

07-10-2020 Minutes

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STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 over Zoom at 7.30 pm

Attendees: Cllr Ian Chadwick (Chair), Cllr Camilla Baker (Vice Chair), Cllr Ben Fearfield, Cllr Chris Parkinson, Cllr Jen Powis, Cllr Andy Preece, Cllr Robin Thomas, Cllr Neil Watson

Buckinghamshire Councillors: Cllr Carl Etholen, Cllr Shade Adoh

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

Members of the Public : 4

1. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Hayday and Saddique; Cllr Davis due to a technical issue.

2. Declarations of Interest (agenda items)

Bills Payable – Cllrs Powis and Preece

3. To Confirm Minutes of 16 September 2020

These were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. Cllr Thomas stated there was a correction as he had not seconded Bills Payable. Cllr Chadwick asked if anyone could recall who had, but they could not. The RFO stated the Clerk sometimes had difficulty with the recording and sound quality. Cllr Watson said he was trying different ways of rectifying this. Cllr Preece said it was irrelevant as the minutes had been agreed unanimously.

4. Matters Arising (information only)

(1) Cllr Powis said the installation of the posts in the village had been completed around the Commons. Cllr Chadwick said he had noticed a few near the Fleur still needed doing. Cllr Preece said he would go and check they had all been done and report back. More could be done if necessary as only the

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significance although she had identified the SSE bill was based on an estimate. The correct meter reading had now been submitted and she was hoping for an adjustment to the bill.

5. Reports/Actions

Cllr Thomas – NW

Chilterns Community Board

Environmental Climate

Change report. 6.

Notification of Parish

Matters (information only)

Cllr Baker – hedges; Cllr Watson – website; RFO – litter bins.

7. **Planning:** (1) **20/07316** – Application for erection of 2 x 3 bed, 2 x 4 bed and 1 x 5 bed dwelling houses and double garage, widening of existing two accesses and associated highways improvement works to the junction of Ibstone Road and Mill Road – Land south of The Haven, Mill Road, Stokenchurch – Lexham Properties - Cllr Preece explained the background to this planning application. It was basically a “re-run” of the previous 2016 planning application. At the time Council could not make a decision and deferred the decision to the Planning Authority. The drainage problem was discussed. Cllr Preece proposed it again be deferred to the Planning Authority who were unlikely to refuse it. Proposed: Cllr Preece; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. (2) **20/07320** – Application for erection of single storey building to house small animals for boarding purposes – Greendale Farm Kennels, Bigmore Lane, Horsleys Green, HP14 3UP – Mr D Roos. Cllr Watson said the farm was down by the motorway and did not feel this application would impinge on anyone else. No objection. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Baker. (3) **20/07250** – Application for change of use of existing hardstanding to equestrian use in association with planning permission 20/06053 – Mudds Bank Stud Farm, City Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3EW – Mrs Jill Clarke – Cllr Preece said there was no doubt horses were being worked with as there a lot there and he would prefer to see the land being used for the purpose



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3 side dormers in conjunction with a loft conversion – 3 Lowes Close, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TN – Mr John Lee. No objection. Proposed: Cllr Thomas; seconded: Cllr Baker. (5) **20/07388** – Application for demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of detached single storey building with accommodation in roof space comprising a mix of 15 flats & houses of age-restricted over 65 accommodation with parking and amenity space and creation of new access – Land adjacent to Bangalore House and Falcon Court, Wycombe Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3RG – Mr R Potyka – Cllr Watson felt there was enough accommodation in the village of this type with the Horsleys Green development being one example. Cllr Chadwick said he had spoken to Cllr Davis who was very concerned about the proposal in terms of the amount of car parking spaces which would not be adequate. Neither was there a community room in the plans. Cllr Preece said previous advice had been given by the Planning Authority about a suitable development for this site and it had appeared to have been ignored. There were already 166 units at Horsleys Green and 47 others at Axis. The village needed more affordable homes. Resolved to object. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Thomas. (6) **20/07396** – Application for householder application for erection of 1.2m high post and wire fence and retention of garden shed (part retrospective) – 20 Chalk Farm Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TB – Mr & Mrs Stevens – Cllr Parkinson said the shed was a complete eyesore and the fence would be contrary to the rules of the estate and should not be allowed. Cllr Chadwick stated there were already five objections from residents on the Planning Portal. Resolved to object and to ask the Planning Officer to look at the original paperwork as it would have been an original planning condition the area remained open plan for road safety issues. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Powis.

8. Buckinghamshire Councillors

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increase in the south of the county which was believed to be because it was so close to Slough where the infection rate was much higher. Cllr Watson asked the reason why two lamp posts which were broken had not been replaced during the recent replacement operation in the village. One lamp post was at the bottom of New Road and the other near the Dog Rescue Centre. Cllr Etholen said he would make enquiries and asked Cllr Watson to re-send his original email. A parishioner requested the area on the B482 near the white gates and on the bend needed road safety consideration. She was extremely concerned about the number of children who walked in that area now the woods had been completely blocked off by the landowner. Cllr Etholen suggested a petition from local residents similar to the one Cllr Hayday had recently presented in relation to Dashwood Hill would be a good starting point. Unfortunately everything was now based on statistics but felt he could push these concerns forward via the Community Board and to TfB. Cllr Watson said a footpath would be the solution. It was agreed Cllr Etholen would meet with the parishioner and a Safety Officer.

9. Finance

· Bills Payable

The RFO explained there were two invoices for payment from Risk Management Security, with one being from early May 2020. She also asked whether anyone had checked the cleaning of the war memorials undertaken by Creative Memorials. Cllr Parkinson said he had walked by the cemetery and they were looking much better. The RFO also suggested that as the Parish Warden was the only one going into Longburrow Hall, the mats were not needing to be cleaned as often as they used to. She asked that this invoice be put on hold for the time being. The Bills Payable were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Fearfield. Cllrs Preece and Powis abstained. The RFO raised the signing of the



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their signed copy to the RFO's home or drop it off at Longburrow Hall.

10. Correspondence (1) Studley Green Community Centre – request for solar panels. Mrs Philippa Fibert, Chair, stated they were requesting permission for the installation of solar panels. She explained they were only at the very beginning of researching this and could not pursue it without the Council's permission. Cllr Watson stated a Letter of Authority to proceed was required from the Chairman. Mrs Fibert had received a quote for approximately £11,000 and had forwarded it to the Clerk for circulation to Council. She would continue to look for funding from a variety of avenues. Cllr Thomas said he thought there might be an opportunity for funding via the North West Chilterns Community Board subgroup - Environmental and Climate Change - and would look to progressing this. Cllr Baker asked if the Community Centre was hoping to generate some funding from the Parish Council. Mrs Fibert said it would be appreciated and that many Parish Councils had the environment as a top priority. Cllr Watson offered to answer any questions the Community Centre may have about the project as he had experience in this area of work. (2) On-line Public Surgery – Cllr Fearfield said he felt there was a general lack of Council contact with the public over recent months due to Covid. Although the public could join the SPC meetings, he felt a trial for a few weeks of an on-line surgery might be worthwhile to gauge how much it was used and to gain feelings as to whether it was worthwhile. He was open to how often this might happen but it would require the commitment of some of the Councillors so a rota could operate. There was discussion about whether it might be possible to meet in either the hall porch or whether a gazebo could be put up for the purpose, rather than an on-line event as Cllr Watson said some of the community would not be on-line. Cllr Fearfield replied that some people are self-isolating and the only contact they have is via on-line services. Cllr Parkinson said the public could contact



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together with some Parish Councillors provided there was an appointment system in place. Cllr Fearfield offered to put together a documented proposal if it was easier, but his prime objective was to reach out to the community the Council was serving. Cllr Baker said the only contact with the Clerk was via email and it was not known when the Council office would be re opening. The RFO said all phone messages were taken down by the Parish Warden and relayed to either herself or the Clerk on a regular basis. A parishioner said she felt an on-line surgery was an excellent way forward and fully supported the idea – the community did need to keep in contact with the Council. She asked why Longburrow Hall had not yet re-opened when other venues had. Cllr Chadwick said their risk assessment was that it was not yet safe to do so. Mrs Fibert said opening Studley Green Community Centre had been a mammoth task but it had now been open since mid August and had been very much appreciated by the hirers. They had hired two new cleaners who cleaned between each hire. She said they had reams of paperwork and would send these to the Clerk. Cllr Fearfield thanked her for this offer of help and asked these be included in the next Longburrow Hall Committee meeting for consideration. It was agreed to pursue setting up a community on-line surgery via a Zoom meeting. Proposed: Cllr Thomas; seconded: Cllr Baker. Cllrs Chadwick, Preece and Parkinson abstained. (3) Lamp post no 4, George Road park area – Cllr Chadwick said it would cost approximately £500 to get this lamp fixed. Cllr Preece explained how this had come about but felt it was not a priority to proceed in the current climate. Cllr Baker said the nights were getting darker now and the path was well used and right by the school. Cllr Parkinson said the mornings were also darker and a lot of children used that pathway rather than walking on the pavement. It was agreed to proceed. Proposed: Cllr Parkinson; seconded: Cllr Baker. 11. **The Commons**



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during the week. Cllr Fearfield agreed this was not acceptable but had noticed they were no longer being advertised for hire. He had tried to contact the owners earlier in the year but without success. Cllr Preece said it was known they were commercial vehicles which were parking in a public car park and the owners needed to be asked not to park there.

12. Other Parish Matters

(1) Cllr Baker said the hedge at Tippings House needed a letter to request their hedge be cut back as a parishioner had complained to her and as it was growing out into the road. Agreed. (2) Cllr Watson said he had written to Oxford IT to check if the Council website was compliant with the latest access rules. They had come back to him and said it was not, so he intended to get a quote for the work that was required. (3) The RFO said the Parish Warden had asked for two new bins be ordered for Longburrow as a result of some vandalism. They would cost about £180 each. This was discussed and it was agreed to defer buying these in case the police were able to identify the offenders at which time an appropriate sanction might be to ask them to replace the bins. (4) Cllr Chadwick said he had been asked by the Football Club to consider re-opening the changing rooms for a match the following Saturday. This had been refused. (5) Cllr Chadwick said a Health & Safety meeting had taken place earlier in the week and the notes would be circulated. Standing Orders had been reviewed and some amendments suggested which would also be circulated in due course for views and then considered at a Parish Council meeting. (6) Cllr Chadwick said he had liaised with the church about Remembrance Day. The church would be running a ticketed event and tickets were available via Cllr Chadwick if anyone would like one. Cllr Parkinson checked the flag still needed to be put up. This was confirmed. Wreaths would be laid at the War Memorial by various groups taking part. Cllr Chadwick said the wreath had been ordered and the Parish Warden would be displaying the wreaths on the frame as usual.



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