

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on
Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Stephen McNally, Cllr Malcolm Newing, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr David Venn, Joanna Simonds, Clerk and RFO, PC Ian Carter and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ben Everitt MP, via Phil Gomm.

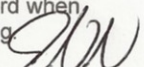
2. Declarations of interest

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.

- Ann Payne commented that if we're to plant snowdrops this year, they'll need to be ordered asap. The Clerk said she'd check how many were ordered last year and email Ann. **Action Clerk**
- Ann also referred to the no parking signs on The Green, aware this item would be discussed later in the agenda. She asked that consideration be given to freshening up and re-varnishing the existing two signs as they are beginning to look tired and quite tatty. The Chairman thanked Ann for this input and said Cllrs would add this to the discussion item when we reach that agenda point.
- Sheralee Clark mentioned the increasing amount of dog mess being left around the village and now regularly appearing on people's drives. She asked whether some penalty signs could be considered and enquired as to whether there was a telephone number for reporting these perpetrators. Phil Gomm said there is a procedure to report such offenders and said he'd pass this information to the Clerk so something could be published on the village FB page. **Action Clerk**
- On Cllr Everitt's behalf, Phil mentioned that both Milton Keynes and Aylesbury hospitals are both stretched to the limit. He also commented that the Government are keen to keep amenities such as play areas open for people to exercise, as long as they stick to the rules in place. Cllr Johnson's concern was children jumping on and off equipment as we do not have sanitising stations at the playground. The Clerk confirmed we still have the original COVID-19 compliant signage up where it clearly puts this responsibility on the parents of the children using the equipment.
- Two residents, fairly new to the area who recently re-introduced neighbourhood watch to the village referred to the recent motor vehicle thefts and enquired as to whether it might be possible to see some night duty police patrol to harder target the area. In terms of disclosure, he mentioned that he was a Police Officer with the Metropolitan Police and his wife Kay, a Police Office with Thames Valley. The Clerk recognised PC Ian Carter on the Zoom and brought him into the discussions. PC Carter said that today, he and a colleague had conducted a number of door-to-door enquires, the main aim being to educate people on the importance of securing their properties and vehicles, it having transpired that the vehicle stolen the other night was as a result of the victim's backdoor having been unlocked which is how the keys were obtained. Some of the other vehicles broken into had a little cash stolen and it appears these vehicles had been left unlocked, so the message here is to get across the importance of home security. From the intel they have, PC Carter said it seems these recent crimes were most likely committed by chancers as opposed to a professional gang. He confirmed that TVP are out and about as much as they can trying to cut down on the number of burglaries and thefts but numbers are limited and stretched at the moment with HS2 protests and COVID-19. They have a new PCSO, Kate, starting next month so she will help with patrols, but the force is clearly very stretched at the moment. He mentioned that the police have also seen a rise in the theft of catalytic converters and are working with Bedfordshire police in this regard. Cllr Lane asked whether TVP had any documentation we could put on the website and include in our next SH News. PC Carter said he would send some information to the Clerk.
- Ann Payne mentioned in the Zoom view that Geoff's name was displayed as "Cllr Geoff Lane" and suggested it might be a good idea for all Cllrs to adopt the same principle so that any new public members would know exactly who the Cllrs were. The Chairman suggested going forward when we have unfamiliar faces in attendance, he would introduce Cllrs at the start of the meeting.



4. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wed 11th November 2020.
Proposed: Cllr McNally
Seconded: Cllr Lane
Agreed unanimously

To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tues 17th November 2020
Proposed: Cllr Johnson
Seconded: Cllr Robinson
Agreed unanimously

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

5. Finance

- a) Approval of the January payment run and ratification of the December 2020 payment run.
Proposed: Cllr Newing
Seconded: Cllr Lane
Agreed unanimously

- b) To agree the accounts to 30th November 2020
Proposed: Cllr McNally
Seconded: Cllr Newing
Agreed unanimously

- c) To agree the Budget for 2021/22 as previously circulated
Proposed: Cllr Venn
Seconded: Cllr McNally
Agreed unanimously

- d) To agree the Annual Precept for 2021/22
The Chairman confirmed an overall increase on last year of £1,761 meaning a Band D householder who this year paid £68.88, would see an increase to £69.19 representing a 0.45% increase.
Proposed: Cllr Newing
Seconded: Cllr McNally
Agreed unanimously

Cllr Lane expressed his thanks to the Clerk for the considerable amount of work put in to creating and simplifying this year's budget. The Chairman echoed these comments.

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

20/04105/APP – Stoke Hammond

34 Manor Close, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DJ

Cllrs agreed this to be a straightforward loft conversion and voted in favour of NO OBJECTION.

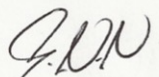
Proposed: Cllr Newing
Seconded: Cllr Robinson
Agreed unanimously

20/04275/APP – Stoke Hammond

6 Meadow Brook, Stoke Hammond MK17 9FQ

Cllr Lane commented on this proposed conservatory, that when these Meadow Brook houses were built, they had special pilings put into the foundations as they were being built on a flood plain which has in previous years flooded. His concern was whether they needed the same kind of footings for the conservatory. Cllr Johnson replied that you don't need to build a conservatory on solid foundations per say, you build a raft which works independently to the building, as the building is already there and has settled at a different rate. He added however, that very often on new builds there are caveats saying you can't do certain things for a given period of time, and although this is not down to the PC, it is a planning issue. Cllrs agreed to vote in favour of NO OBJECTION subject to any caveats laid down by the developer.

Proposed: Cllr Robinson
Seconded: Cllr Venn
Agreed unanimously



20/04368/APP – Stoke Hammond

Burnell Farm, Drayton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 0ED

Garage conversion and rear extension to form granny annex, ancillary use to main dwelling

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION with the stipulation that the building is not to be converted into a separate dwelling.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Lane

Agreed unanimously

7. Newton Leys West proposal to build approx. 1,100 new homes up to 2033

The Chairman referred to the Newton Longville meeting on 2/11/20, where Willis Dawson presented their proposal in respect of a potential building of 1,100 new homes. He reminded Cllrs that although some comments had been made at that meeting, as the proposal falls within both Newton Longville and Stoke Hammond parishes, we are entitled to request Willis Dawson present to Stoke Hammond parishioners. Cllr Newing asked if his understanding was correct that the portion that would sit within our parish is likely to be larger than the current Newton Leys South portion of our parish. Cllrs understood that to be the case and that should the proposal go ahead, it would be bigger than Newton Leys South in regards to number of homes. Cllr Johnson suggested it would be good policy for Willis Dawson to present their proposal directly to our Parish and Cllrs agreed. The Clerk to reach out for a few potential dates, run them by Cllrs for preferences and then publish within the Parish. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Newing asked Cllr McNally if he had a view on the general perception in NLS to this proposal. Cllr McNally commented he'd heard mixed opinions with some people thinking it will bring more jobs and prosperity to the area, whilst others were concerned about yet more building onto Green Belt. He added that people are worried about the Milton Keynes ARC, Oxford to Cambridge, and Guinness Homes are talking about building on both sides of the road by McDonalds. Following Cllr McNally's comment, Cllr Johnson deemed it appropriate to declare, for those that didn't know, that he is a Senior Manager of the Guinness Partnership, so does have some knowledge of talks that are going on here. He has however, signed an NDA so was unable to discuss the matter.

8. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting

• Update on the Fenny Road layby

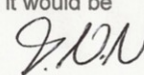
Phil updated that he and Cllr Everitt had visited the layby again and have requested a temporary closure. He commented on how bad the littering had got again and referred to reported gatherings and inappropriate conduct. For these reasons alone, Highways will block the area off with concrete bollards as soon as resources allow to stop cars, lorries and caravans gaining access.

• Update on new village entrance signs for Newton Road

Phil updated that our Local Area Technician has signed off on the entrance signs and that Phil was just waiting to have sight of the paperwork. The plan is to get this actioned before end February.

• Any updates on speeding control measures

The Chairman requested this item on the agenda following comments on social media about speeding vehicles. Also, one of the two MVAS locations is now unusable as the mounting plates are broken/damaged, so one option is to get that repaired and continue with the current MVAS that we share with Drayton Parslow, or, the PC consider purchasing a solar powered speed sign that belongs and stays permanently in the Parish. As regards funding, following a recent introductory Zoom meeting the Clerk had with the Community Board Chairman and Co-ordinator, it transpires there is a good chance we would qualify for match funding should we wish to purchase our own system. Cllr Johnson responded this was a great idea and Cllrs agreed it was definitely worth looking into the cost of such a solar powered MVAS system, and also investigating having 3 mounting points as opposed to the two designated spots we currently have, particularly as we do have three entrances to the village. Phil commented that he has a lot of experience with speed watch, and also mentioned a portable super MVAS the Parish could borrow in the meantime if they wanted to. He suggested it might be worth him coming over to SH for a socially distancing meet up with Cllr Lane as he could also assist with the sign off procedure for a new mounting point. Cllr Lane welcomed this idea. Cllr Johnson enquired whether there may also be any opportunity to see if we can get the speed limit in the village reduced to 20mph. Cllr McNally commented that this would make particular sense on Newton Road with the new nursery having received approval. Discussions followed as to whether this might be possible, the Chairman's understanding being that Bedfordshire had introduced some 20mph measures but that Buckinghamshire were not permitting this. That was also Cllr Lane's understanding but Cllrs nonetheless agreed it would be helpful if the Clerk were to do some investigatory work here. **Action Clerk**



- Regarding the vehicles parked outside Tommy's on the grass verge, the Clerk confirmed that after last month having written to the businesses there, and received very believable responses that the cars were nothing to do with them, the Clerk contacted Highways who wrote back to say they had no powers to enforce or issue fines for vehicles parking on a verge and suggested the Clerk report this online to the non-emergency police. The Clerk did this and received an email to say a report had been sent to the Central Bletchley/Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Policing Team and that a member of that NHPT would be in contact. Phil interjected that he was disappointed the Clerk had been given the run-around here and that the problem should be sorted by Highways. He asked the Clerk to forward her emails on so that he could escalate. **Action Clerk** Cllrs Johnson and Lane updated that it does seem from recent sightings that the vehicles may in fact belong to Tommy's Car Wash after all. Phil confirmed he would pick this up directly with Highways. The Chairman also commented that there did now seem to be less cars parked there now, just two and someone had closed off the verge with cones and tape.
- Cllr Johnson mentioned some fly tipping he had seen at the top of Newton Road yesterday whilst out walking. The Clerk said she would take some photos tomorrow and report it. **Action Clerk**

9. Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- Two extra "No Parking" signs for area around The Green
The Chairman referred to the pricing information the Clerk had obtained from Bramble Signs who we purchased the original two "no parking" signs from. Sadly, their prices have risen considerably at now £175 each, not far-off double what we paid back in 2014, and this of course does not include installation. At last month's meeting when this request was made of the PC, the residents concerned said there were prepared to pay for the signs should the PC decide not to. Cllrs discussed this and agreed that they were willing to contribute 50% if the residents were willing to do the same. The Clerk to write and ask whether those that raised this at last month's meeting would like to take the PC up on their offer. **Action Clerk**

When getting an installation quote, the Clerk to also ask the contractor to look at straightening up the bollards and varnishing and tidying up the two existing signs. Cllr Johnson asked that it be noted that whilst the PC were prepared to contribute towards the cost of these additional signs, they are not to be held responsible for policing this no parking once the new signs are up.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Venn

Unanimously agreed

- Bragenham Side parking issues and the blocking of access to PC garages
Whilst no football would be taking place at the moment, Cllrs nevertheless agreed signage was definitely needed. The Clerk mentioned that as well as the quotation she'd received from Bramble Signs, to replicate the two signs already on the Green, she had found an online supplier selling signs at a fraction of the cost at £20 each and all signs are treated with UVA protection and finished with Beeswax. Cllrs agreed it was worth purchasing one of these signs to determine quality and in any event it could be used near the garages. Then, if the sign turns out to be just what the PC are looking for, more can be purchased, some with the wording "No parking – Garages in constant use". For the time being, Cllrs agreed a budget figure of £150 to include installation. **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr McNally

Unanimously agreed

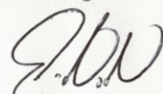
Cllr Johnson suggested that if the signs are good enough quality, it would be worth giving these as an alternative option for the two additional signs on The Green. Cllrs agreed this was absolutely the right thing to do and so the Clerk will go back with both options, in other words, if residents would like exactly the same as the previous two signs, the cost would be X but if they are content with a different style, the price would be considerably less at Y.

- Bragenham Side Parish Land "Enter at own risk" and "pick up after your dog" signage
Cllrs agreed it was important to get some signage up on the "Land at Bragenham Side", previously referred to as "New Land", and a slightly higher budget figure of £300 was agreed as these signs would need slightly longer posts on that land.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr McNally

Unanimously agreed



- **Bragenham Side Parish Land general update**

Cllr Johnson updated that Broadbase are working on putting together the feasibility study that will be costed generically, will identify associated risks and will outline things such as surveys etc. He added that the consultant would like to visit the Community Centre on Saturday to take a few photographs and have a look around, and asked the Chairman if he could accommodate that. The Chairman confirmed that 10.30am on Saturday morning was fine. Cllr Johnson confirmed his intention was to report back on the Broadbase findings at the February PC meeting, assuming we have the documentation in time, and once received he would immediately circulate the said document to Cllrs for their initial review.

Cllr Newing requested that prior to the next meeting, it would be helpful for the new Cllrs to be brought fully up to speed on how the Parish Council have reached the stage they are at in regards to this land. It was agreed the Clerk would set up an informal Zoom for next Tuesday 12th Jan at 7.30pm. **Action Clerk.**

10. Community Centre


The Chairman confirmed the Community Centre was still closed to everybody except the pre-school as they are allowed to continue. They came back on Monday 4th with numbers slightly down at around 25 attending, compared the usual 38.

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

- The Clerk referred to a recent Zoom meeting she'd had with the Community Board Chairman and Co-ordinator, the purpose of which was to gain an understanding of the process for applying for funding opportunities. The Clerk confirmed it was a very helpful meeting and that she now felt confident of the process as and when the PC may have need to apply for funding of any kind.
- Cllr Lane said that he and Cllr McNally attended a Bucks Highways Planning Services Meeting on 15/12 which although quite interesting, was a rather long meeting. Cllr McNally said he was quite surprised at how little influence Parish Cllrs opinions seemed to be viewed, despite the wealth of knowledge that many of them clearly have. Cllr Johnson commented that this was a national problem which the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Royal Institute of British Architects are discussing with a view to looking at a new planning process, the idea being that local people be listened to more, so hopefully things are afoot to change in that regard.
- Cllr McNally asked whether there had been any update in regards to the Mount Pleasant land. Cllr Newing confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council had now provided a reference number for the village green application which will now follow standard procedures but there has been no contact from the land owner.

12. Re-confirm date of the next meeting - Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 21:16.

Chair:  Date: 