



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

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Mavis Berrow, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr Hazel Turner, District Councillor Neil Blake, County Councillor Janet Blake, Sue Severn - Parish Clerk, and 10 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Donna Page, and Cllr Karl Johnson
2. **Declarations of interest:** None

### Public Participation Session

- A resident raised the issue of the drive across The Green. There has been a large pothole on the green for a while and Bucks County Council had said that nothing would be done. However, it was reported that a large lorry had got firmly wedged in the hole. County Cllr Janet Blake had been made aware. The matter must be reported once more to Fix My Street. As it will be counted as a secondary complaint. The resident suggested asking Anglian Water to investigate to see what is going on underneath the surface. The Parish Council will investigate the matter further the Chair said. Meanwhile the hole has been surrounded by traffic cones. **ACTION: Clerk**
- Cllr Lane reported that he still had a vast number of daffodil bulbs in his garage that required planting before the end of November. Mr Charles Simmons will be asked for a quote for planting them out. **ACTION: GN**
- A resident told the councillors that squirrels were digging up the bulbs already planted on the green and eating them!
- District Councillor Neil Blake summarised the situation regarding the District Council and Bucks County Council being wound up to make way for a unitary authority. Neither plan presented to the Secretary of State by the two councils has been adopted. There will be one brand new council, the details of which are still to be discussed. No weight was given to the 74% of residents' opinions that they didn't want it. He told the meeting that there was an option to have a Judicial Review but it wouldn't achieve much. There would be a reduction of members on the new council, two thirds of whom would represent the south of the county this means they will consistently outvote members in the north of the county. With HS2, housing growth and the Expressway Mr Blake is extremely concerned about the future. He went on to suggest that the Parish Council elections next May would not happen. They would be deferred to 2020 when new Unitary Councillors will be elected. There will be a meeting of Chief Executives next week and an Interim Executive put in place. The Clerk asked District Cllr Blake if she could be kept fully informed with regard to elections because if they take place the Councillors will have to budget for them and meet all expenditure because normally Parish Councillors do not bear all the cost. Mr Blake told her that he would. **ACTION: NB/SS.** The planning policy will stand the meeting was told no housing amendments have been asked for. The plan is sound. *The following information has been received from the Electoral & Democratic Officer:*

*The legislation implementing the Secretary of State's decision will be set out in various Orders to be laid in Parliament in early January 2019. Details relating to whether the District/Parish Council elections on 2 May, 2019, will take place, and the number of members for the new unitary Council prior to the Boundary Commission's review, will be set out in these Orders. Both of these*

matters are subject to further discussions with the MCHLG and a decision has therefore not been agreed as yet. If you have started to calculate your precept requirements for 2019/2020, taking into account election expenses, you should not discontinue this work. Clearly there is urgency in knowing whether or not the elections will be taking place, and as soon as we know the answer to this question, we will communicate it to Parishes.

- County Councillor Janet Blake reported that she too thought it was the wrong decision and will take a position on it in due course.

3. **Approve the minutes** The minutes of the parish council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 4. New land & other land

In Cllr Johnson's absence Cllr Robinson gave a background summary regarding the new land. A working group had been set up and a consultation document with questionnaire had gone out to villagers. A meeting with the architect had followed and then the results of the consultation given to him. The architect had produced an outline plan but the working group were not happy with it and issues needed to be clarified as the architect had tried to incorporate and accommodate all the items on the list and the plan was therefore too crowded. The architect had also produced a plan for the village hall but this had not fully answered the brief, so it is going to go back. There is concern too about the access, whether it needs to be modified to provide adequate width, a turning circle and is there sufficient parking provision. So, the working group are planning to meet the architect to resolve the access problem and the other areas of concern. They are very conscious of the villagers' interests in this project and would hope to report back to village with an update by the end of the year. Cllr Lane stated that it had been a learning curve. The Community Centre will stay as it is as it is run by a charitable organisation. The Parish Council has paid the Community Association for access across the Community Association lane and land. The need now is to establish the requirements for entrance width, vision splay and turning requirements from Highways as part of planning.

**ACTION: Working Group**

**Other land:** Cllr Lane asked the Clerk if there had been any progress in finding out from AVDC and BCC if they would be willing to transfer any pieces of land they own in the village to the parish council. She said that she has enquired several times, but no reply has been received. She will re-double efforts to find out if this is possible in view of the imminent changes to the councils.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### 5 Finance

a) The payments run, as circulated was agreed:

Payee	Method	Detail	£
Mrs S Severn	BACS	Net salary, office & expenses	457.70
G Noble	BACS	Expenses: September including poppy wreath S137 Expenditure £20	93.70
Mrs B Bone t/as PWBone	BACS	Land @ Bragenham Side grass cutting	£336.00
Marcus Young Landscapes	BACS	Grass cutting recreation ground x2	£108.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£995.40</b>
<b>Direct debit/standing order payments</b>			
Sage accounting	DD	Payroll software	£7.20
Survey Monkey	DD	Monthly direct debit survey software & hosting	£35.00
NEST pensions	DD	PC & Employees' contribution to pension	£30.45
E-on	DD	Monthly charge electricity	£82.18
HMRC	SO	Income tax deducted /NI	£84.00
		<b>Total payments</b>	<b>£238.83</b>

b) To agree the accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The accounts were agreed.

6. **Planning:**

**18/03592/APP Charleston Church Road Stoke Hammond Buckinghamshire MK17 9BP** Enlargement of existing garage roof and end gable wall and conversion of garage loft space into bedroom, dressing room and en-suite. Cllr Lane proposed that the Parish Council support this application. Councillors resolved to support the application.

**18/03052/APP Land at Lodge Lane, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire,**

Reduction in the height and amendments to the profile of the garage roofs to plots 6 and 7 and the erection of brickwork piers to the site entrance.

This is a retrospective planning application. The Chair reported that the Parish Council had been back to planning with regard to the entrance's brickwork some months ago. Only last week the Clerk had heard back that the officer agreed that it was a conflict of the agreed planning application put in originally. However, they stated that the developer had put in a retrospective application. Cllr Lane proposed and Cllr Robinson seconded that the Council object to the brickwork piers and to the profile of garage roofs to plots 6 and 7. The Clerk has sent the following to Planning: 'The Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

- What will amount to a gated community does not fit the village environment; it is not conducive to integration. This is out of keeping with this area of the village setting an inappropriate precedent. Out of keeping with the village.
- They are concerned about service vehicles which cannot enter the development will be unable to turn in Lodge Lane where there is no turning space. This currently is narrower than the permitted planning permission and does not meet the width requirement stipulated.
- The garage roofs: Architect has not given satisfactory explanation for why the garage roof design has been changed from that already approved.'

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

Cllr Robinson reported that nothing has happened about the drains being cleared. A resident had reported the matter back in July. The Clerk told the meeting it had been added to the programme of works. Cllr Berrow pointed out that some of the drains were full of soil and had weeds in them, they were totally blocked.

8. **Community Centre**

Cllr Noble told the meeting the AGM will be held on 13 November, he invited those present to attend. There are fifty people listed to attend the Senior Citizens party on 8 December. It was agreed that the Parish Council should provide £100, as usual, towards the cost of the meal. The amount has previously been agreed and is in the budget.

Joyful Tots will be starting in the centre, and Slimming World will meet for the first time on Wednesday 14 November.

9. **Speeding**

Cllr Lane had few updates but since the bypass re-opened the traffic has reduced in numbers. The Parish Council need help with Speedwatch from villagers. Training will be provided. However, 75% of people caught live in the village!

**10. SH News**

Cllr Turner told the meeting that a resident living opposite the Green had not had a copy of SH News for over a year and would like to have it delivered. Cllr Turner had given him her November's SH News copy. The Chair said he would arrange it. **ACTION GN**

**12. Battle's Over – commemoration of the end of World War I**

The Remembrance Service in Church is at 10.45. The event starts at 6.30pm when villagers can enjoy a complimentary tea, coffee and Mulled wine courtesy of the Parish Council. At 6.45 Revd. John Waller will give a recital of all those that served, 6.55 The Last Post will be played to remember all of those that lost their lives. At 7.00pm the beacon will be lit as part of "The Beacons of Light" a national ceremony. 7.05pm St Luke's bell will be rung as part of "Ringing out the Peace" throughout the UK. Hands are needed to help set it all up and the Chair said he hoped the village would support the event which is most important. **ACTION: ALL**

**14. Garages in Bragenham Side**

The solar lighting proposal was discussed. Solar lighting will, unfortunately turn off after two to four minutes and is not effective. There is no electricity supply nearby other than from a post behind the garages. It was agreed to ask Aylesbury Mains, an approved contractor, how much it would cost to put an electricity supply to the garages. If it had to come from across the road Highways permission would need to be sought. **ACTION: Clerk**

**15. To report on meetings**

The Clerk reported that she had attended an extremely illuminating meeting on GDPR, it is important that Councillors attend such meetings which although onerous, we are bound to keep up to date with the new regulations. A PC-based rather than private email address for all Councillors is a must. Mrs Severn will set up a meeting either in the village or at Oving for all councillors to undertake GDPR training for councillors. **ACTION: Clerk**

**16. Date of the next PC meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018.**

**Resolution** Under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, members of the public were asked to leave the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed. Proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Lane, agreed unanimously.

The meeting was declared closed to the public at 8.45pm there being no further business.

The above is a correct record of the meeting:

Chair.....

Date.....