



**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held at the Community Centre,
Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond on Tuesday 3rd September 2019
at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Mavis Berrow, Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Donna Page, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr Hazel Turner, District Councillor Ben Everitt, Sue Severn - Parish Clerk, Agnieszka Alborzpour (minute taker) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of interest

Item 16: Cllr Greg Noble and Cllr Donna Page

3. Public Participation Session

- A resident congratulated those responsible for putting on the village show, the publicity had been good. The resident urged the committee to turn the volume down on the music and on the tannoy as it spoilt the afternoon last year. The Chair will speak to the band on the day. There is a Village Show meeting on 4 September and will ask the committee to take note of it.
- A villager asked whether access across the community centre land was still an option for development of the new land at Bragenham Side. The matter will come up later in the meeting the chair reported.
- Cllr Berrow commented on the new benches she said they looked very smart.
- District Councillor Ben Everitt reported briefly on the progress on forming the Unitary authority. Some big decisions had already been taken and by next February a full legal budget is required. Staff members are being moved over to the shadow authority, and a Chief Executive officer has been appointed. Many of the matters are highly confidential currently and cannot be discussed. He went on to say that there was much animosity between councillors and unions at the moment.

4. To approve the minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July

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

5. Land Maintenance

Update on the wildflower area by garages: The posts are installed the last weed killing has taken place. The Clerk commented that one and a half kilos of wildflower seed mixture will be ordered and sown at the appropriate time.

Consideration was made with regard to replacing the existing litter bin with a bird proof version similar to the one at the Community Centre, at a cost of £259 with additional seagull flaps. An additional cost would be fitting the bin and VAT. The Clerk told the meeting that it comes in within the budget.

Councillors decided to purchase the bin for the Sports Field.

Proposed by: Cllr Johnson

Seconded by: Cllr Page

Agreed unanimously

Cllr Johnson expressed his concern that the new benches rock, this will be seen to. The Chair recorded his thanks to Mr Simmonds for his assistance in helping to erect them in position. Cllr

Turner reported that the Ladies that Lunch wanted to thank the Council for the benches, they think they look splendid.

Cllr Turner reported that the gentleman who initially made the wooden bench on the green has retired. It was agreed that the bench should be renovated along with the Village Sign on the Green.

6. New Land

Several Highways Consultants had been contacted for help with the access into the field from Bragenham Side. They have visited site, but nothing has been heard from them since even though the Clerk has chased them. Cllr Johnson said that the Council needs to think carefully about how we move forward. Cllr Noble has been in contact with someone from Bedfordshire Council. The Clerk will also contact someone she has been using elsewhere. In reply to the resident's question in the Public Participation time the Chair said that until the highways information is available the Parish Council don't know if they will be going over Community Centre land.

Cllr Turner has been in touch with a farmer whose contact may plough and re-seed the land but they are busy harvesting currently. Councillors didn't think it was a good idea as ploughing would leave furrows. Currently it is classed as private land even though the Council has purchased it.

7. Finance

The payment run was agreed as circulated:

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 7th August 2019		
Payee	Detail	
Mrs S Severn	Net salary & expenses	£512.54
G Noble	Expenses: July (including topsoil for new planters)	£95.08
CS Maintenance	Grass cutting Invoice No CSM 0403	£720.00
RTM Landscapes Ltd	Invoice 1861 Groudns maintnace	£144.00
Rush & Warwick	Invoice 30903 Aug-Sept SH News	£586.08
St Luke's Church	Annual donation to path maintenance	£500.00
	Total	£2,557.70
STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 3rd September 2019		
Payee	Detail	
Mrs S Severn	Net pay & expenses August 2019	£512.72
G Noble	Expenses August 2019	£50.13
CS Maintenance	August PC grounds maintenance	£360.00
RTM Landscapes Ltd	Invoice No 1916: Grounds maintenance rec ground & farmland	£240.00
Swarco Traffic Managem	Annual maintenance contract renewal 1st August 2019 Re-charge 50% to Drayton Parslow PC £159 ex	£381.60
P W Landscapes	Wildflower area works and installation of 50 posts	£1,608.00
Budgeted payments made		
David Ogilvie Engrg	Invoice 18341: Commemorative half tree seat, 2 butterfly & bee seats, plaques and fixings kits	£3,532.20
	Invoice 183772: 2 planters with raised lettering	£1,953.60
HMRC	Underpayment PAYE	£19.40

b) To agree the accounts to 31st July 2019. The accounts were agreed.

8. Planning

None

9. Highways, Footpaths & Footways, Lighting

It is noted that the posts at either end of the village displaying the village name sign and Thankful Village have started to rot. The Clerk had found some examples of new ones made from re-cycled plastic, but they were very expensive. The general consensus of Councillors is to repair the original ones, as the current posts are very large. It was agreed that new supporting posts should be purchased and concreted in. Cllr Robinson requested that the lettering be painted white as the black does not show up. Cllr Noble suggested that a couple of local contractors be asked to quote on the job.

Cllr Lane asked if it was worth purchasing a village name sign for Newton Road as there isn't one, just a 30mph sign that no one takes any notice of. He asked if the Council require Highways permission to erect one. A new sign could incorporate the 30mph sign.

10. Speeding and Speedwatch

The Chair reported that the MVAS machine had developed a fault, having approached repairers the cost quoted was 'silly prices'. A joint maintenance contract with Drayton Parslow parish (with whom we share the MVAS) has therefore been taken out with Swarco Traffic Management Ltd. The company will come out and repair it. Meanwhile the Clerk will obtain prices for other types of speedwatch equipment.

11. Best Kept Village Competition

It was reported that the village will receive a Merit certificate. Cllr Lane commented that he had seen the points the village had received, three more than last year. The judge's comments had been received. Stewkley had won their group the Chair reported. Cllr Lane went on to say that he thought there had been a new judging team who had been more lenient. 10 points have been awarded for the war memorial even though we don't have one. The Clerk read out all the comments to the meeting. The Gardening Club was thanked for filling the new planters, they will continue to look after them.

12. SH News – Deliveries to Newton Leys South

Cllr Noble told the meeting that more and more houses were being built in Newton Leys South and he was unable now to deliver all the SH News magazines to all the houses, the Councillors need to come up with a plan as to what can be done. A full discussion took place about whether the magazine could be changed into A4 size, whether a charge could be made, Cllr Johnson suggested making it smaller in content. This wouldn't please the advertisers it was thought. Other villages' magazines were discussed. SH News is very professional in comparison to other villages' magazines it was said but is very expensive to produce. The Council has to have a magazine available to every household for transparency reasons the Clerk stated. Both Cllr Berrow and Cllr Turner remember when a small charge was made for every issue of 6 old pence (*about 2 and a half pence now!*).

13. Village Show

Cllr Page reported on this and gave the minute taker the full text.

14. Garages

As Cllr Noble and Cllr Page had declared an interest on this item Cllr Robinson reported on the use of the garage by Stoke Hammond Community Centre and asked Councillors if the Village Show committee could store their marquees and other items in garage number 8 following availability of half the unit after a tenant left. It was proposed by Cllr Johnson that storage of the Village Show equipment be permitted.

Proposed by: Cllr Johnson

Seconded by: Cllr Turner.

Agreed unanimously

15. Meetings attended on behalf of Parish Council: None

16. Date of Next meeting: 1st October 2019.

The Clerk will be on leave but Agnieszka Alborzpour will act as Proper Officer for that meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.24pm

The above is a correct record of that meeting.

Chair.....

Date.....