

Minutes of the Stoke Hammond Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Newing (Chair), Cllr McNally, Cllr Champion, Cllr Noble, Cllr Sharkey, Cllr Venn, Joanna Simonds, Clerk & RFO, Unitary Cllr, Phil Gomm & 9 members of the public (MoP)

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received

2. Co-option of Parish Councillor Vacancy

With the priority recruitment this month being that of a new Clerk, and to give the process the attention it requires, Cllrs resolved to postpone the new Councillor co-option until the September meeting.

3. To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr Venn declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th June 2022

The draft minutes were agreed unanimously and approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.
Proposed: Cllr Venn / Seconded: Cllr Sharkey / Agreed unanimously

5. Finance

a) To agree the July payment run as circulated

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN July 2022

Payee	Detail	Amount	Notes
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary for June and any related expenses	£846.00	
Gallagher Insurance	Annual insurance premium	£1,862.22	Paid 10/6
RTM	June grass cutting	£1,440.00	
PW Landscapes	B/S bollard and collection & installation of NLS Jubilee bench	£192.00	
Mr G Noble	Annual subscription to Foxit Phantom PDF software	£67.29	
Maid In Town	Cleaning of CC following Jubilee celebrations	£180.00	Paid 9/6
Maid In Town	Cleaning of Sports Club following Jubilee celebrations	£200.00	Paid 10/6
Community Centre	Senior Citizens afternoon tea (as previously budgeted)	£100.00	
Penci Box Design Ltd	Jubilee posters	£90.00	Paid 1/7
Corinas Cool Kids Parties	Kids entertainment for Jubilee celebrations	£195.00	10-Jun
Ellievision AV Ltd	Remaining balance of outdoor screen for Jubilee celebrations	£1,050.00	Paid 4/7
Total		£6,222.51	

Proposed: Cllr Champion
Seconded: Cllr Sharkey
Agreed unanimously

b) To agree the accounts to 31st May 2022

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

6. Clerk's Update

- The two new planters at the entrance to Stoke Hammond on the Fenny Road were installed today.
- RTM have cleared the area around the dog bin at the top of the Newton Road concrete path and the new litter bin (kindly being paid for by McDonalds) is being installed on Thursday.
- RTM have been instructed to take care of the overhanging branches on the footpath by the green and the branches overhanging into the garden adjacent to the CC play area.
- At our request, the owners of the Mount Pleasant land gave that area another cut last week.
- The broken post on the entrance way to the garages on Bragenham Side has been replaced.
- Review of the 3 VAS assessments has started and whilst ordinarily BC would charge £340 per application, due to the length of time this whole process is taking, they have agreed to assess all three applications for the price of one. We are now waiting to hear whether a Speed survey is required. If it is, BC will charge us an additional £500 per application.

Update from Unitary Councillor, Phil Gomm

- Community board funding scheme launched this week with lots of £1k grants available to apply for.
- Parishioners should have received a leaflet through their letterbox following a big solar panel drive within county offering homeowner grants. Cllr Gomm said he would put something on the village FB group but did add however, that the scheme is currently over-subscribed. **Action Cllr Gomm**
- A message will be posted on FB regarding the school busses scheme where pupils inside catchment get allocated the chairs and spare chairs can be applied for. Last year, parents could not apply until after the school term had started but this year's scheme will open for applications a month before.

7. To ratify the appointment of the new Clerk & RFO

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for the fantastic work she has carried out over the last 2½ years adding that he was very sorry to see her go.

On the flip side, the PC received three very good applications for the role, all from within the village, and following a recruitment process involving the Chairman and Cllr McNally, both Cllrs independently agreed the candidate they felt most suitable for the role, was Kelly Harris. The Chairman proposed that Kelly be appointed. Cllr McNally seconded this, and the remaining Cllrs voted unanimously in favour of Kelly becoming the new Clerk and RFO will effect from 1st August 2022.

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

22/01767/APP – STOKE HAMMOND

30 The Green, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9BY

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application

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

22/001744/APP – STOKE HAMMOND

The Mellows, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DH

Following discussion, Cllrs resolved to OPPOSE this application on the grounds that:

- The plans show that the two houses are proposed to be built where the attenuation pond and overflow was going in for drainage to service the already approved 16 new homes.
- Being 2½ story houses, the design is not in keeping with the rest of the development in this conservation area.
- In association with the 16 homes that are already agreed (16/03698/AOP), these two further houses would effectively mean 18 new homes (or 17 if you take into consideration that Latrigg will be knocked down), and provision should therefore be made for affordable housing.
- Environmental concerns over the 43 trees the applicant wants to take down.
- The roof windows will likely overlook into the frontage and gardens of the houses in Harrup Close.
Proposed: Cllr Champion / Seconded: Cllr Noble / Agreed unanimously

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

- The Clerk informed the PC that the streetlight at the end of Olde Bell Close was recently hit by an ambulance. After some back and forth with South Central Ambulance Trust, they have confirmed it was their drivers fault and any expenses occurred by the PC in getting the streetlight repaired will be covered by the Ambulance Trust.
- Cllr Gomm reported that he'd followed up on the Clerks request to have the zebra crossing lights replaced with LEDs and confirmed these have now been ordered. He also confirmed the drain by the zebra crossing was now on BC's workstream list to be cleared out.
- Cllr Champion asked whether Cllr Gomm had made any progress with BC cutting the grass by the Lansbury Road, Newton Leys entrance. Cllr Gomm said he was looking to get a team in there but really that splay area is in the power of the developer and so Taylor Wimpey should be contacted. The Clerk said she would write to them if Cllrs Champion or McNally could pass on the contact information. **Action Clerk**
- Cllr Gomm suggested as he has in previous meetings that if a group of volunteers would come forward, the Community Board would fund equipment such as strimmers and hedge cutters.
- Cllr Gomm commented that the new planters at the entrance to Stoke Hammond on the Fenny Road should be set 2 foot away from the entrance signs so BC have maintenance access. Cllr Noble pointed out that those signs are the ownership of the Parish Council and therefore unrelated to BC.
- A MoP expressed deep dissatisfaction with the state of the paths in the village and that the bridge at the back of the church has still not been repaired. Cllr Gomm confirmed this was on the BC list for repair, and it will get done, but parishioners needed to be mindful there are only two people taking care of the whole of the area. He again reiterated that if we could get some volunteers to come forward then he could get BC to fund the materials. After much discussion, the conclusion was that whilst there are lots of repairs needed, priorities are the bridge behind the church, the pathway adjacent to the shop, by the zebra crossing, and the area outside 22 Fenny Road. Cllr Gomm said he would look to see if these could be prioritised.

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

The project is moving forward slowly with one team looking at the type of houses we have in the village and the conservation area. This was dealt with by our consultant walking the village with a few residents and we now have a report that describes the village and those aspects relevant to planning. He will be producing some documentation to help the neighbourhood plan through its first tranche. Cllr Champion continues to plot all the landownership around the village which will give us the opportunity to go out and talk to them about plans they might have to bring further development in the future. The next meeting is scheduled for next week where all that information will be pulled together.

11. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- The Queens Jubilee bench for NLS was installed on 14th June and judging by the 74 Likes on the NL FB page, it was much welcomed.
- Cllr McNally updated that he was still in discussion with the environment agency over the old village pond site at the top of Church Road, but is struggling to make any helpful progress.

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

- The Senior Citizen's afternoon tea event will take place on 23rd July. If there are people that would like to attend but have not yet registered their interest, please do so soon.

13. To consider the funding application received from The Sports Club

The day before the 7th June PC Meeting, the Sports Club had presented a £7k application for funding. Being outside the remit of the Community Funding policy, that being a maximum grant of £350, Cllrs agreed it would be considered at the July meeting as a standalone request.

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the request requiring consideration, in that the Sports Club are aiming to become even more accessible providing many facilities for sports and social members, including cricket, football, darts, pool, coffee mornings, bingo, quiz nights, ladies that lunch etc and their request for £7K would cover the provision of a disabled toilet and access, updated water tanks, plumbing, electrics and drains.

Cllrs agreed the Sports Club is a building available to the entire community, and as a growing village, the Club rightly want to upgrade their facilities as whilst the Club was once fit for purpose, it is no longer so, in its current form. The main issue Cllrs had though was this being a retrospective request for funding as the work has already been carried out.

Representatives from the Sports Club understood that in hindsight, they should have reached out to the PC before commencing with the work, but the problem they had was that in order to make the Club as inclusive as they could, time was of the essence. They then went on to talk about the need to replace some of their mowing equipment, and the Chairman suggested that rather a discussion about retrospective funding, the Sports Club could maybe put their mind to funding of a replacement mower.

After lengthy discussion amongst Cllrs, with input from representatives of the Sports Club, the Chairman concluded as follows:

- There is no reason why the PC would not contribute towards a facility for the whole community, but the fact that this is a retrospective application, did not sit well with Cllrs.
- £3k was set aside in this years budget to provide a Community Fund small grant system but Cllrs did not earmark any budget to allow us to grant this additional £7k.
- An area where funds could potentially be tapped into is the S106 money that comes from the planners, and the Chairman suggested creating a collaborated working group consisting of the Sports Club, the Community Association and the Parish Council, to create a proper plan of change which we can then take as a community to call on the S106 money with projects that satisfy the needs of the entire parish, creating better facilities that this community now needs.
- Don't think we have anywhere we can call on £7k but happy to go away from this evening's meeting and have another look to see if there is anywhere that the PC might be able to help the Sports Club.
- Asked whether it was possible to access an amount of money not previously budgeted for, the Clerk simply stated that for every action the Council undertakes, there is a power in law allowing them to spend that money. She added that she had shared two potential powers with Cllrs, however, it was for them alone to make the decision on whether to support this application or not.
- The Chairman concluded that Cllrs appeared to want to help here and suggested a face-to-face offline meeting with the Sports Club to better understand how best they might contribute.

Cllr Gomm stated that as a Member, he could look to see whether there was anything he could do here to push through a Community Board grant, and suggested the Sports Club drop him an email tomorrow and he would see what he might be able to do to assist.

14. Section 106

Cllr McNally proposed to set up a working group to review what S106 funding is available, what the Parish might like to use it for and specifically whether there might be any opportunity to go back to the developers on potential change of categories.

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

15. Speeding Working Group

Cllr Gomm updated as follows:

- Some great ideas came out during last month's meeting and it was left that anyone wanting to join the working group would let the Clerk know and their details would be passed on to Cllr Gomm. Nobody has been in touch to date, however, the discussions around chicanes are moving ahead.
- Regarding the old speed camera on the Fenny Road, which looks far better now it's been cleaned up, Cllr Gomm said he'd had it surveyed and the plan is to get it straightened up and recommissioned with a double camera, so it can be used in both directions.
- The mobile police van that patrols the local villages will be coming to Stoke Hammond at some point, and Cllr Gomm stressed the importance that if members of the public see the van, please do not put anything on the village FB page warning people, as that would totally defeat the object of the exercise.
- Cllr Champion asked if Cllr Gomm could email him a copy of BC's recently announced EV charging point policy. **Action Cllr Gomm**

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

None

17. Public Participation Session

- A MoP referenced a recent FB comment regarding the current location of the zebra crossing on a blind corner and whether it might be possible to either move it or have another closer to where the children cross to get the bus.
- A MoP referred to a burst water main on The Green last weekend where a house nearly flooded because the drain was blocked opposite their house. It is unclear though whose responsibility this drain is as it does not appear to come under BC, the Clerk having previously reported it.

The Chairman stated that both points were noted for Cllr consideration.

18. To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting - **Tuesday 2nd August 2022**

The Chairman suggested that whilst historically the PC do not meet in August, he would like to re-institute this if other Cllrs are content to do so. Cllrs agreed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution, and declared the meeting closed at 20:58

Chair: Date: