



**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council at  
Stoke Hammond Community Centre, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond  
on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Mavis Berrow, Cllr Donna Page, Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr Hazel Turner, Sue Severn - Parish Clerk, District Cllr Ben Everitt, and 6 members of the public. Later 2 members of the police force.

**1 To receive apologies for absence**

Cllrs Janet Blake (BCC), Neil Blake (AVDC).

**2 Declarations of interest**

The Chairman declared an interest in Item 7 New Land as a close neighbour and in item 8, as Chairman of Stoke Hammond Community Association (SHCA). Cllr Page in item 8 as committee member of SHCA.

**3 Public participation session**

- The owner of Mallaig discussed the current situation with the planning application for a replacement wall.
- The Chair of the SHYFC spoke to the Council about the complaints received re parking during junior football training and matches. The youth games now take place at split times with time in between to ease the parking problem in Bragenham Side. An opportunity has arisen for games to take place on an additional piece of land but an agreement is yet to be signed. Target date for this is after the Easter holidays, 70% of children taking part come from the village.
- A resident queried the leaflet that was circulated in the SH News the Chair explained the items listed were purely suggestions. Suggestions put forward by others present at the meeting included a pavement down to The Three Locks, and car parking for the disabled at the Community Centre.
- The District Councillor then reported that Council Tax had again risen so that the books could be balanced. AVDC has managed to save £3million from re-organisation of staff and hard work. Commercial operations continue, some are making money others are not. AVDC is not facing the pressures that other councils are at the moment. Planning is turning things around he said. Cllr Lane and other Councillors in addition to the Clerk had recently attended a meeting where they heard that 21 of the planners were contractors and were working from home in Kent! In their defence the District Councillor told the meeting that due to remote working via technology this was acceptable because AVDC want them to look at the bigger picture. Councillors and the Clerk took issue with this statement. Among other factors the Clerk has never been able to speak to the same person. The meeting was told a new planning portal will be put in place, and the IT expert present issued two items on paper instead of placing them on the website. AVDC is 5 planners down at the moment.

**4 To approve the minutes of the PC meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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

## 5 Finance

To agree the electronic payment run and ratify any payments made outside of the meeting:

The Community Centre lights cost over the Parish Council's agreed budget.

Therefore Cllr Lane proposed that the additional amount of money needed to pay for the new lights in the Community Centre be formally agreed. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by those permitted to vote on the issue. (Cllr Noble and Cllr Page having declared an interest). VAT will be reclaimed.

With regard to HMRC payment the Clerk told the meeting that HMRC hadn't issued a paying in slip for PAYE and a debt collector had rung the Clerk to apologise and request the money owed.

Payee	Method	Detail	£
Mrs S Severn	BACS	Net salary £288, Pension contribution PC £18/Self £3.60, Office £50, Expenses £23.40, Phone/software/wifi £40	£397.80
G Noble	BACS	Expenses: February	£22.94
Rush & Warwick	BACS	Printing SH Map	£3.50
AVDC	BACS	Dog bin servies 2017/18	£724.50
Bucks Playing Fields Assoc	DD	Subscripton 2018	£20.00
SWARCO (AUTHORISATION)	BACS	Replacement batteries for MVAS (HALF TO BE RE-CHARGED TO DRAYTON PARSLOW PC WHEN PAID, ex vat)	£429.53
C R James Electrical Ltd	BACS	Lighting Community Centre	£2,696.58
Best Kept Village Competition	BACS	Entry fee 2018	£20.00
		<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£4,314.85</b>
<b>Ratification of budgeted payments made</b>			
HMRC	CARD	PAYE Apr 2017 to January 2018	£1,136.05
Survey Monkey	DD	Montly direct debit survey software & hosting	£35.00

To agree the accounts to January – agreed at February meeting. Bank statement awaited to end February.

## 6 Planning

To consider the following and any other consultations received after publication of the agenda:

### **18/00286/APP: Replacement wall and removal of garden soil Mallaig, Church Road, Stoke Hammond**

The District Councillor stated that this was not a planning issue. Councillors had no objection to the plans. It was noted one resident has put in an objection.

The Chair proposed that the Council support the application, seconded by Cllr Robinson all in favour.

### **17/04457/ADP Land to the east of Fenny Road, Stoke Hammond**

Approval of reserved matters pursuant to outline permission 14/03000/AOP for appearance, landscaping, layout & scale of a residential development of 64 houses.

The Chair told the meeting that there were extremely strong adverse comments from the Heritage and Drainage people. The Parish Council has previously objected. AVDC Planning will be advised that the Parish Council's previous objections still apply and the Council would ask that the Officer takes on board the comments made by the Heritage and Drainage teams.

## **7 Highways & land**

New Land: The questionnaire has gone out on line replies are required by March 31. Cllr Johnson reported that the results will be looked at and reported back. It will be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting when villagers may have their say..

Canal & River Trust: CRT has been contacted there is a diabolical mess down Bragenham Side caused by the cars. A meeting has been arranged with CRT. Vehicles have to drive on the verge which is fast disappearing. The first winter mooring sign remains in place but the second one has disappeared. Only 20% of boats are showing a winter mooring permit. Cars are being parked in gateways too.

Roadworks:

Confirmation of works to Stoke Hammond bypass. £4.5 million has been allocated for the mending of the bypass. Cllr Noble reported that Highways had turned up with road mending equipment without informing the Parish Council and had repaired the road through the village properly. BCC had found money in their budget to do the work! BCC will produce a schedule of works for the bypass and they are hoping to provide diversions via the A505 and A5 but no doubt local drivers will come via the village roads,

Fly tipping:

How Parishioners can help BCC achieve prosecutions for fly tipping.

The lay-by alongside the canal is being misused by motorhomes. A narrow boat owner has complained to the Clerk by email about the amount of litter left by one van. However she has not confirmed that she will give her address details. Without evidence, from a named person, the Police are unable to prosecute. With the evidence they will prosecute and BCC has been very successful in obtaining prosecutions and large fines have been given to flytippers in the County. Cllr Johnson said he thought that motorhomes as long as they do not put their 'feet' down can remain there for 2 years. The Clerk told the meeting that some companies now hire them out and they are often parked up out of the premises due to space issues.

Best Kept Village:

The Clerk reported that the village will not be marked down for not having a war memorial. Cllr Lane requested it is made an agenda item for forthcoming meetings. Cllr Page reported that UK Power Networks are going to replace the planter damaged by their machinery with a new surround. She has asked them to contact her when they are going to put it in position.

Pedestrian Crossing:

The light above the Belisher beacon near the shop is still not functioning Cllr Berrow reported. The Clerk has reported it twice and will do so again.

## **8 Stoke Hammond Community Association**

Cllr Page reported that SHCA has a new treasurer, Mrs Alison Jackson, Mr Chris Page will do the handover with her. The new lights are installed and working. Events coming up: 12 March Table Top Sale; 7<sup>th</sup> July Senior Citizens tea; Village Show AGM 13 March 7-9pm. The floors have been stripped and polished. Tesco Bag for Life has started Blue counters are available when customers have paid for their shopping in the Bletchley and Milton Keynes area. Tesco will not be covering the Leighton Buzzard store for SHCA. It is hoped a minimum of £1000 will be available to purchase tables to replace the broken ones, and new back doors that require replacing for security reasons.

**9 Communication**

Stoke Hammond News

This is now on thicker paper. No advertiser wants colour so only the cover will be in colour.

**10 Report on meetings attended**

The Police attending the PC meeting spoke at this point. A report was given on the recent many thefts of tools from the back of vans. This had been an organised criminal gang and over half a million pounds worth of equipment had been found in Edlesborough and other places locally. The gang has been caught and members are on bail. There have been between 9-10 attempted thefts since the gang was caught but not the same people involved. If suspects are seen report to 101, not by email. Since the gang had been caught the number of thefts is down by 75%. The PCSO requested a copy of SH News.

Parish Councils Planning Forum, AVDC. Reported on under Public Participation. Parish Council elections will be held on 2 May 2018. The Parish Council will have to pay a proportion of costs for the District Council elections as last time, and for PC election if one is called.

**11 Silent Solider**

A proposal to acquire Silent Soldiers to take part in the British Legion commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice 1918 was considered by councillors. The Legion has informed the Clerk that they are putting the orders on hold until they have confirmed the exact details of the commemoration. It was proposed by the Chair that the Parish Council put £1,000 aside in principle and when full details are known for the purpose of purchasing a silent soldier and this will be ratified at a future meeting. Seconded by Cllr Johnson and agreed by all present. The beacon will be lit on 11 November 2018.

**12 Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm