

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held on
Tuesday 5th October 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Alan Humphreys, Cllr Fran Sharkey, Cllr David Venn, Cllr Damian Willingale, Joanna Simonds, Clerk & RFO & 10 members of the public.

Before officially starting the meeting, the Chairman mentioned that there were two noticeable changes to this month's agenda: (i) there will be an update from the Clerk on matters she has been working on since the last meeting, and (ii) the public participation session has been moved to the end of the agenda as a trial, to see what works best for both members of the public and the meeting as a whole.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Malcolm Newing, Cllr Stephen McNally and Unitary Cllr, Phil Gomm

2. Declarations of interest

Cllr Humphreys declared an interest in the Mount Pleasant planning matter which although not on the agenda, will be discussed this evening, as our Standing Orders allow.

3. Update from Cllr Phil Gomm, Buckinghamshire Unitary Councillor

Cllr Gomm emailed his apologies late afternoon; no BC update was provided.

Under this section, the Chairman mentioned that the VALP was finally adopted on 15th September. From the point of view of Stoke Hammond, in theory the VALP says that Stoke Hammond doesn't need any future housing growth for the duration of the VALP because we've already achieved that with what we've already built or what is already planned.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021

Proposed: Cllr Humphreys

Seconded: Cllr Willingale

Cllr Noble also gave his approval; Cllrs Venn and Sharkey were not present at the last meeting so abstained from voting.

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

5. Finance

a) To agree the October payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN October 2021

| Payee | Detail | Amount |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|
| Mrs J Simonds | Clerk salary and any related expenses | £856.00 |
| RTM Landscapes | Invoice 3059 | £672.00 |
| CS Maintenance | Invoice CSM0465 | £360.00 |
| PKF Littlejohn LLP | Professional services for AGAR year ended 31/3/21 | £360.00 |
| Rush & Warwick | Oct/Nov SH & NLS News | £594.72 |
| Buckinghamshire Council | May 2021 Election costs | £1,830.08 |
| | Total | £4,672.80 |

Proposed: Cllr Humphreys

Seconded: Cllr Sharkey

Agreed unanimously

b) To agree the accounts to 31st August 2021

Proposed: Cllr Willingale

Seconded: Cllr Venn

Agreed unanimously

6. Update from the Clerk on matters arising

The Clerk gave an update on matters of public interest she's been working on this past month:

- Met with the Fenny Road developers last week and obtained agreement from them in writing that they will commission a contractor to cut the Fenny Road hedge where it is currently covering the majority of the path. They will cut it right back to the boundary edge.
- Have now logged all the rights of way issues kindly provided by Lorna Sharkey with the Buckinghamshire Council Rights of Ways team.
- Regarding the resurfacing of Tyrells Gardens, the Clerk has been informed that due to other priorities, this has not been included on their current programme of works, however, the Bucks Cabinet Member has written to say it will be added to their Nov mtg agenda for consideration.
- Met up with devolved services regarding the additional grass cutting in Manor Close and Scotts Close, that was raised at the last meeting. A helpful meeting in terms of networking but our request now needs to go in writing, directly to the two new Devolved Leads. During the meeting they did confirm that next year will simply be an auto-enrolment in terms of devolved services and that they will not be reviewing contracts until the following year, so 2023.
- Just for info, St Luke's Church have received a quotation from a professional heritage tree company following concerns regarding some of the trees in the church yard. A full assessment will have to be carried out on the trees as planning permission has to be applied for, it being in the village conservation area and the Diocese will need to be on side too. The church are looking into whether the urgent works can be done under emergency powers.

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

21/03509/APP – STOKE HAMMOND

20 Coleman Road, Bletchley MK3 5QD

Cllrs resolved to OPPOSE this application on the grounds that the overbearing size and nature of the roof extension would be out of keeping with the style of neighbouring properties.

Proposed: Cllr Venn

Seconded: Cllr Humphreys

Cllr Noble also voted to oppose, with Cllrs Sharkey and Willingale abstaining

21/03250/APP – STOKE HAMMOND

8 Brookfields, Stoke Hammond

Cllrs resolved to OPPOSE this application as other than a very slight reduction to the proposed roof height, this application appears no different to the previously refused application and would still massively impact one of the neighbouring properties.

Proposer: Cllr Venn

Seconded: Cllr Humphreys

Agreed by Cllrs Noble and Sharkey

Cllr Willingale abstained

Mount Pleasant green area (not on the agenda, but received today)

The Chairman confirmed that a Buckinghamshire Council "Notice of application for the registration of land as Village Green" had gone up on Mount Pleasant this morning. Unlike a typical planning application, it asks only that if people have any objection that they write in.

Cllrs discussed this application and agreed that the PC would continue to be in support and that the Clerk should write a letter to the address provided re-instating the PC's support of this application for the land to be declared a Village Green. **Action Clerk**

Propose: Cllr Venn

Second: Cllr Willingale

Agreed unanimously

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

- The Chairman mentioned that the Clerk had forwarded to him an email from Cllr Peter Cooper, a member of Buckinghamshire Council, representing the Wing Ward. The essence of his email was that he was looking at a new approach to speed limits in residential areas, looking to reduce speed, improve environmental quality and give children, pedestrians and cyclists safer surroundings for Bucks towns and villages.

Across the country many highways' authorities have embraced the principle of 20mph zones, and Cllr Cooper is asking local parishes to consider whether or not a change of policy allowing the introduction of 20mph zones in Bucks would be beneficial. His three specific questions are, would your council:

1. Welcome having the option of introducing 20mph zones in your parish or town
2. Pursue this option if it were available
3. Support the widespread adoption of 20mph zones in residential areas across Bucks

Dependent on the results, Cllr Cooper will endeavor to progress this matter to a sensible conclusion via the Community Boards and full Council.

Cllr Venn commented that given the number of parishioners that have complained to the PC about speeding, this was certainly something that had his backing. The Chairman agreed and asked if any Cllr would like to propose supporting Cllr Cooper's three points.

Proposed: Cllr Sharkey

Seconded: Cllr Humphreys

Agreed unanimously

Action Chairman to go back to Cllr Cooper confirming Stoke Hammond's support

- A parishioner referenced Newton Road where the path is almost unpassable due to nettles. The Chairman suggested a £200 budget to get the area cut back to the boundary. **Action Clerk**
Propose: Cllr Venn
Seconded: Cllr Sharkey
Agreed unanimously
- Cllr Sharkey mentioned that the weeds have also started to grow back between Tyrells Gardens and Fenny Road, so that needs doing again. **Action Clerk**
- A resident of The Green asked of any plans to clear the drains in the village following the bad flooding to their home, experienced last weekend with all that rain. The Clerk referenced Cllr Gomm's previous mention of a sucker unit visiting the Ward during Oct/Nov. There was also particular mention of a drain close to their home where it wasn't clear whose responsibility it was to maintain. The Clerk offered to escalate and try to establish ownership **Action Clerk**

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

The grant approval and funding has been received from Groundworks UK. These funds will support our consultant in the project. We have also received confirmation that Buckinghamshire Council have agreed to designate our proposed Stoke Hammond Parish boundary as a neighbourhood area. With that decision made, we can now go on to work on our NP, the next step of which is to design our community-based survey to get views from the community as to what is important.

As a neighbouring boundary, a parishioner asked whether there was a Soulbury NP and if so, whether we are taking that into consideration. Cllrs were not aware that Soulbury had a NP or indeed were looking to produce one, however, it was a good question, and the Chairman said he would check this out. **Action Chairman**

10. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

Nothing to report

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

- Bookings are on the up for private parties and events and there are already 18 confirmed for the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch.
- Gigaclear have booked the CC for a quiz night on 15th October. This will include a Q&A at the beginning for parishioners to ask any questions they may have.
- During the half term in October, a new fire alarm system is being installed in the Centre and electricians following a recent inspection, will also be working to bring things up to
- the required standards.

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

None

13. Public Participation Session

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

- A resident of Mount Pleasant referred to the Mount Pleasant Village Green application. He thanked Cllrs for their support earlier under the planning section, and asked if Cllrs would also support the PC writing a letter to the landowner highlighting how much the land has deteriorated and is no longer in keeping with the rest of the village, and at risk of fly tipping. Cllrs were content to do this, and the Clerk was asked to write to the landowner **Action Clerk**

A resident of The Green mentioned that the area outside Kutie's shop was looking in a bad way with litter and asked whether a bin could be put up outside the shop. The Chairman said he would speak with Kutie to see if he had any objections, and if not, this can be added to the November agenda for discussion. **Action Chairman/Clerk**

The area outside the shop was also mentioned and up towards MD Autocare which is experiencing a lot of parking on the grass verges. The Chairman said as a first step, let's clarify whether this area is common land or not. **Action Clerk**

A resident of Church Road asked whether since the last meeting, any thought had been given to re-instating the village pond. The Chairman confirmed it hadn't, and before any real consideration could be given, it would probably be necessary to ask the community whether this is something they would support. In the interim though, the Chairman suggested there was no reason why we could not start to get a few quotations, just so the PC has a rough idea on costs. **Action Clerk**

14. To agree the date of the next Parish Council meeting - **Tuesday 2nd November 2021** at 7.30pm

Before officially closing the meeting, the Chairman asked members of the public whether they preferred having the public participation session at the end of the meeting, or whether they'd prefer it revert back to the beginning of the agenda. Parishioners unanimously agreed that the item had worked better at the end of the meeting, as the Clerk had covered a lot of what would normally be raised, and it was also good to be able to ask questions and raise issues that had been discussed earlier on. The Chairman confirmed that the PC would therefore continue with the public participation session at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 20:21

Chair: Date: