

16-09-2020 minutes

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## **STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16 September 2020 over Zoom at 7.30 pm**

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

**Buckinghamshire Councillors:** Cllr Darren Hayday

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

**Members of the Public :** 7

#### **1. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Adoh, Etholen and Saddique

#### **2. Declarations of Interest (agenda items)**

None.

#### **3. To Confirm Minutes of 19 August 2020**

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

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

(1) Cllr Preece praised the professional work recently completed by T M Contracting with the installation of the posts on Cricket Ground which was agreed by Council. Cllr Preece said he had not heard from the other contractor and felt a time limit for the work to be completed should be given or the contract passed to T M Contracting. Agreed the time limit would be 30 September. Cllr Powis said she would contact the contractor and inform him of this. (2) Cllr Watson stated the hedge at Water End allotments had been cut back the previous week. **5. Reports/Actions**

Cllr Davis reported he had worked with the Parish Warden in the Lawn Cemetery and the turfing of the three new plots had been completed without any problems.



16-09-2020 minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

Road cemetery;

100<sup>th</sup> birthday party. 7.

**Planning:**

(1) **20/07283** - Application for: Remove to source 4 x lowest limbs x 1 Larch (T1) – 7 Stockfields Place, Stokenchurch, HP14 3ZD – Mr Winterbourne – the decision to be left to the Trees Officer.

Proposed: Cllr Preece; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. (2) **20/07259** – Application for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling house with associated soft and hard surfacing and landscape - Gurdons Farm, Oxford Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3YN – Dr Shah – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Preece.

**8. Buckinghamshire Councillors**

Cllr Hayday said a petition about the A40 was to be submitted to the North West Chilterns Community Board because of the accidents there had been. Different measures were being considered and the specific section of the A40 was from Studley Green, down Dashwood Hill and into Piddington. Cllr Hayday was also dealing with complaints about the Doggy Day Care centre and the level of noise experienced by residents in the area. Advice had been given and environmental services may have to become involved.

**9. Finance**

· **Bills Payable**

Cllr Preece asked about the payment of a streetlight replacement in Chalk Farm Road which he did not recall coming to Council and asked that payment be withheld until there was some clarity. There was also discussion about the cost of water sampling and the Finance Officer said she would be querying the invoice. Apart from these two issues, Bills Payable were agreed.

Proposed : Cllr Baker; seconded : Cllr Thomas.

· **Monthly Reports – July & August 2020**

Cllr Preece noted that income from Longburrow Hall was zero and the cash position was worse than this time last year. Cllr Parkinson asked about the utilities payments. The

16-09-2020 minutes

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Cllr Chadwick asked for views on the quotes that had been circulated as the Council's insurance renewal was due at the end of September. Cllr Baker said she felt the Council should go with the three year quote with Hiscox as it was a good option. Agreed. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Fearfield. Abstained: Cllr Preece. There was some discussion about turning off the immersion heater in the upstairs offices at Longburrow Hall and it was agreed this should be done.

#### 10. The Commons

Cllr Davis said they were looking very good after a recent cut, which was agreed. 11.

#### Football Club

There was lengthy discussion with Mr Essex and Mr Fisher about the Stokenchurch Football Club and the proposed Villagers Football Club. Mr Essex stated since the last Parish Council meeting he had secured some sponsorship and had bought some goalposts and nets which would be donated to the Parish Council for all to use without any need for payment for their use. They would be stored in the container. There was discussion about pitch inspections and Mr Fisher said that over the years a great deal of money and time had been spent on the maintenance of the pitch. Cllr Baker said the land was for all to use and there should not be any trouble over that use, although the ground did need to be in a certain condition in order to play. Mr Essex said he did not want any trouble and this was why he felt the best way forward was to buy new goalposts for everyone to use. Mr Fisher gave a thorough explanation to the background of Stokenchurch FC and the Council expressed their appreciation of Mr Fisher's efforts to maintain the pitch. A parishioner stated they felt the manner in which this matter was being discussed was condescending - this was a community issue. Cllr Garrett was sorry to see playing football in a

16-09-2020 minutes

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their differences.

## 12. Other Parish Matters

(1) Lease renewal – Manor Park Construction – Cllr Chadwick said the lease required renewal from 20 November 2020 so a meeting with the company needed to take place. Cllr Baker proposed there should be no increase in rent and the lease should stay the same. Agreed. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Watson. (2) Cemetery complaint – Cllr Chadwick had received a complaint about the bright blue chippings that had been placed on a plot. Cllr Garrett stated she believed a cemetery should be a place of rest and tranquillity. Cllr Watson suggested the plot owner and stonemason be written to with the Council's decision that approval was not sought for the chippings and they needed to be removed. Agreed. (3) Request from Kings Hotel – two representatives from the Kings Hotel talked through the investment they had made in the hotel over the past two years. They would like to improve the facilities offered for the community's benefit and having sought advice, they felt a suitable proposal might be to have an extension on pillars over the car park, which may mean the loss of 3 or 4 car parking spaces. Possible services to be offered were a gym, spa, nail salon and hairdressing. Cllr Baker said they needed to be mindful it was a conservation area. Cllr Davis said he and another Councillor had visited the hotel and had been shown around the renovation work, which was very impressive and to a high standard. He felt a good way forward was for some sketches to be drawn up of what was being proposed, which should include heights. This was agreed. (4) Quotation – planings for potholes in Rose Corner road – Cllr Chadwick said a quotation for this work had been received at £980 + VAT. Discussion took place about the use of planings and how they had only lasted 4 months in another area in the village which was a complete waste of Council's money. Cllr Baker said tarmac could not be used on common land and gave the background to this. She did not

16-09-2020 minutes

Updated automatically every 5 minutes

seconded: Cllr Baker. (5) Busy Bees Nursery – Cllr Chadwick said a request for a wooden frame for the nursery's poster to be placed in the current location had been received. Concern was raised that this seemed like permanent advertising and if so, required planning permission. Options were discussed but it was agreed no precedent could be set and the request was declined. Proposed: Cllr Preece; seconded: Cllr Davis. (6) Cllr Davis had visited a resident about a tree in Pigeon Farm Road. He had visited the site and agreed the tree was very large and growing near the house. It needed to be cut back as it was almost touching the cars and his concern was the resident may try to cut it back which he wished to avoid. (7) Cllr Davis had visited Marlow Road cemetery with the Parish Warden after a complaint had been received in relation to trees overhanging a resident's garden. He agreed they did need cutting back and proposed the Parish Warden undertake this work in October/November once most of the leaves had fallen. Any logs could be left for residents to collect. Agreed. (8) Cllr Davis said there was a lady in the village who would be celebrating her hundredth birthday on 26 September. He thought it would be a nice gesture to give her a card and some flowers from the Council. Agreed. Cllr Davis was happy to action and Cllr Thomas would organise some publicity.

### 13. Any Other Business

(1) Mr Ohry joined the meeting to talk through proposals for the Methodist Church. He said he was one of several interested in the site. He was a member of a religious charity with no more than fifty members who mainly lived in London and was interested in bidding for the site. He outlined the work of the charity which was based around meditation and voluntary community service. They had recently been heavily involved in making masks for the community and other groups that met were involved in cooking, embroidery, yoga and health issues. They had a simple philosophy which was "what goes around, comes around". A meeting



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community. He said there may be an additional seven to eight cars in the area on a Saturday. Cllr Chadwick thanked him for his presentation. (2) Cllr Chadwick said he had become aware via Facebook that there was a group of litter pickers setting up and wondered whether the Council should loan them their litter pickers. This was agreed and Cllr Chadwick said he would contact the group and make the offer. (3) A parishioner who worked for a local bus company and lived in Stokenchurch said he would like to do some research into a 20 mph speed zone that would benefit the community. He was seeking the support of the Parish Council to undertake this work. This was given but he was advised to contact Cllr Hayday about taking this forward.

**Meeting finished at 2110**