

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 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 Ben Everitt MP and 9 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Raven who was already committed to an HS2 working group mtg.

**2. Declarations of interest**

No items to declare

**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.

- A resident of Newton Leys South (herein referred to as NLS) raised the point that whilst they have been a part of the Stoke Hammond Parish for a few years now, (i) there is no mention of this on the website; (ii) there is little consultation with residents; (iii) their precept money is not spent in the NLS part of the parish; (iv) Cllrs did not support their opposition to the Bletchley landfill application; and, (v) residents just generally feel underrepresented. Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson, from Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council, resident of Newton Leys and Chair of the Newton Leys Residents Association also joined this evening's meeting and echoed these views adding that whilst Cllrs may feel they have engaged, there is a perception they have not.

The Chairman acknowledged the comments made, but did point out that Cllrs have on a number of occasions tried to reach out to NLS residents. As well as the distribution of the SH News, a PC mtg was advertised and held in NLS; only 3 people attended. There was also an open public meeting; nobody attended. The Chairman stressed this was not a criticism but it is important to note that the PC have tried to engage. In regards to precept money the parish receive, one of the issues is that none of the land in NLS has yet been adopted by the local council, meaning it is effectively all still privately owned by the developers, and, as a Parish Council, we are not allowed to spend money on areas that are the responsibility of others. On the last two points, the Chairman said Cllrs would be discussing the landfill application under planning and co-option would also be discussed later in the meeting and Cllrs would very much welcome and encourage interested parties of NLS to come forward to represent that part of the Parish.

The NLS resident suggested there would hopefully be a few interested parties that might put themselves forward for co-option to give NLS a voice. The Chairman finished by suggesting that after this meeting, it might be worthwhile scheduling an informal meeting with some NLS residents to talk about how we might move things forward.

Cllrs Johnson and Lane echoed the comments made by the Chairman that the PC have tried hard over the last 18 months/2 years to engage and it is quite disheartening when people don't come forward. There was also another push in the last SH News inviting people to come forward and get involved in parish projects, so it does need to be reiterated that we have tried.

Cllr Johnson added a final remark that whilst he takes on board the comments made, he personally, along with Cllr Lane has knocked on every door with little reciprocal engagement, so to say that we haven't tried is not a fair statement – there have been numerous attempts in a raft of different ways. That said, it would without doubt be great to get somebody on the PC from NLS itself. Cllr Everitt said he knew Cllrs had tried hard in the past to try to engage residents of NLS and said that this evening seemed a very positive step in the right direction and the Landfill application was also a new opportunity to engage.

- Cllr Everett gave an update on what he knew of the status of the Bletchley Landfill application:
    - still a mystery as to why it was pulled last minute from the agenda but likely the scale of opposition, as in 7 days, complaints to Buckinghamshire Council had risen from 40 to 830.
    - Very impressive good strong valid planning reasons and the photos really helped show what an eyesore the site is. The application is however, rather complicated.
    - Only a small part of the site is in Buckinghamshire, the vast majority of the operational site is in Milton Keynes.
    - The application to extend the life of the site was rejected by the planning committee on the MK side which usually means the applicant will appeal the decision and right now, lots of appeals are being turned over and won by the developer and applicant.
    - The aspects of the site in Buckinghamshire which the committee must consider and the planners must make their recommendation on are Jersey Drive and a part of the site already landfilled over and capped off. This leads to a very complication situation where the team on the Bucks side must only play the cards they have in their hand so they must therefore make a recommendation and the committee must make a decision based only on those facts. The Chairman thanked Cllr Everett for this update.
  - Phil Gomm and Cllr Everett expressed thanks to the Clerk, Cllr Lane and the local residents that turned out for the litter pick on 12/9. A few tons of rubbish were collected from that area.
  - Hazel Turner thanked whoever was instrumental in getting the pavement fixed from Tyrells Manor down to Manor Close, adding that Highways had done a very good job.
4. To **approve the minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on Tues 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. The draft minutes circulated were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

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

**5. Finance**

- a) To agree the payment run as circulated.

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN for ratification at 6th October 2020 mtg		
Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary and any related expenses	£876.00
Mr G Noble	Expenses: September 2020	£48.29
CS Maintenance	PC grounds maintenance invoice CSM0429	£540.00
PWLB lending facility	Loan repayment due 26/10/20	£1,148.05
Aylesbury Mains Ltd	Repair of street light 54 Tyrells Gardens	£94.20
RTM Landscapes	Invoice 2497	£384.00
Rush and Warwick Ltd	Invoice 31360 for Oct/Nov SH News	£546.48
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,637.02</b>

Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
 Seconded: Cllr Lane  
 Agreed unanimously

- b) To agree the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020  
 Proposed by: Cllr Robinson  
 Seconded by: Cllr Johnson  
 Agreed unanimously

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

**(i) 20/03280/APP – Stoke Hammond**

Stoke House Farm, Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BN

There were no comments on this application and Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Robinson

Agreed unanimously

**(ii) 20/02446/APP – Stoke Hammond**

22 Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

This application was viewed previously where Cllrs voted in SUPPORT. The reason it was before Cllrs again was because minor amendments have been made to the plan. That said, Planning pointed out that they did not feel it appropriate to undertake a further round of consultation so, unless Cllrs particularly wanted to make any further comments, Planning intended to proceed to determination. Cllrs agreed unanimously that they had no further comments to make.

**(iii) 20/02185/APP – Stoke Hammond**

Methodist Church, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DE

The Chairman pointed out that the reason this has come back before us is that the developer has submitted a new plan showing 8 parking spaces, 6 of which are tandem and all would involve either reversing onto or reversing out on to Newton Road. Interestingly Highways with certain conditions, appear to be happy with this design. Cllrs were very concerned about the revised plans and the Chairman suggested we reach out to Highways and Planning requesting an onsite meeting so that the extent of our concerns could be shared. Hazel Turner commented it should also be noted that ashes are buried in the exact spot the developers are proposing putting the parking spaces so families would need to be informed.

The Chairman asked whether Cllr Everitt might be able to provide some guidance or assistance here. Cllr Everitt suggested that when the Clerk emails Highways and Planning requesting a meeting, she copy him in. He would then in turn respond confirming that was a good idea as this was a complex application. Cllrs agreed this was a good approach adding that we should also request that no decision be made before any such meeting is able to take place. **Action Clerk**

**(iv) Bletchley Landfill site**

The Chairman suggested that due to the very strong feeling amongst our Newton Leys South parishioners, we put in a strong objection to the proposed landfill extension. Cllrs agreed unanimously that this was the only right and proper course of action and asked the Clerk to put an objection together and circulate to Cllrs for review. **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Robinson

Agreed unanimously

**(v) 20/03274/APP – Stoke Hammond**

2 Coleman Road, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire MK3 5QD

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION to this application

Proposed: Cllr Robinson

Seconded: Cllr Johnson

Agreed unanimously

**(vi) 20/03155/APP – Stoke Hammond**

Common Farm, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 0EB

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION to this application

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Lane

Agreed unanimously

## 7. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting

- Speeding vehicles through the village  
The Clerk advised a number of parishioners had been in touch regarding this topic and having previously led on the village speed watch, Cllr Lane agreed the Clerk could put these individuals in touch with him to take the topic further and confirmed he had reached out by email to a couple of the individuals. He added that at the recent Winslow and Villages Community Board meeting, Thames Valley Police confirmed that the COVID pandemic had impacted various services and one of those was the Community Speedwatch which has been suspended indefinitely owing to safety concerns. Parishes are however, able to request a 7-day Speed Survey which gathers evidence for future action to take place where speeding is an issue. The cost of this however was something like £750 for a week which the PC would have to pay for. Cllr Lane was not proposing we do this as it seems we actually have a camera van in the village once or twice a week at the moment anyway. However, it would be useful if we could get some early statistics on the number of people coming through the village and the speeds they are doing. Unsure who to contact, Cllr Lane asked whether the Clerk could do a little investigation here. **Action Clerk** and he himself would liaise with the parishioners who had expressed an interest in getting involved. **Action Cllr Lane**
- Future of the Fenny Road layby  
Cllr Johnson suggested that Cllrs were not yet ready to make a decision on the future of the layby and that the topic either be discussed further off line or, brought back to a future meeting when Cllrs had been able to give proper consideration to the different options on the table. Cllrs agreed this was a sensible suggestion and that the item would be parked for the time being.

## 8. Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- Agree whether to proceed with any of the three quotations received for the guttering of the Bragenham Side garages  
Having previously reviewed all three quotations, Cllrs voted in favour of proceeding with the "MK Gutter Guy" quotation of £239. **Action Clerk**  
Proposed: Cllr Johnson  
Seconded: Cllr Robinson  
Agreed unanimously
- Daffodil planting and the ordering of bulbs  
Cllrs voted to order 3 x 12.5Kg bags of the previously ordered Camelot variety. **Action Clerk**  
Proposed: Cllr Lane  
Seconded: Cllr Johnson  
Agreed unanimously

Ann Payne asked whether she could purchase the usual bedding plants for the entrance planters. The Chairman confirmed this was in budget so Cllrs confirmed she could go ahead.

- Update on the tree on The Green  
This item relates to the diseased tree on the Green which was removed some time ago. Since then there appears to be divided opinion as to whether a replacement should be planted or whether the Green should be left as it is. In order to get parishioner feedback, the Clerk posted a Poll on the village FB site and also made a Ballot Box which has been in the village shop for the past month. The Chairman asked the Clerk whether she had any update on how the split was looking. The Clerk confirmed that as at 4.15pm today, online votes were that 28 people in favour of a new semi-mature tree planted, 26 people in favour of leaving the green as it is but this of course does not include the Ballot box. The deadline for voting is 20<sup>th</sup> October and parishioners are able to continue to vote online or in the shop until this date. Results will then be announced at the 3<sup>rd</sup> November PC meeting.

## 9. Website Accessibility

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for drafting a website accessibility statement in accordance with UK Government guidelines and asked Cllrs whether they had any questions regarding the statement or whether they were content to vote in favour. Cllrs confirmed they had no comments and voted in favour of the Clerk displaying the notice on our website.

Proposed: Cllr Robinson  
Seconded: Cllr Johnson  
Agreed unanimously

**10. Co-option of Parish Councillors**

The Chairman confirmed that whilst the PC currently only consists of 4 Cllrs, we are now allowed to co-opt and a notice has gone up asking for expressions of interest in regards to our 3 vacancies. Eligible applicants have until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to express their interest in writing to the Clerk.

**11. Community Centre**

The Chairman confirmed that the pre-school is still using the Community Centre, as are Innovations and the new yoga group. The Centre remains closed however, to occasional hires.

**12. To report on meetings** attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, Cllr Lane attended the Winslow and Villages Community Board meeting last Tuesday via Microsoft Teams, commenting that these were almost identical to the old LAF meetings.

**13. To agree the date of the next PC Meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 21:17.

Chair: ..... Date: .....