

**Minutes of the Stoke Hammond Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Newing (Chair), Cllr Noble, Cllr Venn, Cllr Champion, Cllr Sharkey, Cllr Ajaz, Cllr Julier,
Kelly Harris, Clerk & RFO & 11 members of the public (MoP)

1. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies received, all Cllrs were present.

2. To receive declarations of interest

Cllr Noble and Cllr Sharkey both declared an interest in agenda point 9, the relationship with the Community Association.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 2024

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

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

4. Finance

a) To agree the February payment run as circulated:

Payee	Detail	Amount
RTM Landscapes	Removal of fallen tree next to Dolphin pub	£240
rCOH Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan - production of final draft NP, design code & assessment report	£2,774.40
Clerk	Clerk salary for January and any related expenses	£886.40
Cllr Noble	Expenses - SH/NLS News	£35.40
Cllr Newing	Expenses - Meeting 6/02/24	£8.40
Cllr Champion	Expenses - Land Registry title deeds for NP call for sites	£36.00
BCQ Solutions Limited	Printing of SH/NLS News & A4 form	£1,090.00
	Total	£5,070.60

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

b) To agree the accounts to 31st December 2023 as circulated

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

5. Update from Unitary Councillor

No Unitary Councillor was in attendance and no update was provided.

6. Planning: To discuss planning applications

24/00022/APP – STOKE HAMMOND

The Warren Grove Farm, Church Lane

Householder application for replacement outbuilding.

Cllrs resolved to OBJECT to this application until clarity is provided on how the existing church boundary wall is to be protected.

Proposed: Cllr Noble / Seconded: Cllr Venn / Cllr Newing, Cllr Julier and Cllr Sharkey supported / Cllr Champion and Cllr Ajaz abstained.

7. To report on any Highways, Footpaths & Footways and Lighting Matters

Cllr Noble advised a MoP has expressed their concerns with the Newton Road/Drayton Road junction and that they believe more signage is needed as you approach the crossroads. It was also suggested that the speed limit is reduced to 40mph. Cllrs agreed to approach Bucks Highways about this. **Action: Clerk**

8. To provide updates on the Neighbourhood Plan

- Cllr Newing confirmed that the 6-week consultation is taking place from 8th February – 21st March 2024.
- A leaflet will be delivered to all properties in Stoke Hammond week commencing 12th February and to properties in Newton Leys south week commencing 19th February. The leaflet will invite residents to walk in sessions which will share the information previously shared at the open days in March 2023. Some of this information has been updated since then.

9. To discuss the changing relationship with the Community Centre following notification of the Community Association Constitution and to agree if any action is deemed appropriate

- Cllr Newing provided some background information on the situation with the PC being removed from the Community Association constitution. He explained that a meeting had taken place with Cllr Noble and the Clerk to try to reach a resolution everyone was happy with, but that this had not been possible.
- Cllr Newing proposed the following: The Clerk writes to the Community Association requesting:
 - that the role of a Parish Councillor representative appointed by the Parish Council be once again added to the Management Committee
 - that the Parish Council be provided with an explanation as to why it was felt necessary to remove the representative in the first place, in keeping with the spirit of article 5 of the original constitution
 - the Parish Council be supplied with the minutes of the management meetings where the constitutional changes were discussed and agreed, as well as the minutes of the Special General Meeting
 - the Parish Council be provided with a copy of the written request dated 14th June for a Special General Meeting signed by 5 or more voting members
 - the Parish Council receive copies of the submission made to the Charity Commission and any written responses received within or outside the website process.
- In discussion, it was expressed that the need for governance to safeguard the community's interests was important and there were concerns that the changes may have impacted on this. Regarding the Parish Council having an automatic right to representation on the management committee, some councillors expressed the view they did not necessarily agree with this remaining the status quo in the future.
- Cllrs agreed that it was important to rebuild the relationship between the Parish Council and the Community Association and to discuss governance and the removal of the Parish Council as a member. It was decided that an informal meeting would take place between the Community Association and the Parish Council to try and come to an agreement everyone was comfortable with and if this wasn't possible, Cllr Newing's proposal would be revisited. Members of the Community Association present at the Parish Council meeting were open to this informal meeting and would discuss between themselves and come back to the PC.

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

10. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- The Clerk is chasing up our contractor to fix the broken bollards around the Green.
- Cllr Newing and the Clerk met with a representative of Men in Sheds regarding the work to the bus stop on Bragenham Side. The main issue is agreeing a colour that will match the colour of the new bus stop being installed on Fenny Road. Once the felt has been removed from the roof, if there is more work to be done to fix the shelter and the price increases, the Parish Council will be notified and the increase will need to be agreed at a PC meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

12. Community Centre: to report on any matters for the Council’s attention

- Cllr Noble had nothing to report.

13. Sports Club: to provide any updates/report on any matters for the Council’s attention

Mel Dagostino advised that the club is doing well. Youth pool evenings have started and are well attended. The SHFC vets team are doing well. The Parish Council was asked whether any S106 money would be given to the Sports Club as they would like to build a toilet block and improve their kitchen facilities. Cllr Champion advised that the S106 project is being worked on and the Sports Club will be contacted in due course.

14. Public Participation Session

- A MoP asked what the situation is with the grass area outside of Mount Pleasant. Cllr Newing explained the situation and the Clerk confirmed she has written to the owners asking them to cut the grass, but the requests have so far been ignored.
- A MoP asked whether the village show committee is associated with the PC. Cllr Newing confirmed there is no association between the two.
- A MoP raised his concerns regarding the path widening by Tyrells Manor. Cllr Newing advised they had already seen the Section 278 document and that the work had already been explained in detail to them. The MoP requested a copy of the Section 278 document for his own records. **Action: Cllr Venn to provide this**
- A MoP mentioned some houses along Fenny Road near to the new development are being affected by sewage in their gardens. Cllr Venn advised the same thing had happened in Tyrells Gardens and that Anglian Water had been out to clear a blockage.
- A MoP asked the Clerk to contact Rivers Trust to ask them to dredge the brook.
- A MoP mentioned that Newton Road by the bridge is looking messy and the Clerk advised her to log this via Fix My Street. She also mentioned the graffiti under the railway bridge.

15. To agree the date of the next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 5th March 2024

Cllrs agreed unanimously to this date and the meeting will be held at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side.

Cllr Newing thanked everyone for their contribution.

16. To resolve to close the meeting

The meeting was closed to the press and public.

17. Council to receive an update on S106 and to consider upfront costs which would be reimbursed to the Council once S106 money is received

Cllrs unanimously resolved to allow a budget of £3000 to be used for any upfront costs.

The meeting closed at 21.45.

Chair:

Date: