



**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on
Tuesday 2nd June 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 Phil Gomm, Cllr Ben Everitt MP (part of meeting) and 4 members of the public.

Before officially starting the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Marvis Berrow who sadly passed away two weeks ago. Cllr Berrow had been on the Parish Council for more years than we actually knew. She did so much for the village over the years and whilst sadly suffered illnesses in the last couple of years, she still managed to attend all of the council meetings. On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman expressed his sincerest condolences to her family but most importantly, her husband Gordon and confirmed that at some point in the future, the Parish Council would come up with some way of making a fitting memorial for Cllr Berrow.

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of interest

None

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.

Seeing Newton Road on the agenda, Cllr Gomm asked whether after the last meeting he attended on 3 March, anyone from his office had been in touch regarding the road markings where Newton Road meets Fenny Road. The Chairman confirmed nobody had been in touch but also clarified that the item on this evening's agenda was actually a different matter. Cllr Gomm acknowledged and confirmed he would pick up the previously discussed Newton Road/Fenny Road item and liaise directly with the Chairman.

The Chairman enquired as to what Cllr Gomm's role was now in this new unitary authority. Cllr Gomm said that with Cllrs Janet and Neil Blake both resigning, it had weakened the ward further so a team working under Cllr Everitt had been formed to support the new enlarged ward to work closely with parishes, participate in meetings, reporting back to colleagues and pick up on any actions where necessary; in essence, being there to help.

No further items were raised by any members of the public.

4. To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 5th May 2020.
The draft minutes circulated were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Proposed by: Cllr Karl Johnson

Seconded by: Cllr Geoff Lane

Agreed unanimously

The Chairman signed the minutes remotely during the video conference

5. Finance

a) To agree the payment run as circulated.

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 2nd June for ratification

Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk net salary and any related expenses	£636.00
Mr G Noble	Expenses: May 2020	£16.29
RoSPA annual inspection	Invoice: 48397	£198.00
CS Maintenance	PC grounds maintenance	£460.00
RTM Landscapes	Invoice no 2298	£240.00
Rush and Warwick Ltd	Invoice 31247 for June/July edition of SH News	£107.40
	Total	£1,657.69

Proposed: Cllr Geoff Lane
Seconded: Cllr Mike Robinson
Agreed unanimously

Cllr Johnson confirmed to the Clerk that he would sign the payment run, pass it to Cllr Lane for a second signature and return it to her.

b) To agree the accounts to 30th April 2020
Proposed by: Cllr Mike Robinson
Seconded by: Cllr Karl Robinson
Agreed unanimously

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

The Chairman confirmed there were three items of planning for review:

(i) **Consultation CM/0018/20**

Variation of conditions to extend the operational life of the Bletchley Landfill Site by 15 years

This consultation regarding the landfill site is not one the Parish Council have been consulted about previously, and the only part that sits slightly within the parish is part of the entrance road on the roundabout off the bypass. The Chairman himself had no comments and asked councillors for any views they may have.

Cllr Robinson recalled many years ago in the site's early days, there was an issue surrounding the lorries being used to dispose of waste coming through the village. After the bypass opened, Cllr Robinson recollected the Parish Council writing to site operators asking that they make sure lorries using the site, use the bypass for access and do not go through the village.

Cllr Johnson suggested that however councillors vote, the Parish Council write another letter as, in effect, this new variation of conditions potentially deems any previous letter out of date.

Cllr Lane recalled himself there being various routes into the landfill site and an agreement that once the bypass was open, that would be the only entrance and exit route lorries would be allowed to use.

Councillors agreed to respond with "no comment" but to reiterate as per previous arrangements, that vehicles do not go through the village and only use the bypass **Action Clerk**

Proposer: Cllr Karl Johnson
Seconder: Cllr Mike Robinson
Agreed unanimously

(ii) 20/01633/APP – Stoke House Farm, Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BN

Erection of ancillary residential annex and separate car port

Having reviewed the Saville's document produced on behalf of the client, the Chairman pointed out that the report itself actually picks up all the areas where in fact this residential annex goes against planning guidelines, in that annexes should be wherever possible, attached to the main residence. This is effectively a new dwelling in an area of attractive landscape and open countryside. Cllr Robinson concurred with this, his only other comment being that it didn't seem entirely clear whether the application was proposing a new entrance onto Fenny Road. The Chairman confirmed it was the same entrance and Cllr Johnson agreed that the entrance plans were slightly difficult to interpret.

Councillors OPPOSE application on the grounds they see it as a new dwelling within an open countryside area of attractive landscape which goes against planning guidelines. **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Mike Robinson

Seconded: Cllr Karl Johnson

Agreed unanimously

(iii) Little Orchard, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond

Single story side and rear, first floor side extensions, partial garage conversion, side orangery and alterations to front and side elevations.

The Chairman stated that a similar application was received last July which councillors had no objection to and the only change here appears to relate to the double garage. Cllr Robinson agreed and confirmed that unless there was anything radically different from the previous application, he had no concerns. Cllrs Johnson and Lane were of the same opinion.

Councillors agreed a vote of NO OBJECTIONS **Action Clerk**

Proposed by: Cllr Karl Robinson

Seconded: by: Cllr Geoff Lane

Agreed unanimously

7. Insurance renewal

The Chairman reminded councillors that we signed up to a three-year long-term agreement with Came & Co which expires next year. Such an agreement limits how they may apply any increases. Last year the premium was £1,228.04 and this year they have applied an increase of £36.84. The difference in annual premium is a result of index linking of any items insured against loss or damage. The Chairman asked councillors to vote on renewal for this final year.

Proposed by: Cllr Mike Robinson

Seconded by: Cllr Karl Johnson

Agreed unanimously

8. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting

The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Everitt and Gomm were now involved in getting to the bottom of whose responsibility street light 51 is and assisting in getting it repaired.

Cllr Johnson advised that behind the Bragenham Side bus shelter where the waste bin is, people have been putting their dog waste bags behind it on the ground. As rules allow dog waste bags to be placed in general waste bins, there is no reason for them to be left on the grass when there is a perfectly good bin available. The Clerk to put a note on Facebook. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Johnson thanked Hazel Turner for emailing Mr Oldfield at the Drainage Board last week regarding the weeds in the brook and the bad smell that had been reported on Facebook. No response has been received yet and it was agreed the Clerk should follow this up. Councillors commented however that despite a complaint to the contrary, upon inspection, there did not appear to be any noticeable smell at all. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Lane referred to Hazel's 1/6 email regarding the chains around the bench at the old duck pond site and confirmed that the two or three posts that had the chain link round that bench, he himself had taken them down some 6 months ago. The Chairman confirmed that when he put the silent soldiers up recently, they were still down so access should not be a problem for anyone.

9. Parish Improvements and Enhancements

a) Website

The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk has updated the website quite significantly since the last meeting and amendments were now being made frequently. Although no meetings of the Village Show committee had been held, the Chairman agreed to liaise with the Chair to see whether they would like to put a few words in the Village Show section. **Action Chairman** It was also suggested that a link to the weekly Buckinghamshire Council update by Leader, Martin Tett, could be published each week. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Ben Everitt MP joined the meeting live from the House of Commons. He was on his way to vote on a Bill and took the opportunity to join whilst walking to the Aye and No lobbies.

Back to the Website agenda item, Cllr Gomm said as advocates for Buckinghamshire Council, they regularly log on to the local parish Facebook pages to see what is relevant in local areas and said he would work with the Clerk to add value.

b) New land

Cllr Robinson said he'd read Cllr Johnson's risk assessment circulated earlier that day and found it a good comprehensive read. He had no immediate comments but suggested it might be helpful for councillors to have a little more time to digest the document. Cllr Johnson agreed wholeheartedly adding that councillors needed to be content it covered all necessary aspects before sign off. Councillors agreed it be ratified at next month's meeting. **Action Clerk**
Cllr Johnson gave thanks to Ann Payne for sourcing a draft risk assessment template.

Cllr Johnson suggested that as the Parish Council were likely to be in a situation of holding virtual meetings for some time to come, he felt it prudent to revisit the meeting that had been discussed prior to the elections being postponed. He suggested that if councillors were in agreement, he would organise a "refresher" meeting. Councillors agreed and the Chairman added that depending on the outcome of such meeting, and what councillors decided was the right way forward, it could be added as a future agenda item.

c) New sign for Newton Road

The Chairman clarified there are two main signs as you come into the village from either Leighton Buzzard or Bletchley. There is however, another entry and that is via Newton Road from the Drayton/Newton Longville direction so this agenda point related to a new "Welcome to Stoke Hammond" sign to be situated in the vicinity of the 30mph sign which usually donates the start of a village.

A discussion was held around obtaining permission and Cllrs Everitt and Gomm confirmed we would not need to reach out to Planning but would need to obtain permission from the Highways Authority which if pitched in the right, they saw no reason why permission would not be granted.

The Chairman proposed the following next steps:

(i) agreeing a budget figure now of £3k including installation; (ii) re-visit the signs from last year and then whilst maintaining social distancing, two councillors do a site visit to investigate the best position and (iii) if (i) and (ii) agreed, reach out to Highways for permission on our proposal.

Proposed by: Cllr Geoff Lane

Seconded by: Cllr Karl Johnson

Agreed unanimously

d) To approve the installation of further posts around the wildflower meadow on Bragenham Side.

Following the initial installation of 50 posts around the wildflower area, we have received a new quote from Filcris Ltd the company who supplied the posts, to purchase another 40 to extend along to the garage entrance. At the time of writing they only had 31 in stock and said the lead time would be approx. 3-4 weeks. We could however check availability of the square headed posts instead.

We have also received an installation quote from Phil Wheatley of PW Landscapes who installed the previous posts and Phil's quote includes replacing the broken post on the pump site at the bottom of Church Road. Both quotations having been previously circulated, councillors were asked to vote in favour of placing the order with Filcris Ltd and instructing PW Landscapes.

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

Action Clerk

Cllr Ben Everitt MP left the meeting

Cllr Lane enquired about the bench options as circulated by the Clerk last week. The Chairman confirmed that Mrs Kirk had now chosen a bench that the Kirk family would like to pay for as a fitting tribute for Mr Bill Kirk. The Parish Council will cover the installation cost and the Kirk family will decide what inscription they would like. The Chairman will reach out to Mrs Kirk this week to suggest they meet up to agree where exactly the bench should be positioned. It was agreed that when the Clerk reaches out to PW Landscapes in regards to the wooden posts, she also ask him to quote for installing the bench on a concrete base. **Action Chairman / Clerk**

Proposed by: Cllr Karl Johnson
Seconded by: Cllr Geoff Lane
Agreed unanimous

10. Community Centre

The Community Centre is still closed although the pre-school did start back on Monday 1st June. The Chairman confirmed that following the recent theft, the Community Centre have added some additional lighting, including flood lights in the garden and there will be CCTV as well positioned on the external perimeters of the entrance itself.

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Community Centre were successful in obtaining a £10k grant available to hospitality and leisure facilities who were unable to operate during the Covid-19 crisis.

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

Although no meetings have been attended during the Covid-19 lockdown, councillors continue to meet remotely on a weekly basis via Zoom. These are just informal meetings to keep in touch with any important matters. No decisions are being made, other than items that should be added to the next agenda.

12. To agree the date of the next PC Meeting – Tuesday 7th July 2020.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution this evening and declared the meeting closed at 20:22

Chair:

Date: