

07-04-2021 Minutes

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## STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7 April 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:** Cllr Carl Etholen, Cllr Shade Adoh

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

**Members of the Public:** 7

Before the meeting was formally opened Cllr Chadwick said he needed to apologise to Council for apparently misleading them in emails in relation to the Monitoring Officer.

#### 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Cllr Darren Hayday, Cllr Saeed Saddique.

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

Cllr Jennings – Planning 21/05748.

#### 3. To confirm Minutes of 17 March 2021

These were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Parkinson.

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

(1) Cllr Thomas stated that in relation to item 10 under OPM at the previous meeting on 17 March, he wished it to be known that an investigation was currently underway and he hoped a report would soon be available. (2) Cllr Watson



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still awaiting an appointment.

**5. Reports/Actions**

None.

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

Cllr Powis – vandalism and lost property; Cllr Parkinson – advertising boarding; Cllr Watson – parking of lorries at Old Dashwood Hill; Cllr Baker – speeding; Cllr Thomas – allotments. **7. Planning**

(1) **21/05677** – Householder application for construction of two storey side extension – 2 Eastwood Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3SW – Mr Tony Messenger – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Powis; seconded: Cllr Jennings. (2) **21/05748** – Householder application for conversion of garage to habitable accommodation and fenestration alterations – Woodpeckers, Bowling Green, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TL – Mr R Calcott – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Parkinson; seconded: Cllr Baker. Cllr Jennings abstained on the basis this was a neighbour. (3) **21/05678** – Householder application for construction of roof alterations to front extension, second floor extension and fenestration alterations – 27A Slade Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3QQ – Mr James Hunt – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Drinkwater; seconded: Cllr Powis. (4) **21/05841** – Application for Erection of three storey practice centre building including mezzanine (use class D2) – Wallace Hill Farm, Wellground, Stokenchurch, HP14 3YF – Garsington Opera – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Davis.

**8. Buckinghamshire Councillors**

Cllr Etholen had recently met with the Local Area Technician from TfB at Mudds Bank after complaints. It was established the hedge which was causing a problem was the responsibility of multiple landowners and it would be difficult to get agreement from everyone

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that if anyone went into the office, to take a look at it. He felt the best way forward was to post a notice on the hedge advising it needed to be cut back. This was agreed but cutting could not take place until July because it was nesting season. Cllr Etholen said that in regard to the litter, this too would be an ongoing problem but he was in contact with the Waste Management Team over it. Cllr Burnham requested an update on the salt bin by the M40. Cllr Etholen replied that he had also mentioned this to the Local Area Technician and the bin would be replaced once the waste had been cleared, but did not know any timescales. Cllr Baker asked Cllr Etholen what could be done about speeding cars in the 30mph area of the village. Cllr Etholen said this had always been a problem as drivers came off the motorway and continued to drive as though they were still on it. He felt a local petition may be an option but it was unlikely the speed limit would be lowered as this was the route used if there was a diversion from the M40. A Community Speed Watch initiative with the Police could be considered to do some speed enforcement. There was discussion about speeding cars and motorbikes at particular times and it was suggested this information should be forwarded to the police who could then use it to plan an operation. Cllr Jennings said he had been in contact with the police to raise concerns and he believed some action would be taken but did not know when this would be. Other options were discussed such as average speed cameras but funding was an issue. Cllr Thomas wondered whether he might be able to get some funding via the HS2 Road

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agreed that some partnership working with the police might be a good way to find a solution. Cllr Baker said a deterrent needed to be in place.

### 9. Finance:

#### ▪ Bills Payable

These were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Thomas.

#### ▪ Parish Warden's Pay Increase

Cllr Chadwick said the Parish Warden's appraisal had recently been done by himself and Cllr Thomas. The Parish Warden had not received a pay increase for two years as this had been overlooked last year because of Covid. He suggested an increase in line with inflation. This was agreed. Proposed: Cllr Parkinson; seconded: Cllr Davis.

10. **Correspondence** (1) Request for open sign – the village's new estate agent was requesting this during opening hours. Approved. (2) Ricoh Photocopier upgrade – Cllr Chadwick said Cllr Burnham had done a lot of work on this and was recommending an upgrade. The figures had been circulated. Approved. Cllr Burnham would progress. (3) Rose Corner potholes – the history relating to this was discussed in some detail. Cllr Watson said it was not a road the Parish Council had responsibility to maintain. It was suggested the residents could be asked to fill the potholes themselves with some hardcore. Cllr Baker said it was registered village green and was never a road. She gave some background to this and said the Parish Council had no duty to do anything. Cllr Burnham wondered whether there might be an opportunity to either turn it into a road or do some fund raising to help pay for filling the potholes. Cllr Baker said the process to turn it into a road

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Committee meeting had recently taken place. Cllrs Jennings and Thomas had visited Longburrow Hall as a result of the meeting and had picked up some minor issues that needed addressing which would be going to Council for review. Cllr Thomas had only received one reply from a Parish Council who also used Came & Co as their insurance broker. It was agreed it was best to use specialists for the health and safety audit rather than doing this in house. Cllr Thomas said he would contact BALC to see who they recommended.

### 12. The Commons

Cllr Thomas said the first grass cut with the new contractor would be taking place the following day, weather permitting. The focus would be on Stokenchurch and then cuts in Studley Green would take place at the end of the week.

### 13. Other Parish Matters

(1) Vandalism – Cllr Powis said there had been several incidents of vandalism at Longburrow Hall with bottles having been smashed which could cause injury. It had all been cleared up and action had been taken, so it was hoped things would be calmer. (2) Lost Property – Cllr Powis said a child's bike had been left by the cemetery gate. Despite several attempts, no one had come forward as the owner. A key had also been found which had not been claimed either. She suggested the bike be taken to the shop at Booker Recycling Centre and sold. This was agreed. (3) Cllr Watson spoke about a resident's concern over lorries parking overnight in Old Dashwood Hill. He had done some research and had found that in Piddington Parish this

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could be followed up. There was a great deal of discussion about haulage in general and the lack of safe parking areas. (4) Advertising Boarding – Cllr Parkinson said the developers working at The Coppice had put up a sign on the verge advertising their houses for sale. Cllr Watson said he had spoken to Planning about this and builders were allowed to do advertise their new developments and nothing could be done. Cllr Etholen was asked to raise this with TfB in case no permission had been sought. (5) Cllr Chadwick said he had noticed Busy Bees nursery had put up a big sign on the fence. It was agreed they should be written to and asked to remove it. (6) Cllr Thomas gave an update on the allotments saying there was now a small waiting list. A skip would be delivered for allotment holders' use the following week, which was costing less than originally thought. (7) Cllr Chadwick said he had spoken to a potential candidate for the role of Clerk/RFQ. However, he would not be applying because he felt two Council meetings a month was too many and would give him no downtime. He had passed the information to someone else he knew who might be interested, but Cllr Chadwick had heard nothing. An advert had been placed on Facebook, the Parish Council website and in Chiltern View but there were no applicants. Cllr Watson asked for how much longer meetings were to be run remotely. Cllr Chadwick said the advice was meetings could take place in person from 17 May. Discussion took place about the continuation of recording meetings, but it may not be feasible. Cllr Jennings said

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a month were necessary and whether there should be one full Council meeting and a planning meeting each month instead. Cllr Baker had put forward the suggestion to him and he asked Council to consider this as an alternative which may help to recruit a Clerk/RFO. Cllr Burnham was concerned about the potential of the two employees leaving in mid-May and wondered how Council was to operate without them. She felt a more pro-active recruitment campaign was required. Cllr Watson said the role was quite specialised and needed proper targeting otherwise a lot of time can be wasted with unsuitable applicants. It was agreed to approach the SLCC to see if they would advertise the post although a fee may be required. Cllr Adoh said Buckinghamshire Council also had a recruitment page which Council might like to consider using. Cllr Chadwick stated no Councillor could undertake the role of Clerk and to do so was illegal. It was suggested Council might like to contact other Parish Councils to see if anyone may like to take on an additional role or may know of someone who would be interested. (8) A parishioner said she was concerned about an overgrown hedge which was just before Maplefield Farm on the hill which needed some attention as cars were being scratched by it and having to drive in the middle of the road to avoid it. It was agreed the owners would be contacted. (9) A parishioner said that in relation to the speeding issues in the village, she wondered why some "30 for a reason" posters could not be displayed. Lane End had them everywhere. (10) A parishioner said that Rose Corner had

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together and fill the potholes with suitable material. Cllr Burnham again said she felt there should be a community effort to raise money. A meeting was suggested to get the residents together to progress this and it was suggested that a request could be put on Facebook for some rubble. Agreed letters would be sent to the residents outlining Council's position on this. (11) A parishioner said the traffic lights at the Medical Centre needed reporting as they had been out for about a week. Cllr Watson offered to do this. (12) Cllr Etholen informed Council that the Bledlow Ridge Household Recycling Centre had gone to appeal and any responses from individuals had to be with the Planning Inspector by 26 April. He would send the link to Cllr Thomas so it could be placed on Facebook. (13) A parishioner said a local crochet group was planning on some crochet bombing similar to what had taken place in Watlington. It was agreed to be a good idea. (14) Cllr Thomas said he had met the organiser of the recent Easter Egg hunt in the village and she had thanked him for the Parish Council's donation.

### 14. Items for Next Agenda

None.

**Meeting concluded at 2100**