



**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council at the Community Centre,  
Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Mavis Berrow, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Donna Page, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr Hazel Turner, Sue Severn - Parish Clerk, District Councillor Ben Everitt and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Karl Johnson
2. **Declarations of interest** None.

**Public Participation Session**

- A resident thanked the two members of the Council for erecting the new lights on the Christmas tree on the Green. They look beautiful.
- District Cllr Everitt reported that there was a great deal going on. The current councils will disband and a new unitary council formed. Orders are to be put towards Parliament in January and by March 28<sup>th</sup> it should be completed. In the meantime there will be a shadow authority and district council elections will not go ahead. Parishes are asked to budget for their election but these also are in doubt. There will be 147 councillors to start with. A request is to be submitted for an immediate boundary change. There has not been one since 1974. He stated that delivering of services will become more efficient and more localised. Councillors will have broader jobs. The new Unitary Authority will be in place by April 2020. Cllr Lane asked how many Councillors are in post at the moment. There are 203 in total. Provision of services for Adult Social Care is and remains a priority and needs to be covered. The new areas will be called Wards and not Districts. There have been huge changes in Buckinghamshire in the last decade with the forthcoming Heathrow expansion/HS2/M25. A resident asked a question as to whether it will be operating as 'business as usual' during the interim council from April 2019 and whether there would be job losses. Cllr Everitt said that unfortunately, a head count reduction will have been looked at, but there will be natural attrition and the District Council has already been through this exercise during the past two years. There will not be a change in policy and personnel will be seconded to the merger, but expertise retained in areas such as planning. Another resident queried the situation with regard to planning. Planning and target dates should still be achievable. Cllr Everitt said there may be a delay on the big planning issues though there should be no disruption to the day to day plans.
- The Clerk told the meeting that the staff and officers are now being very positive about the future and were working in a highly professional manner. Cllr Everitt said he would feed this back.

**3 Approve the minutes** the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**4 New land & other land**

The Chair told the meeting that the architect has been sent a list of items wanted for the new land and had produced an outline vision plan for approval which will now be amended after a meeting to be held next week. The finalised plan will be provided to Councillors for comment and discussion after which it will be published for public comment. The timeframe for this is January and February 2019.

Cllr Lane interjected to say that he was one of two councillors who had, the previous evening, left the Land Working Group meeting. He strongly feels that the whole matter be revisited and the vision plan delayed until such time as a budget and level of finance for this project was ascertained. The Chair advised that it had previously been agreed by the full Council that a vision plan would be prepared by our architect, amended as required for presentation to the Council. Any other issues raised by Cllr Lane would be added to the next Agenda but would not be discussed and agreed since they were not on the agenda. The Chair then took a quick 'straw poll' of Councillors to ascertain whether they were still in favour of moving forward with the Vision Plan. Cllrs Page, Robinson, Turner & Noble were in favour of proceeding with the Vision Plan. Cllr Berrow abstained and Cllr Lane was against. It was therefore agreed to continue with the production and presentation of the Vision Plan.

**5 Finance**

**a) Payment run:** The payment run was agreed as circulated.

Mrs S Severn	BACS	Net salary, office & expenses	£713.42
G Noble	BACS	Expenses: November	£167.55
		(Including poppy wreath) S137 Expenditure £20.00	
Rush & Warwick	BACS	SH News print December	£486.08
Stewkley Enterprise Agency	BACS	Grass cutting	£89.01
Mrs A Payne (paid)	BACS	Bulbs for village planters	£9.58
<b>Direct debit/standing order payments</b>			<b>£1,465.64</b>
Sage Accounting	DD	Payroll software	£7.20
Survey Monkey	DD	Monthly direct debit survey software & hosting	£35.00
NEST pensions	DD	PC and Employees' contribution to pension	£69.97
E-on	DD	Monthly charge electricity	£82.18
HMRC	SO	Income tax deducted/NI	£150.40
<b>Total payments</b>			<b>£344.75</b>

Cllr Page noted that there will be no bill for the Stewkley Enterprise Agency during December. The Clerk told the meeting that a contract for one further year for devolved services has been offered and agreed by Councillors. BCC is not in a position to make the Agreement longer until the new Unitary council has been formed and can enter into new legal Agreements.

**b) The accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018.** The accounts were agreed

**6. Planning:** None

## **7. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting.**

The Green: The Chair reported on the debacle regarding the road across the green. Bucks County Council had got a contractor to come out to fix the hole. Unfortunately, there was a water leak underneath and Anglian Water were called, and finally fixed it.

Blocked drains in the village: Both Cllr Page and Cllr Berrow expressed dismay that the situation regarding the drains still has not been dealt with, despite being numerous reported on FIX MY STREET. It was further reported that a dog has recently been killed on the pedestrian crossing. The Clerk was asked to report the matter and see if a sign reading 'Pedestrian Crossing ahead' could be erected. Traffic calming was once again brought to the attention of Councillors, but the cost is prohibitive. Residents parking on the roads is good traffic calming in itself. However, static vehicle activated signs are being considered to be placed at each end of the village to discourage speeding. Cllr Page suggested that once the estate on Fenny Road is built this will naturally slow the traffic down. It was thought that improved lighting near the pedestrian crossing would help. The Clerk was asked to write to the Local Area Technician about this.

Cllr Turner reported in her visit to Highways England exhibition at The Bell Hotel. The Oxford to Cambridge Expressway may impact on the village in future. However, construction is unlikely to start until 2025 and completion is due in 2030. The initial consultation with Parish Councillors at the meeting was to pick up local knowledge. The District Councillor told the meeting that official plans would be available in autumn 2019. Any other information passed to the public was incorrect, until the consultation takes place next year.

## **8. Community Centre**

The Chair reported it had been a very busy time in the Centre with a successful church fair, a forthcoming Senior Citizens lunch, Buttons Christmas party, Gardening Club dinner and a new set up called Joyful Tots starting on December 11.

## **9. Speeding**

Cllr Lane advised the meeting that the PC has resolved to purchase two permanent speeding signs for the village. The Clerk apologised for the delay, she had forgotten and would order them immediately. The MVAS has again been put up at the Tyrells Manor end of the village to slow traffic down.

## **10. SH News**

The person delivering SH News to Newton Leys is no longer able to do it. The Chair showed the meeting a copy of the new Newton Leys magazine which is more relevant to them. As it costs £133 per month to cover the cost of the copies to Newton Leys, and therefore equates to £1600 per annum it was suggested that the future of SH News to Newton Leys be added to the agenda next month. It was agreed that a note should be placed in the magazine asking the residents if they still want it. Cllr Lane suggested having a quarterly surgery there and Cllr Page suggested that the PC holds another meeting in Newton Leys now that their new village hall is complete.

## **11. Garages in Bragenham Side**

An informal quote from Aylesbury Mains had been provided of c. £1100. The Clerk will ask them to come and see if an electricity supply can be taken off the nearest light. There are two options: Electric light outside and solar lighting inside garages. The Clerk asked whether it would be worth getting an estimate to provide electric light to all garages. Cllr Lane agreed and the Clerk was asked to investigate the costs.

**12. To report on meetings** attended on behalf of the Parish Council. None

**13. To agree the date of the next PC meeting –Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019.**

There being no further business the Chair wished everyone Seasons greetings and declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The above is a correct record of the meeting.

Signed ..... Chair

Date .....