

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council**

held in the Newton Leys Community Centre, St Helena Avenue, Bletchley on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 2017 at 7.30pm**

In attendance: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr Mavis Berrow, Cllr Donna Page, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr David Rutland, Cllr Hazel Turner, Sue Severn - Parish Clerk  
District Cllr Ben Everitt, 7 members of the public

Cllr Noble welcomed attendees to the meeting, introduced Councillors individually and noted with regret the sad passing of former County Councillor Mrs Brenda Jennings who had served the village for many years. Cllr Noble also told the meeting of the tragic loss last month of the David Norris the Chair of nearby Newton Longville, who lost his life in a light aircraft crash.

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** County Cllr Janet Blake District Cllr Neil Blake

2. **Declarations of interest:** To receive any declarations of interest: None

**3. Public Participation Session**

- Canon John Saunders asked the Chair what are the responsibilities of SHPC to Newton Leys. The Chair replied that currently Newton Leys has not been adopted yet as it is still under development. The PC will eventually be responsible for grass cutting, litter and dog bins and any common land. Canon Saunders told the meeting that the area may be adopted in six months time. Adoption had been delayed due to shortage of building materials. The PC won't be taking it over until the development is complete. The situation is similar to developments within the village.
- Mr Robert Darnley from Dickens Lane Newton Leys commented on the fact that there was no bus stop and no bus timetable, he asked if there were any plans for a bus shelter to ensure school children remained dry in wet weather. The Clerk reported to the meeting that she was attending a meeting the following day and would raise the question. Bus shelters have to be granted permission by Bucks County Council Highways Department.  
**ACTION: CLERK**
- Mr Darnley also raised the issue of an accumulation of water in Dickens Lane after rain; he told those present that there was no drainage. This is the responsibility of the planners and developers, Bovis. The Clerk offered to ring the planning officer, to tell them there should be drains. Due to the fact the surrounding properties are currently empty no one has complained. Mr Darnley also expressed his dissatisfaction with a mound that has been left to become overgrown opposite his home. He had been told originally this would be flattened but no action has taken place and it has now been seeded. He asked who would cut it as it is open ground. He wondered if there was a maintenance plan in place. Again the Clerk said this would be raised with the planning office at AVDC, but it may take some time as the planners are difficult to speak to. The Clerk requested Mr Darnley's details so she could contact him directly.  
**ACTION: CLERK**

Before adoption takes place there will be contact between Bucks County Council/Aylesbury Vale District Council and the developer. Both Authorities will ensure that any remedial works are undertaken before adoption takes place. Transport for Bucks are responsible for pot holes and it is best to contact them directly by their website. The District Council are responsible for pavements, Bucks County Council for

roads. The issue of street lighting was raised. Currently it is very dangerous as there is no street light at the junctions. The Clerk undertook to raise this with Highways at a meeting she was attending on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

- Stoke Hammond resident Mr Andrew Gardner of 28 The Green, told the meeting that the quality of the submission of the land at the garage site is of very poor quality with numerous errors contained in it despite it having been prepared by architects. The high density of the housing was more akin to an urban setting than a rural one. The ecology report could be dismissed he stated. A long discussion ensued and the Chair told Mr Gardner that the PC had stated in all the comments to AVDC that the number of houses envisaged in the VALP has been exceeded. However as Brook Farm had gone to appeal AVDC cannot afford to refuse applications at the moment due to the cost involved District Councillor Everitt told the meeting. If AVDC do turn an application down the information supplied to the planning inspectorate has to be 'as bullet proof' as possible. However this might well change when the VALP is agreed.
- District Councillor Everitt told the meeting that the north of the county are having to accept the overflow of homes as there is no more room south of the county. There is a recognised need for more homes he said.
- District Councillor Everitt told the meeting that due to the reduction in government grant and despite AVDC's commercial activities the Council Tax will rise by 1.99%. (Amounting to 5½ pence a week for a Band D property). The amount raised for AVDC's precept will grow with the increase in housing. However the 1.99% rise will still not pay for everything. He apologised to the meeting for the rise in Council Tax.

4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 January 2017.** The minutes were signed as a true and proper record.

5. **To report on outstanding matters arising from previous minutes by exception.** None

6. **Finance**

a) To agree the cheque run and electronics payments list

Payee	Cheque no./ electronic payment	Detail	£
Mrs S Severn	BACS	Net Salary £254.25, Office £50, phone/wifi/software/mileage £104.40p	£358.65
Tommy handcar wash	726	Fencing to new Community Centre land	£1,630.00
HMRC	Debit Card	PAYE 2016 April to December	£271.71
		<b>Total Payments</b>	£2,260.36p

Payment made since last meeting

C S Maintenance Land clearance Community Centre £700.00 paid by BACS

Cllr Lane commented that Tommy Hand Car Wash had done a very good job. Cllr Rutland asked the Clerk to send him an invoice for sponsor of the welcome pack. **ACTION: CLERK.**

The payment run was agreed.

b) To agree the accounts to January 2017: The accounts were agreed.

c) Automatic Entrolment:

The Chairman reported that Stoke Hammond PC is required to provide a pension scheme

for its employees under Automatic Entrolment. Having investigated the possibilities it is recommended that SHPC joins NEST and provisoin is made for the Parish Clerk to be enrolled. Contribution level will be determined and approved at next PC meeting.

## 7. Planning Applications:

**17/00067/APP 30 Phoebes Orchard, Stoke Hammond.** Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. It was proposed by the Chair that this application be supported. AGREED.

**16/04236/APP Land off Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond.** Installation of two 4,000 litre Calor Gas tanks underground, to provide gas supply to 13 houses permitted under 14/03224/AOP. The Parish Council will remain neutral on this application as they do not have the professional knowledge to comment. It is however noted that the Internal Drainage Board has objected to the installation. These tanks were not included in the original plans.

## 8. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

Those present were asked to report potholes in their vicinity directly. The Clerk will be contacting Bucks Highways as the SHPC were not informed of the closure of the bypass which lead to the very high volume of traffic travelling through the village during the day (9<sup>th</sup> February).

**ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Robinson brought up the subject of litter picking. The Clerk will provide equipment so that volunteers can go around the village.

**ACTION: CLERK/Cllr Robinson**

The owner of Food and Wine Stores has been asked to replace a rubbish bin outside the shop because this a problem area where litter is concerned.

Winter Mooring on the canal: No problems have been reported this year with litter or parking.

## 9. The Green and Old Pond Site

New flower beds will be installed soon at the old pond site. New posts have now been added around the village green to prevent skips, vehicles etc being parked on it. Cllr Mavis Berrow said that way the snowdrops planted last year will be able to survive! The builder's skip has been removed.

## 10. Stoke Hammond Community Association

Cllr Page told the meeting that there have been changes in the management committee and the SH News is being revamped, new editorial is welcome. Someone is needed to deliver in Newton Road, Hillersdon Chase and Appleacres. New signs will be placed at the entrance to Bragenham Side and to the Centre itself. Cllr Page suggested that the Council help with the cost of the signs, the Sports Club will also be advertised at the entrance to the road and will share the cost. The cost issue will be dealt with at the next Parish Council meeting the Chair

stated. More editorial is needed and Canon Saunders is willing to put something in. Advertising covers some of the cost of printing.

### 11. **Playground and Community Centre Land**

The new equipment is currently being put in. S106 money has paid for the purchase of the land and the new equipment. The PC has bought the land to prevent BCC wanting it back for development when the lease ran out!

### 12. **Communication**

Cllr Robinson is due to put a new PC newsletter together for delivery next month however he has blank pages at the moment!

13. **Report on meetings** The Clerk, Cllr Lane and Cllr Noble have all attended meetings on behalf of the Council in the last month. An update on policing was provided. There will be a significant cut in police numbers serving the villages currently there are four policeman covering sixteen villages. The one policeman that will be retained must reapply for the post. The opening of the M1 link road was also discussed; this will increase the traffic flow through the village. A document provided to those attending prior to the meeting was 86 pages long!

14 **Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 7 March 2017 in the Stoke Hammond Community Centre. 7.30pm

The meeting was declared closed at 20.43. Councillors then took the opportunity to meet with residents of Newton Leys.

The above is a correct record of the meeting:

Chair.....

Date.....