



17-03-2021 Minutes

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## STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 March 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 Shade Adoh, Cllr Carl Etholen, Cllr Saeed Saddique

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

#### **Members of the Public: 5**

##### **1. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

None received.

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

Cllr Burnham – Planning application 21/05567.

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

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

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

Cllr Davis said he had recently visited Swilley Pond and requested a meeting with the management company about the lease. Cllr Chadwick agreed to get this arranged.

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

- (1) Cllr Watson reported he had made contact with Lloyds with a view to scanning all the leases they held and was awaiting an appointment to be given to him.
- (2) In liaison with Cllr

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There were none.

7. **Planning** (1) 21/05522 – Householder application for construction of rear extension, installation of 3 x rooflights to front, 1 x box dormer to rear in connection with loft conversion and internal remodelling – 27 Eastwood Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3SN - Mr & Mrs Bailey – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. (2) 21/05567 – Application for variation of condition 7 (surface water drainage) attached to pp 17/07330 (householder application for erection of single storey pool building with mezzanine and subterranean rooms) to allow for details to be submitted and approved prior to either any development above ground floor slab level of the approved building or any works in connection with the construction of the basements/subterranean rooms and implemented in full prior to first occupation or use of building – Mallards Court, Park Lane, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TQ – Mr E Hunt – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Watson. (3) 21/05582 – Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension – 15 Jubilee Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3SH – Mr K Carmichael – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Powis; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. (4) 21/05608 – Householder application for construction of detached single storey garden room – 20 New Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3RT – Mr McNeill – No objection. Proposed: Cllr Drinkwater; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. (5) 21/05605 – Application for temporary use of land for film-making purposes with associated temporary sets and facilities for a 6 month period – Land at Wormsley Estate,



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about the litter at Mudds Bank.

He was aware the Waste Team were trying to clear it up on a regular, although unscheduled, basis. Discussion took place about possible solutions and Cllr Etholen agreed to contact TfB with a view to them cutting back the hedge, although there was debate about its ownership.

There was also discussion about the increase in Council Tax and Cllr Etholen explained this.

Cllr Adoh said how everyone in the Parish were warm and friendly and would like this atmosphere to continue.

#### 9. Finance:

- **Bills Payable**

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

- **Monthly Reports for February 2021**

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

- **Recommendations from the Finance Committee**

Cllr Watson stated there were some quotes that required approval which had been circulated to Council. (a) Two quotes had been received for 14 replacement posts on Bowling Green. It was agreed to go with the cheaper option. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Baker. (b) In relation to the hardstanding, a further quote for two wooden posts had been requested but had not been forthcoming to date. It was hoped a decision could be finalised at the next meeting. (c) Work was continuing to be done on the Longburrow Hall service agreements and contracts. Cllr Chadwick said a draft contract had been circulated to the Finance Committee and he



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it was potentially dangerous. It was agreed to award this work to Playdale at a cost of £2081.78 + VAT. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Baker. (e) Cllr Chadwick added it was getting close to the elections and there would be issues that would have to be carried forward by the next Council. Cllr Watson confirmed this would be up for discussion at the next Finance Committee meeting. (f) Cllr Baker said she felt it should be noted that agreement had been reached to progress with Goodman Nash in relation to claiming back business rates. Cllr Watson said this was on a “no win, no fee” basis and that advice had been sought from NALC via BALC before approval was given. The RFO would be taking this forward. Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded: Cllr Watson.

- **2021/22 Budget Approval**

Cllr Watson stated a minimum budget was being suggested for the coming year. Projects had been prioritised, but income from Longburrow Hall remained uncertain and it would be another unpredictable year. The budget was approved. Proposed: Cllr Watson; seconded: Cllr Baker.

#### 10. The Commons

Cllr Watson said agreement had been reached to progress the installation of 14 replacement posts around Bowling Green.

#### 11. Other Parish Matters

(1) Cllr Chadwick had received a response about the devolution payment increase Council had requested. This had been declined. Discussion took place and it was agreed to accept the payment as offered. Proposed: Cllr Thomas; seconded: Cllr Parkinson. (2) Cllr Thomas said he had circulated the two quotes he had received for the allotment skip and



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Chadwick requested he get some costings and it could then be progressed. (4) Cllr Chadwick announced that he was disappointed to announce the RFO had resigned and would be leaving at the end of May. The Clerk's contract was also terminating and advertising for a joint Clerk/RFO would need to be considered. (5) Cllr Chadwick stated that following allegations made by a parishioner, the Vice Chairman had sought advice on how to progress these. The two female employees involved were not very happy that their confidential information had been revealed by email. Cllr Baker stated she was not happy either and individuals involved should not be discussing their opinions about her with others and should have spoken to her directly. (6) Cllr Thomas said he had forwarded information relevant to Cemgate to a contact of his who used to work in Environmental Health. When he received their advice, he would circulate it. (7) Cllr Burnham raised her concern about the salt bin by the motorway bridge which was full of dog waste bags. It needed to be emptied and cleared up. Cllr Etholen said he would progress this with the Waste team. Cllr Burnham said the lock on the bin was broken and it was suggested the bin may have to be disposed of. (8) Cllr Burnham also raised her concern about whether someone was using poison in the allotments as she had seen a couple of dead creatures which looked to have been healthy animals. She wondered whether Council had any rules about the use of chemicals. Cllr Thomas said he would take this forward and would speak with the Parish Warden who had been on a chemicals course. (9) A



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been reported through the usual channels but she would welcome Cllr Etholen's support in progressing this. She also asked for information on the election as she had seen no communication. Cllr Etholen said purdah started from 22 March and talked through other key dates. Canvassing in the current climate was not being advised and postal voting was encouraged. (10) Another parishioner said he welcomed the fact the allegations mentioned were being investigated and felt this was to be applauded. However, he said that whilst the investigation was ongoing, it was wise to be mindful of the protection of whistleblowers. He also said the Council had consistently experienced issues with attracting high calibre staff because of the salaries paid and felt this should be looked at by Council when advertising for a new Clerk/RFO.

### **12. Items for Next Agenda**

None.

**Meeting concluded at 2040**