, as recommended in the recent tree survey where there is decay in the trunk. Agreed unanimously
- Cllrs approved PW Landscapes £320 quotation to install the jubilee bench on the sports ground. This to include a concrete base. Agreed unanimously
- Conscious of the need to get summer bedding in, Cllrs reviewed the quotations for new village planters and voted in favour to proceed with Wizfit. Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Noble / Agreed unanimously. It was also suggested that the Stoke Hammond lettering on the planters heading out to Leighton Buzzard could do with repainting. **Action Clerk**

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

Nothing to report

## 13. 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Things are progressing well, and the committee are meeting weekly up until the Jubilee long w/end.

## 14. 2022 Village Show

Cllrs approved the Village Show's request to use the Community Centre field on the day of the Village Show, and also the field next door, weather permitting, for car parking. With regards to a donation towards the cost of cleaning the Community Centre after the show, Cllr Humphreys suggested that the Village Show submit an application for community funding **Action Cllr Noble**

## 15. To approve the Parish Council reserving a stall at the Village Show

Cllrs approved the application for the PC to have a stall at the Village Show.

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

None

## 17. Public Participation Session

- A MoP mentioned the new contractors were applying weedkiller without PPE last week, in amongst people and dogs with no warning notices. The Clerk to pick this up with RTM. **Action Clerk**
- A MoP commented how good the new pump looks; praise again to Cllr Venn and his two neighbours.
- A MoP mentioned she's been in touch with Heritage tree services regarding a maple tree in her garden, leaning towards a neighbour, and permission to lop off 2m of overhanging branches.

## 18. To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution, and declared the meeting closed at 21:26.

Chair: ..... Date: .....