

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Mike Robinson, Joanna Simonds, Clerk and RFO, Cllr Scott Raven, Phil Gomm and 4 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Everitt MP had anticipated a very busy first day back in Parliament so it was unlikely he would be able to participate this evening.

**2. Declarations of interest**

No items to declare

**3. Public Participation Session**

The Chairman opened the floor to members of the public to raise any items they may have, kindly requesting that any matters be raised now rather than interrupting the meeting later on.

- Patrick Mullins thanked the Clerk for all her hard work in getting the Bragenham Side willow tree and surrounding area cleared of all the debris since the tree came down last week. The Chairman echoed these comments stating that the Clerk had gone over and above here in her liaisons with Highways, Anglian Water and the tree safe contractors.
- Phil Gomm thanked the Clerk for her work last month in getting the playground area re-opened. He added that Greg Smith MP has used the area with his family on a few occasions and was delighted at how many residents complimented the Parish Council to him for all they've done.

**4. To approve the minutes** of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on Tues 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

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

Proposed by: Cllr Johnson

Seconded by: Cllr Robinson

Agreed unanimously

The Chairman signed the minutes remotely during the video conference

**5. For Ratification**

- Clerk to undertake ILCA course  
Details previously circulated, Cllrs voted in favour of the Clerk undertaking this course.  
Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
Seconded: Cllr Lane  
Unanimously agreed
- 6 further posts to be purchased and installed on Bragenham Side by the garages  
The Chairman confirmed that following the situation with the travellers earlier in the summer, the purpose of these additional posts at a cost of £120 is to further prevent vehicles gaining access to the grassed area. An additional post will also be installed on the triangle of grass on Newton Road by the old pump to replace the one damaged last month. **Action Clerk**  
Propose: Cllr Johnson  
Second Cllr Robinson  
Unanimously agreed

Cllr Lane commented that it will be good to get these final posts in to cordon off that area. We can then look as previously discussed at installing some picnic benches ready for people to use next Spring time. The Chairman agreed adding that his recollection was that the Village Show were intending to sponsor one of the benches.

## 6. Finance

- a) To agree the payment run as circulated.

### STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 1st September for ratification

Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary and any related expenses	£876.00
Mr G Noble	Expenses: August 2020	£17.78
CS Maintenance	PC grounds maintenance invoice CSM0427	£540.00
Filcris	Invoice 45941 (6 additional posts)	£120.29
RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath	£19.25
RTM Landscapes	Invoice 2442	£384.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,957.32</b>

Proposed: Cllr Robinson  
Seconded: Cllr Lane  
Agreed unanimously

- b) To agree the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Proposed by: Cllr Johnson  
Seconded by: Cllr Lane  
Agreed unanimously

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

**(i) 20/02340/APP – Stoke Hammond**

Barn 2, Hunters Lodge, Leighton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DD

No comments from Councillors other than this seemed a straightforward application that would not be visible from the road. Councillors agreed to SUPPORT the application.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
Seconded: Cllr Robinson  
Agreed unanimously

**(ii) 20/02554/APP – Great Brickhill**

Paper Mill Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

This application for a new hay barn the Chairman commented has in fact already been recommended for approval by the planning office and also been supported by Great Brickhill Parish Council. Cllr Johnson's view was that he didn't see any reason not to support this application. The Chairman agreed and asked whether Cllrs were in agreement to SUPPORT this application.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
Seconded: Cllr Robinson  
Agreed unanimously

**(iii) 20/02421/ACL – Stoke Hammond**

Old Dairy Farm House Orchard Mill Lane, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BF

Seeking a certificate of lawfulness to a single dwelling converted in 2005. Cllr Johnson commented that statutory of limitation has expired so nothing can be done. Cllrs voted on NO OBJECTION.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
Seconded: Cllr Lane  
Agreed unanimously

**(iv) 20/02446/APP – Stoke Hammond**

22 Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

For a single and double story extension to the existing property. Cllr Lane commented that the extension seems to be mainly at the back so not viewable from the road and concluded that he

didn't see it would have any determinantal impact. The Chairman agreed adding that a lot of the properties on that road have been extended in this way. Cllrs voted to SUPPORT this application.

Proposed: Cllr Robinson

Seconded: Cllr Lane

Agreed unanimously

## 8. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting

- Update on the lay-by on Fenny Road  
The Clerk confirmed she and Phil met up with Highways on 26/8 and three options were discussed, (i) erect industrial bins to encourage the boat people to use these rather than dump rubbish on the verges – this option soon discarded, leaving options (ii) a lockable gated entrance, so the council could still use for winter salt storing and (iii) close the lay-by altogether. Contact will be made with Canal & Waterways in regards to moorings, but Phil confirmed Highways would like the PC to lead on this, so if consensus is to see the lay-by closed, that is what Phil will report back to Highways. Cllr Johnson commented on the continuous hassle this lay-by causes and his view was it should be closed. Cllrs agreed to add this as an agenda item at the October meeting to allow Cllrs time to make an informed decision. **Action Clerk**
- Cllr Johnson referred to the Fenny Road development where contractors are parking on the grass despite the temporary road having now been laid on site and, it was a planning condition that they only park on site. Cllr Johnson said he had photographic evidence should it be needed. The Chairman asked that the photograph be emailed to the Clerk **Action Cllr Johnson** who will write to the Project Manager of the development company. **Action Clerk**
- Cllr Lane also commented on the Fenny Road development where they've put the new footpath in to join the old but the new footpath is 1m wide and the old is only half that width. Cllr Robinson suggested the next agenda item of edging the soil back to the kerbs may well resolve that.
- Phil Gomm suggested we could look to the local board (we come under Winslow) to apply for some funding as if we do have a community group of volunteers to go out and do some edging, that board may well fund that project. Phil said he would hook Jo up with the relevant person.

## 9. Parish Improvements and Enhancements

a) Update from Phil Gomm on new welcome sign for Newton Road

Phil confirmed he'd been working with the Clerk on this project and had hoped to be able to deliver good news this evening. Unfortunately, however, whilst all boxes were now ticked off and where the PC would like the signs located is fine, we're simply waiting a final go-ahead. The Chairman thanked Phil for his update and said hopefully we'll have some news to report at the next meeting.

b) New litter bin on The Green

Cllrs voted in favour of ordering the WW1 style replacement bin from David Ogilvie Engineering which will sit well in our Thankful Village. Clerk to place order and arrange installation **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Lane

Seconded: Cllr Johnson

Unanimously agreed

c) Decide whether the diseased tree on The Green that was taken out last year should be replaced  
The Chairman confirmed that whilst originally we were simply going to replace the tree, there does seem to be a semi-split within the village with some people saying they think it looks nice without the tree and others saying yes, we should replace the tree. As a result of this divide of opinion, the Chairman suggested we post on the Village FB page, a poll where people can click to have their say. Cllr Johnson agreed this was an excellent idea and the Chairman asked Cllrs to vote in favour.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Robinson

The Clerk to set this up. **Action Clerk**

Patrick Mullins suggested we were excluding people here that do not use Facebook. Cllrs agreed this was a valid point and the Chairman said he would put something in the next edition of the SH News. It was also agreed to put something on the village notice board and maybe something in the shop window or shop counter. The Clerk agreed to action this. **Action Clerk**

d) Parish volunteer group to edge soil back to kerb line along the main road through the village  
The suggestion was made to get a group of volunteers to do this work and Cllr Lane commented that if we did, it would most likely not be a problem again for a good 18 months. Cllr Johnson suggested as the road is quite busy at the moment because of the diversion going through the village, we should not consider this until the diversion has been removed. Cllrs agreed and the Chairman also raised concerns about safety aspects if the work could not all be done from the kerbside. If the Parish Council were to organise this with a volunteer group, it would certainly have implications on our insurance and risk assessments and method statements would need to be drawn up.

Phil said that the PC have delegated powers from highways authority so suggested the Clerk reach out to the Local Area Technician via Cllr Raven or Cllr Everitt to seek their permission. Whilst Cllrs were still wary of safety implications, it agreed that the Clerk should ask the question of the LAT and also reach out to our insurance company **Action Clerk**

e) New land

The Chairman asked Cllrs to vote in favour of RTM's previously circulated quotation of £130 to replace the 90 hedges that died, remembering we have a £70 donation from a villager. RTM confirmed they would not be using beech but would instead use a mixture of the hedges that are already there. Having recently visited the land, Cllr Lane said the hawthorn seemed to be thriving so suggested RTM use hawthorn as the majority. The Clerk to instruct RTM. **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Robinson

Agreed unanimously

The Chairman handed over to Cllr Johnson to give an update on the New land working groups. Cllr Johnson confirmed there will be two groups; a working group and an audit group and the intention is to have representation from Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys Parish on both groups. First steps are to seek the services of a quantity surveyor to give us a feasibility price and Cllr Johnson confirmed he is meeting with a surveyor tomorrow who will put together a fee proposal based at the moment on the plans that were drawn up a year or so ago which outline things that the parish said they did or didn't want. As things progress, Cllr Johnson said the Parish Council would look to hold an open evening so parishioners have the opportunity to comment on what is being considered.

Cllr Lane advised we are approaching daffodil planting time of year and it would be good to get more bulbs planted around the village. They need to be planted in the Autumn when the ground is wet so should be done in the next couple of months. Cllrs agreed to make this an agenda item next month and the Clerk to dig out the price we paid last year and get a quote for approx. 300 new bulbs. Cllr Lane confirmed the bulbs previously planted were the variety Camelot. **Action Clerk**

## 10. Community Centre

The Chairman confirmed Innovations are back at the Community Centre and Buttons pre-school are back next week. Sadly, Slimming World and Pilates will not be coming back but hopefully a new yoga group will be joining in a couple of weeks. The CC is actively seeking a cleaner in order to be able to open up to occasional hires (still being limited to 30 people in a gathering), although this would probably only be for a Saturday so a thorough clean could be carried out on a Sunday.

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

Cllrs continue to hold informal weekly meetings by Zoom to keep in touch with important matters.

The Clerk and Cllr Lane attended the Wing Parish Council Zoom meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Lane observed there was a lot of conversation surrounding traffic calming and speeding through the village and Cllrs appeared a little confused regarding the MVAS as they were talking about buying equipment and didn't seem to realise this could potentially be available to them without the need to purchase. Cllr Lane said he was also surprised that Wing being a much larger Parish, and therefore having a lot more Cllrs than us, it was interesting that they only had 3 members of the public in attendance which therefore made it very Cllr top heavy.

The Clerk gave her observations from the meeting:

- The Clerk let everyone enter the Zoom meeting as they arrived rather than waiting until the start time which was interesting. This meant you potentially had members of the public joining before all Cllrs were on the call.
- Their food bank is being used more now than it was at the beginning of lockdown.
- At this 28/7 meeting, their playground had still not re-opened despite there being a lot of pressure to do so.
- Following on from Cllr Lane's comments regarding traffic calming, they recorded a car speeding through the village on the Stewkley Road at 70mph on 23/7 at 05:30.
- The PC believe they have a very rich pool of talent within the parish including lawyers, PR people, gardeners and accountants to name a few, so have decided to compile a register of skills so that the whole village may benefit from these talents.

The Chairman asked whether Cllr Raven had anything he wanted to share before the meeting closed.

Cllr Raven commented that it has been fairly quiet with August being the holiday recess but as we gradually come out of lockdown there are some areas we will need to have a little patience with. The Council he said have been directing a lot of its time, money and energy towards adult & child services and healthcare, and as we start to look at other areas, there might be some issues, especially with it being a new Council.

Cllr Raven said it was important for him to come along to these meetings to see what the Parish is facing and to learn what is working and what isn't, and where he might be able to give input and pick things up on behalf of the Parish.

He confirmed that the next Winslow and Villages Community Board mtg will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September via MS Teams and the Clerk confirmed she had the details of this meeting. In regards to this Board, Cllr Raven said that if there are any areas where the Parish might like a little funding here and there for whatever reason, the Community Board is there to assist. Either that or we could contact Cllr Raven directly and he would be able to put us in touch with somebody.

Finally, Cllr Raven mentioned the National Covid-19 Honours Scheme and said if there is anybody in your Parish you would like to nominate and thank for going over and above during this lockdown period, the deadline for applications is 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## **12. To agree the date of the next PC Meeting – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution this evening and declared the meeting closed at 20:41

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