



05-05-2021 Minutes

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## STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 over Zoom at 7.30 pm

**Attendees:** Cllr Ian Chadwick (Chairman), Cllr Robin Thomas (Vice Chairman), Cllr Camilla Baker, Cllr Racquel Burnham, Cllr Dan Davis, Cllr Sally Drinkwater, Cllr Matthew Jennings, Cllr Chris Parkinson, Cllr Jen Powis, Cllr Neil Watson

**Buckinghamshire Councillors:**

**Minutes:** Mrs Heather Presland, Clerk, from recorded Zoom meeting

**Members of the Public:** 8

#### 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Cllr Darren Hayday, Cllr Carl Etholen, Cllr Shade Adoh

#### 2. Declarations of interest (agenda items)

None.

#### 3. To confirm Minutes of 21 April 2021

Subject to one amendment, these were agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Parkinson ;  
seconded: Cllr Thomas.

#### 4. Matters Arising (information only)

(1) Cllr Powis said she had a statement to make to Council which she wished to be minuted. She had read through the previous minutes and had found some of what had been said unbelievable. She wished to clear up some issues. Firstly there had been no payments in the last year regarding lock ups, alarms or cleaning. These had all been done voluntarily. She had made this clear at the beginning of the lockdown. The whole situation had

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family name being subjected to slander from a former Councillor who was in her eyes nothing but a bully. In the past year several Councillors had been subjected to insults from this ex-Councillor. Cllr Powis said she would like to know why she had been removed from the Stokenchurch Old Photographs site which she believed was there for the public and appeared to have become personal. If she was incorrect, she apologised.

- (2) Cllr Davis referred to the previous minutes when a parishioner had said she felt the suspension of the cleaning contractor could cause a conflict of interests for Cllr Powis. Cllr Thomas was to contact the Monitoring Officer about this and Cllr Davis requested an update. Cllr Thomas reported he had contacted the Monitoring Officer who had said it had no bearing on Cllr Powis' role as a Councillor and he had advised the Chairman of this.

### **5. Reports/Actions**

Cllr Thomas said that he and Cllr Davis had been to the Kings Hotel regarding the spaces that had been used for an eating area. Cllr Thomas had spoken to the manager and he acknowledged he should have asked the Council for permission. He was told they could use the four spaces until 17 May. If they wished to continue using them, they were required to ask permission from the Council.

### **6. Notification of Parish Matters (information only)**

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- at Longburrow Hall. Zoom could no longer be used.
7. **Planning** (1) **21/06114** – Householder application for construction of side and rear single storey extensions and fenestration alterations – 5 Lowes Close, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TN – Mr & Mrs Bird – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Parkinson; seconded: Cllr Baker.
- (2) **21/06163** – Householder application for construction of single storey front and rear extensions, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and covered porch to front – 4 Green Lane, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TU – Mr & Mrs Croxford – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Jennings.
- (3) **20/08300** – Householder application for construction of single storey side/rear extension – Casa Ann, Old Studley Arms, Water End Road, Studley Green, HP14 3XN – Mr A Hills – Discussion took place about the amendment to the previous planning application which now had a single storey extension instead of double. Resolved to object on the basis that it was not in keeping with the area which was AONB and was an over development. Proposed: Cllr Thomas; seconded: Cllr Baker.
- (4) **21/06162** – Householder application for construction of replacement front porch and single storey rear extension following demolition of existing porch and store – Chiltern Heights, Cricket Ground, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TY – Mr S Pearce – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Davis.
- (5) **21/06212** – Householder application for construction of conservatory to rear – 7A Elizabeth Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3QT – Mr Peter Dell – No objection.



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retrospective) – 5 Pendles Paddock, Marlow Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3UW – Luxury Caravans Ltd – Cllr Thomas said he could not see any objection to the plans. Cllr Watson wondered whether there was any issue relating to the construction of a building on what was a temporary site as it was in green belt. This was discussed. Cllr Thomas felt the building was worthwhile for the area and had looked through all the assessments that had been done. Cllr Davis raised Council's previous concern over fire hazards and parking outside the site on the road when there was an event. A parishioner explained the building was for educational purposes for the children on the site. The site was isolated from the village without a walkway and it was hoped it could be used as a community centre as well as an educational centre. No objection. Proposed: Cllr Thomas; seconded: Cllr Parkinson.

### 8. Buckinghamshire Councillors

None present.

### 9. Finance:

#### ▪ Bills Payable

(1) Cllr Davis stated he was not happy with the proposed payment of £4,000 for an investigation that had not yet taken place. Neither was he happy about the solicitor's bill of £600 and did not know what it was for. Cllr Thomas said he had received a message from the HR consultancy to say meetings had been arranged and everything was going according to plan. All the paperwork that had been submitted had been worked through. Cllr Chadwick said the bill should not be paid until the



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not known. There was no conclusion as yet. Cllr Davis had contacted his solicitor and requested a copy of the investigation report when received. Cllr Powis said she was unable to conduct her own investigation because Cllr Thomas has not replied to her requests for information. Cllr Thomas had been awaiting advice on this from the HR Consultancy who had now advised him that this should not be released and would form part of the investigation. Once the report was available, it would go to Council to decide what would be done. Cllr Thomas added that the Clerk and RFO were employees of the Council to whom the Council had a duty of care. (2) Cllr Davis requested further information about the payment of £600 to the solicitor. Cllr Baker asked what the solicitor had done. Cllr Thomas said he had circulated his investigation report to Council and at Appendix A he had included the solicitor's advice to Council. Cllr Burnham said it seemed Council was not happy an investigation was underway into allegations that had been made, which was on solicitor's advice. This had been left for over nine months without action having been taken. She asked why Council did not feel this was the right route to have been taken. Cllr Chadwick said Council had believed the Monitoring Officer was doing an investigation into the allegations, who had asked Council to do nothing more until it was

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that allegations had been made which had been discussed with a solicitor and Council did not want to do the right thing by undertaking an investigation using an outside consultancy. Cllr Jennings stated he could not understand what the problem was with an investigation being done. As one of the residents who had been subjected to the racist behaviour, Cllr Burnham said Council was an embarrassment. Cllr Powis said she totally disagreed. She was all for investigations and had been trying to work things out but could not because she had not been given the information she required. She was unable to defend herself without this. She had done everything properly and said the complaints were old ones, but had contacted her solicitor. Cllr Baker asked if a formal written signed complaint had been received which had been witnessed as she had not seen one. She said a lot of it was just gossip. Cllr Jennings said if this was the case it would be established during the investigation. Cllr Davis wanted to know what the Councillors were going to do about the report when received and felt they should all get together to discuss it. Cllr Chadwick said once the report had been received, this could be considered. Cllr Chadwick asked if Bills Payable could be agreed bar these two points. They were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Davis; seconded: Cllr Baker. Cllr Thomas abstained.



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(a) Councillors to attend a training course every year, funding permitting. (b) Progress to be made with a company who may be able to find a cheaper water deal for Council which would be progressed by the RFO. The RFO said she would look at this if she had time before she left the following week.

(c) The cleaning contract had been agreed and was ready for the next Council to progress to tendering.

(d) The cemetery sign quote had been agreed and was to be ordered.

(e) The LeePave quote for block paving and two posts outside the chip shop was agreed. (f) The retrospective pay increase for the Parish Warden had been backdated for the whole of 2020/21. Agreed. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Baker.

(g) A date had been set for the new Council to have their first Finance Committee meeting on 25 May at 7.30 pm.

(h) The RFO would try to get the internal audit completed before she left on 14 May. 10.

**Correspondence** (1) Request from Buckinghamshire Mind : Safe Haven to display an information poster – this was felt to be a good idea in the current climate and agreed providing the posters were A5.

#### 11. The Commons

Cllr Davis said although initially sceptical, he was very impressed with the new contractor and thought he had done a brilliant job.

#### 12. Other Parish Matters

(a) Cllr Chadwick reiterated that in line with Government advice, all Council meetings would be in person from the following week. This applied to Committee meetings as well. (b) Cllr Chadwick said the gate on the Marlow Road had been

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technician about the proposal. Cllr Etholen would liaise directly with the parishioner who had raised it on Facebook. (c) Cllr Chadwick read through an email that had been received from the temporary cleaning contractor. It was agreed that 1.5 hours would be allocated to do the cleaning rather than the current 1 hour. Cllr Jennings said the cleaning contract was only temporary until Council went out to tender. (d) Cllr Watson stated he had spent time updating a new central system for the consolidated ambulance services and had uploaded all the defibrillator information on to it. (e) Cllr Chadwick said new First Aid boxes had been bought for Longburrow Hall. (f) Discussion took place about the Parishioner's award. Cllr Jennings volunteered to collate all nominations. Cllr Watson suggested a reason also be given for the nomination. Cllr Baker thought it a good idea if the previous Chairman who had initially donated the plate be asked to choose who received the award as they would be independent. Agreed. (g) Cllr Jennings asked how the new Council was to be made aware of the issues the current Council had been working on. Cllr Chadwick said a meeting would need to take place with them for a handover. (h) Cllr Davis asked Cllr Jennings whether there had been any progress with the grant for the electrical charging points at the Kings Hotel. Cllr Jennings would follow this up. Cllr Thomas said the Kings Hotel were very supportive of this initiative and felt it would be beneficial to the village. (i) Cllr Baker asked what progress had been made in relation to the Kings Hotel's leases. Cllr Chadwick said the new Council would need to pick



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left two messages and had not had a response. Cllr Baker suggested the NALC paycales were considered. Cllr Chadwick explained that without the job evaluation having been completed, nothing else could be progressed. (k) Cllr Chadwick thanked all the Councillors for their support over the previous 18 months while had been the Chairman and wished them well in the elections.

### 13. Items for Next Agenda

None.

**Meeting concluded 2035**