

**Minutes of a Meeting of Stoke Hammond Parish Council held by video conference on
Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Greg Noble (Chair), Cllr Karl Johnson, Cllr Geoff Lane, Cllr Stephen McNally, Cllr Malcolm Newing, Cllr Mike Robinson, Cllr David Venn, Joanna Simonds, Clerk and RFO, and 12 members of the public. Ben Everitt MP attended the first 10 minutes of the meeting, before giving apologies for having to depart for a 7.45pm meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declarations of interest

The Chairman declared an interest in planning application 21/00718/COUAR. This application was not on the agenda as it came in after the agenda was published.

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.

- Clare Allison referenced planning application 21/00064/APP which Cllrs had previously voted in favour of No Objection at the 2nd February meeting. She stated that she owned a neighbouring property and would be massively affected if this application were to receive approval. The Clerk having had previous conversations with Clare had already briefed Cllrs in advance of the meeting but Clare reiterated her concerns directly to Cllrs, namely that she had received no notification from the planning department about this application and neither had the neighbouring properties. Clare confirmed she has now escalated this with the planning department, who initially told her that notices had gone up. Clare later discovered that one notice had gone up but it was placed on a light post at the end of the cul-de-sac, directly in front of the applicant's house. Clare was hopeful that she may have just reached out to planning in time, as no decision has yet been made and she has been informed that a member of the planning team would be going out to visit her property on Friday. She said she would keep the Clerk updated.
- Dave Webber asked whether there is a code of conduct about how council members are supposed to behave towards one other, particularly in public meetings, making reference to the 16th March Extraordinary Meeting that his wife had attended. He mentioned that she had come off the Zoom meeting very upset at the disrespectful manner in which some Cllrs were behaving and that other females had mentioned to him how uncomfortable they had felt by the behaviour witnessed that evening. The Chairman apologised profusely confirming that the PC do indeed have a code of conduct that should be observed and, he agreed that the Parish Council embarrassed itself at that meeting. He re-iterated his heartfelt apologies and assured Dave that this behaviour would not be tolerated in future.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Proposed: Cllr Venn

Seconded: Cllr McNally

Agreed unanimously

To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 16th March 2021

Proposed: Cllr Newing

Seconded: Cllr Robinson

Agreed unanimously

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



5. Finance

a) Approval of the April payment run

STOKE HAMMOND PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN 6th April 2021

Payee	Detail	Amount
Mrs J Simonds	Clerk salary and any related expenses	£876.00
Mr G Noble	Expenses: March 2021	£18.07
PW Landscapes	Invoice 8200 - installation of No Parking signs on Green and Bragenham Side garages	£336.00
CS Maintenance	Invoice CSM0433 for village grass cutting	£180.00
Notice-It Limited	2 x No Parking signs for The Green and 2 x No Parking, Garages in contant use signs for Bragenham Side	£507.20
Rush and Warick Limited	Invoice 31520 - Bragenham Side Project booklet	£255.00
Rush and Warick Limited	Invoice 31521 - April/May SH & NLS News	£518.42
	Total	£2,690.69

Proposed: Cllr McNally

Seconded: Cllr Lane

Agreed unanimously

b) To agree the accounts to 28th February 2021

Proposed: Cllr McNally

Seconded: Cllr Lane

Agreed unanimously

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

21/00718/COUAR – Great Brickhill

Barn at Bragenham Side, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hamond MK17 9DB

Following his earlier declaration of interest, the Chairman handed over to Vice-Chairman, Cllr Robinson to chair this item. Cllr Robinson summed up that this was a resubmission of application for change of use of the barn in Bragenham Side, from agricultural to residential. He confirmed this was an identical application to the one Cllrs reviewed and objected to last November. The reason for the resubmission is that they had not commissioned a structural survey on the building which was in fact necessary. The application was therefore withdrawn and now the survey has been completed, the application has been re-submitted. Cllrs agreed to once again oppose this application, reiterating the PC's original objections. **Action Clerk**

Proposer: Cllr Venn

Seconded: Cllr Newing

Agreed unanimously

7. Church Plant Sale on the Village Green

St Luke's are planning to hold a plant sale on Saturday 8th May and are seeking the PC's permission to hold it on The Green. Cllrs agreed that so long as the church carried out a risk assessment in advance, as they have done for previous events, and that the Clerk is provided with a copy, they were content to grant permission.

Proposed: Cllr Johnson

Seconded: Cllr Venn

Agreed unanimously

8. To report on any Highways, Footpaths & Footways and Lighting matters

- *Increase in fly tipping on Newton Road just before it connects with the Drayton Road*

The Chairman confirmed that this fly tipping has been reported on FixMyStreet already and Bucks have cleared some of it. A lot of the fly tipping is actually where the farmer dredged out the ditches and effectively removed everything that was laying in the ditches, for example, the tyres. The Chairman said he would welcome any suggestions as to how we tackle this issue over and above what we are already doing, as all this rubbish does ruin the look of our countryside. Cllr Lane said it is incumbent on Bucks Council to start looking at this quite seriously as the closing of various tip sites has of course had a massive effect on fly tipping and exacerbated something that was already a problem.

Although very few lampposts on Newton Road on which to fix signs, the Clerk was asked to investigate whether there is any signage available to Parish Councils. **Action Clerk**

Dave Webber mentioned that he walked down Dorcas Lane earlier today and on the left hand side about 400m down were three huge cement type sacks full of plastic bottles and all sorts of other rubbish.

The Clerk said she had walked to Newton Leys on Good Friday and took lots of photos of fly tipping to upload to the FixMyStreet website and re-iterated that anyone is able to do this but if parishioners are unable to do so, they can email their photos to the Clerk, stating the exact location, and she will then report the fly tipping. Cllr Johnson mentioned that the amount of rubbish down in the layby is building up again and Cllr McNally referred to the A4146 which is really bad at the moment and full of rubbish and plastic sheeting on each side of the road.

Cllr McNally asked if the Clerk could minute a thank you to the children that took their own time to clean up the bus shelter.

Cllr Johnson commented that dog mess seems to be getting worse, despite having adequate bins in the village; they just don't seem to be being used a lot of the time. Whilst we know this is not a problem unique to Stoke Hammond, the Chairman said he looked forward to an update on the possibility of a dog warden as mentioned by Phil Gomm at the last meeting.

9. To report on matters regarding the land off Bragenham Side

- The Chairman confirmed that all households in the Parish would now have received a copy of the Bragenham Side project booklet and he apologised for the mistake on the timing of the two meetings on 13th and 22nd April. The booklet said 7.30am but that clearly should have read 7.30pm. He confirmed that the purpose of these two sessions was to give parishioners the opportunity to ask questions regarding what has and has not gone on in regards to this piece of land and, for Cllrs to answer any questions that may have arisen since reading the booklet.
- Cllr McNally briefly updated that he and Cllr Venn had met up with the Community Association in regards to access to the land and agreement from both sides was that the most sensible approach would be to come in off Bragenham Side which is being looked into. The second possible option, agreed in principal, was to put a fence along in front of the current fence, about a metre in, but this only to be considered if coming in off Bragenham Side turned out not to be an option. They also discussed access to the parish owned land behind the Community Association and talked about having an agreement drawn up that both parties were happy with so that this was documented for future Cllrs and Committee Members. Further discussions will take place once we know for sure whether coming in off Bragenham Side is doable.

10. To report on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements

- Approve quotation to straighten the 13 lopsided bollards on The Green
The Chairman confirmed that when we put up the additional no parking signs on The Green, we were reminded that several of the bollards that line that road, and other areas around the green, have been knocked by various vehicles. The Clerk confirmed we have received a quotation of £300 plus VAT, from the company that installed the recent bollards, and this price is to straighten all 13. Cllr Johnson asked whether that included the bollard adjacent to his house. The Clerk wasn't sure of the exact locations, all she knew was that there were 13 to be straightened. Cllr Johnson said the one he was referring to was in between his house and the pub and that these were different types of bollards, so it was unlikely that would have been included. The Clerk said she would investigate this additional bollard and, in the meantime, Cllrs agreed a budget of £350 plus VAT. **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Lane
Seconded: Cllr Venn
Agreed unanimously

15/04/11

MAN

- Consider purchase and installation of an additional 10-12 posts along the side of the garages and road at Bragenham Side to stop vehicles parking on the grass.
Cllr Lane had requested this as an agenda item, and following discussion, Cllrs agreed this was a good idea and set a budget of £500 inc installation for 12 new posts. **Action Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr Johnson
 Seconded: Cllr McNally
 Agreed unanimously

11. Community Centre

The Chairman confirmed that the Community Centre is planning to open from the 1st July and they are taking bookings now, clearly being guided by whatever measures are appropriate at the time. Cllr McNally mentioned that the guidance has changed and that Community Centres are now allowed to open earlier. The Chairman thanked Cllr McNally and confirmed that the Community Association have a meeting at the beginning of next month so will look at that then.

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

The Clerk updated Cllrs on a few points from her Clerk's Zoom meeting this morning:

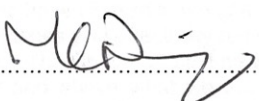
- 250,000 vaccinations have now been administered across Bucks.
- Concern is growing about remote meetings ending on 6th May as many parishes are unable to safely meet indoors. Hopes are being pinned on a High Court case being heard on 21st April.
- Feedback has now been collated for the Parish Charter and a report will be shared once responses from the 75 parishes that responded has been analysed.
- Fly tipping is a big issue across Bucks although there was no mention of how this might be tackled.
- The Buckinghamshire Council AGM is scheduled for 26th May dependent on finding a social distancing venue big enough.

Cllr Lane said he had attended the East West Rail update meeting last week and although it was confirmed that the expressway has been cancelled, Government are still putting money in to an Oxford to Cambridge rail upgrade and the meeting last week explained the part between Bletchley and Bedford, and although there is a line there already, the aim is to upgrade that line so it takes bigger and more efficient trains. Then, from Bedford they are going to extend it over to Cambridge, and in Bletchley they are going to put an extension there eventually to Oxford. The second and third phases will be some time away but the first initial stage is upgrading the line between Bletchley and Bedford. One of thing things they also talked about is all of the level crossings we have are all going to disappear and there will be proper rail bridges and road systems. They didn't talk about timescales but Cllr Lane's view was that there will be a lot of upheaval over the next 10 years.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman confirmed this was the last official PC meeting before the elections and there could potentially be a full new council in May. He added that one Cllr we know will definitely not be standing again is Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mike Robinson and having served on the PC for nearly 20 years, this could not go unmentioned. The Chairman praised Mike, giving huge thanks for all he has done for the Parish over his long tenure. Unbeknown to Mike, his wife Julie entered the room to hand over a card and gift from the Parish Council and the Zoom audience gave Mike a hugely appreciative round of applause.

13. To agree the date of the Annual Parish meeting - Tuesday 20th April 2021 at 7.30pm and to agree the date of the Annual Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 11th May 2021

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 20:33

Chair:  Date: 11/05/21