



08-01-2020 Minutes

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STOKENCHURCH
PARISH
COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish
Council held on Wednesday 8
January 2020 at Longburrow Hall at
7.30 pm**

Attendees: Cllr Ian Chadwick (Chairman), Cllr Camilla Baker (Vice Chair), Cllr Dan Davis, Cllr Ben Fearfield, Cllr Suzy Garrett, Cllr Sharon Lander, Cllr Chris Parkinson, Cllr Jen Powis, Cllr Andy Preece, Cllr Robin Thomas, Cllr Neil Watson

County : Cllr Darren Hayday

District : Cllr Shade Adoh

Minutes : Mrs Heather Presland, Clerk

Members of the Public : 3

1. **Acceptance of Apologies for Absence**
Cllr Carl Etholen, Cllr Saeed Saddique
2. **Declarations of Interest (agenda items)**
None
3. **To Confirm Minutes of 18 December 2019**
These were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Preece; seconded: Cllr Baker.
4. **Matters Arising (information only)**
Cllr Preece said he had not yet drafted a letter to WDC about Mudds Bank, but would be doing so. Cllr Chadwick asked whether a letter had been sent to the family about the bench that had been placed in the cemetery. The Clerk stated the situation had now changed and the original option suggested was no longer feasible. This issue would require further consideration by Council. Cllr Chadwick asked whether a meeting had yet been organised for the Allotment Association to meet with the Council's Allotment Committee. Cllr Thomas replied that it had not but would be organised before too much longer.
5. **Introduction from Mr Robert Carington**

08-01-2020 Minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

questions.

6. Reports/Actions

Cllr Watson stated that two of the three defibrillators recently ordered had arrived. The RFO said she would be chasing up delivery and registering the two received to ensure extended warranties were in place.

7. Notification of Parish Matters (information only)

None.

8. Mr David Fisher – Requirements for Referee's Room

Cllr Preece thanked Mr Fisher for coming along and for the document he had provided to the Council. He explained the background to the Council's potential improvement plans but said it was clear it would not meet the Football Club's requirements. The difficulties of accessing the disabled toilet when functions were taking place in the hall at the same time as football were discussed which was an issue during about 50% of matches. Various options were discussed but

Cllr Preece acknowledged this was work in progress and he and Cllr Baker would go back to the architect to discuss an outside door in the light of the legal requirements for access to a disabled toilet. Cllr Powis raised concerns over the mess left in the changing rooms at the weekend and asked who had cleared up. This was discussed and Cllr Powis said this had cost the Council extra money to clean up after the Football Club which was not their role. They were asked to check the cleanliness before they left the hall and Mr Fisher said they would try to keep the area clean.

Mr Fisher was thanked for attending.

8. Planning: (1) 19/07904 - Application for construction of marketing suite building for a temporary period of 36 months - Site of Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green (Royal Mutual Insurance Society Ltd) – no objection. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Watson (2)

08-01-2020 Minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

gate panels signs and 3 x non-illuminated ancillary signs - Site of Wycliffe Centre, Horsleys Green (Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Ltd) – Cllr Watson said this appeared to be an excessive amount of signage. However, Cllr Preece said there were only two signs at the entrance and the rest were on their road. There was also discussion about potential mud on the road. Cllr Hayday said he would be monitoring this and addressing it. No objection. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Garrett. (3) **19/08051** - Householder application for construction of two storey side and single storey front extension with insertion of chimney, alterations to fenestrations and proposed single storey extension to existing rear detached garage - 9 Marcourt Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3QX (Miss L Nailor) – Cllr Preece stated he felt this to be a perfectly reasonable application and in line with others in the road. No objection. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Baker. Cllr Parkinson abstained. (4) **19/08060** - Householder application for construction of part garage conversion - 67 Marcourt Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3QU (Mrs Lynda Crawley) – No objection. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Davis.

9. District & County Councillors

District : Cllr Adoh stated the ward funding was currently being allocated and she would be in contact once the decisions had been made. She raised the issue of Scholars Rise and the email that she had circulated. The funding to this was discussed and Cllr Chadwick said the Parish Council could not afford to maintain the area. Cllr Preece asked about the shadow Unitary Authority and what the impact on the WDC community charge would be. Cllr Adoh replied that it was not anticipated this would increase at the moment and Cllr Hayday said he would research this further. It was established the Shadow Executive were taking over from March.

County : Cllr Hayday apologised for his recent absences from SPC meetings and introduced himself to Cllrs Fearfield and

08-01-2020 Minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

background to the Wycliffe site and was pleased progress was being made but would be keeping an eye on things as work commenced, particularly in relation to the maintenance of the roads. Cllr Chadwick raised his concern over the water stand at Mudds Bank which made it an attractive location for travellers, but this was confirmed as being located on private land. Cllr Hayday had been keeping a watchful eye on Mudds Bank and was aware there had been fly tipping there. Cllr Davis noted the Council were there cleaning up during the afternoon. Cllr Thomas said he had mentioned the abandoned tyre on Dashwood Hill to Cllr Hayday some time back, but it was still there. He also asked Cllr Hayday to ensure the contractors at Wycliffe were Fors accredited as they were more likely to be safety conscious.

10. Finance

· Bills Payable

Cllr Parkinson asked the RFO what the difference was between the two spreadsheets provided. The RFO clarified the first sheet was bills that required paying but had not been paid as they had not been approved. The other sheet was for information to show payments that had been paid since the last meeting. The RFO talked through the difficulties she had experienced recently with Lloyds Bank which were now rectified and £148 compensation had been received from them to address the issues that had been raised with them. The Bills Payable were approved.

Proposed : Cllr Davis; seconded : Cllr Baker.

· Budget and Precept Update

Cllr Preece said a Finance Committee meeting had taken place the previous evening to finalise the 2020/21 budget. He said a lot of items were approved at the last Council meeting but some items had been changed for various reasons. He went through the amendments and stated Longburrow Hall was still the

08-01-2020 Minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

tilling of potholes in the Longburrow Hall car park and although not a unanimous decision, it was agreed to go ahead with the top coat of tarmac at SGCC. The recommendation was that the precept was held at the current level and there should be no increase to parishioners for the second year running. The budget was approved. Proposed : Cllr Thomas; seconded : Cllr Lander. The precept recommendation was approved. Proposed : Cllr Thomas; seconded : Cllr Baker. Cllr Baker clarified that SGCC would be funding 50% of the cost for their car park.

11. **Correspondence** (1) Quotation from WDC for cutting down 2 trees in the allotments, Stokenchurch for approval - Cllr Chadwick quoted an email from WDC Tree Management for the removal of a conifer in the Stokenchurch allotments at a cost of £199 and an ash at the cost of £649. It was asked why WDC was quoting for this and the Clerk explained she had been asked by Cllr Thomas to request a quote from them as they had the contract for other tree maintenance in the village. It was clarified these trees were not on the original list. Cllr Thomas said the Allotment Committee felt the ash tree needed removing as it was rotten and allotment holders had raised their concern. Cllr Chadwick stated that as the tree maintenance work was currently underway in the village, it seemed sensible to include this work. Approved. Proposed : Cllr Watson; seconded : Cllr Parkinson. Cllr Preece abstained. (2) Quotation from SSE for replacement of damaged lantern outside no 36 St Francis Road, Studley Green – A quotation for £358.18 had been received to replace the broken lantern with an LED lantern. Cllr Watson said this was identified as a result of the streetlight survey done the previous summer and subsequently complaints were being received from parishioners about it. Approved. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Garrett. (3) Chilterns Conservation Board - proposal to support their aim of the Chilterns becoming a National Park – Cllr Thomas said an email

08-01-2020 Minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

decision could be made at a future meeting. (4) Cllr Chadwick read through a letter received from Kyushindo Martial Arts Association informing the Council they would be taking the Council to the small claims court in relation to the disposal of some judo maps. Cllr Preece said the matter should be settled by the judge, with which Cllr Garrett agreed. He was happy to attend the court if the matter proceeded.

13. Parish Warden's Update

The Parish Warden said the Christmas tree had now gone and he had started digging out for the yew hedge. He realised the hedge and grass cutting contracts were up for renewal shortly and said he would be more than happy to revert to cutting the grass and hedges in the cemetery as he used to. The hedges had not been cut for the past two years but he was happy to take on all of this if Council agreed. Cllr Preece said he felt this was very sensible and Cllr Baker said it was a good idea as the Parish Warden cleared up after the work he did, whereas the contractor had not. Cllr Garrett also agreed. Cllr Davis checked the Parish Warden had the right equipment, which was confirmed. The Parish Warden said he was also happy to cut the hedge along the Marlow Road as he was often asked to cut it back. This was also agreed.

14. The Commons

Cllr Baker reported that a few Councillors had recently walked around the village where posts were located in order to determine which ones should be removed or replaced and she itemised these. Cllr Preece said the area around the Fleur appeared to be completely abused and they had identified other areas that needed some priority work. Some posts would be replaced with boulders and Cllr Chadwick asked that two Councillors get a new quote for the work that now needed doing but in advance of doing so, produced a map to show any potential contractor exactly what posts were to be replaced or removed. Cllr Preece said he would undertake this with Cllr Baker.



08-01-2020 Minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

the large hall be re advertised so they could be disposed of. (3) Cllr Davis asked whether the tree surgeons currently in the village would be dealing with the tree at Maple Cottages. The Clerk had spoken to WDC that morning and said another contractor had been assigned to this work and they would be in the village before too much longer although a slight delay was possible. (4) A parishioner said she was very upset to find the gates to Longburrow Hall were locked over the Christmas period and it had been her who had made comments on Facebook. She explained she had been unable to get an elderly relative to visit their loved ones in the cemetery and place a wreath. He was in a wheelchair and access any other way was impossible. It had really upset the family. Cllr Chadwick said this had been his decision and he apologised for the upset caused. Cllr Preece said he had every sympathy with the family and this is something that would be addressed this year. Discussion took place about having a smaller pedestrian gate in at the Longburrow Hall entrance that would enable parishioners to visit the cemetery. (5) Cllr Chadwick asked about the family's bench that was now in the cemetery. The background to this was explained and now the old bench had been removed, the family had been able to put in their bench. They had agreed to having a family's plaque on their bench but did not know where it now was. Cllr Chadwick said no permission had been sought for the benches and there would be no more. A contact number was requested which was given. (6) A parishioner informed the Council a defibrillator had been installed at SGCC.

Meeting finished at 2055