



17-06-2020 Minutes

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STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 17 June 2020 over Zoom at 7.30 pm

Attendees: Cllr Ian Chadwick (Chairman), Cllr Camilla Baker (Vice Chairman), Cllr Dan Davis, Cllr Chris Parkinson, Cllr Jen Powis, Cllr Andy Preece, Cllr Robin Thomas, Cllr Neil Watson **Buckinghamshire Councillors:** Cllr Carl Etholen

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

Members of the Public : 4

1. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Fearfield, Garrett and Hayday.

2. Declarations of Interest (agenda items)

Cllr Chadwick – Cricket Ground

3. To Confirm Minutes of 20 May 2020

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

4. Matters Arising (information only)

Cllr Preece – Kings Arms car park; Cllr Watson – Thirds Wood enquiry; Cllr Thomas – Social Link allotment enquiry; hedge on Marlow Road; Cllr Davis – abandoned car on Wycombe Road; Cllr Parkinson – chip shop; mobile patrol response.

5. Reports/Actions

Discussion took place about the legal advice received around the private use of the Commons. 6.

Notification of Parish Matters (information only)

(1) Cllr Powis confirmed the fitting of the external doors at Longburrow Hall had been completed. (2) Cllr Davis said tree grinding of some yew trees had taken place in the Marlow Road cemetery which had led to the discovery of the ninth war grave. The work had been completed to a high standard with all rubbish being removed from site. Cllr Etholen said he would try to find out more about

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updates. A tarmac track had been laid in Mudds Bank just before Pophleys entrance and a retrospective planning application had been requested. Maplefield Farm had put in a menage and a retrospective planning application was required and was currently being pursued. Two stables had been constructed at Mudds Bank Stud Farm which were believed to be temporary and due to be removed in a few weeks' time. The mobile home also required removal and Cllr Watson had been informed the date for this would be forthcoming within the week.

7. Planning:

(1) **20/06118** – Householder application for construction of two storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing single storey side and rear extension – Meadowview, St Francis Road, Studley Green, HP14 3UZ – Mr S Oaten & Miss J Hogarth – Resolved no objection. Proposed : Cllr Watson; seconded : Cllr Parkinson.

(2) **20/06246** – Householder application for construction of single storey rear extension and roof alterations – 13 Foresters, Water End, HP14 3XQ – Mr & Mrs Keotz – Resolved no objection. Proposed : Cllr Baker; seconded : Cllr Davis.

(3) **20/06413** – Application for erection of 2 blocks of 3-bed semis & 1 block of 2 x 2 bed semis, 1 detached 3 bed dwelling, 1 terrace of 3 x 3 bed dwellings, 1 blocks of 2 x 1 bed flats, 1 x 2 bed dwelling & 1 block of 3 x 2 bed & 4 x 1 bed flats (20 in total) with associated bin/cycle stores, parking, landscaping & amenity space – Mr R Potyka – RAP Building & Developments Ltd – Cllr Chadwick said the Council had already raised their objection to this planning application, having obtained some

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Planning Committee. Cllrs Adoh and Saddique had done the same. Cllr Watson requested Cllr Etholen attend this meeting and Cllr Chadwick said he would ensure one of the Councillors also attended the meeting.

(4) **20/06170** – Application to cut back to boundary by 1.5 metres as overhanging branches are blocking out light x 1 beech – 27 Slade Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3QQ – Mrs Myrtle O’Neill – after discussion, it was agreed this be deferred for the planning authority to determine.

There was discussion about two further applications which had arrived after the distribution of the agenda with deadline dates in advance of the next meeting. These were in relation to an ash tree and a re-build. Cllr Davis felt it prudent that the Arboricultural Officer’s advice should be taken in relation to the tree and Council could then form an opinion. Clerk to chase.

8. Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Etholen gave details about the Buckinghamshire Recovery Investment Fund post CoVid-19 which he would circulate. He explained how the grants would work for businesses, who would have to provide 25% funding. Cllr Etholen was asked to progress issues raised about work at Pendles Paddock as there was concern some gas bottles which could be a fire hazard.

9. Finance

· Bills Payable

The Finance Officer said she had two additional invoices which also required approval. These were £913 for the installation of the external doors at Longburrow Hall and £105 for the planning advice received for Park Lane. Bills payable was agreed. Proposed : Cllr Baker; seconded : Cllr Thomas.

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seconded : Cllr Preece.

· **Audit Update**

The Finance Officer informed Council that Tony Ellis, the Auditor, had started work on this year's audit. With the Chairman's approval, she had given him access to the software, files and paperwork. The plan was the internal audit should be completed and then she could get the AGAR forms ready for the meeting on 8 July. The deadline by which the external auditors should receive the forms was 31 July. The Auditor had raised a few queries but it was felt this year's audit should be straightforward.

10. Correspondence

(1) Cllr Chadwick stated there had been a request from Lendrum's Fayre who could not have the fayre as planned in village because of social distancing and were asking Council what they should do. The recommendation was to put a roundabout on the ground and simply leave it overnight. They also said they would be unable to pay the deposit. This was agreed. (2) The Finance Officer had received a request for the Open Spaces membership renewal which was £45 annually. This was agreed to be paid. Proposed Cllr Preece; seconded Cllr Baker. (3) Cricket Ground Security – Cllr Chadwick read through an email received about this. Cllr Preece updated Council about the posts which were to be fitted and said he would also get another quote. The Cricket Club felt putting posts further round the ground would impede the cricket playing. Cllr Baker suggested locking posts that went down into the ground might be a possibility, although costly. Cllr Preece said he would take this forward and investigate some possibilities. (4) War Grave quotes – the Finance Officer had received three quotes for the cleaning. The costs ranged from £40 per grave plus VAT up to £90 plus VAT. Cllr Preece said that as the War Commission had stopped funding for cleaning these, it was down to the goodwill of the Council. Cllr Parkinson said he felt this should be done. It was agreed that Creative Memorials at £40 a grave + VAT would

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of £160 + VAT. Chris Barnes had attended to fit these on 23 March but had found the hall locked. Mr Barnes had said he would be charging an additional £50 for his wasted trip on 23 March. Agreed to proceed. Finance Officer to arrange another installation date. (6) Hedges at 37 Chalk Farm Road – Cllr Chadwick had received a complaint about these hedges which were overhanging the pavement. The Council had previously written to the owner and they had cut them back but by the bare minimum. It was agreed the process would re-commence. Clerk to action.

(7) Cllr Chadwick had received a letter from Stokenchurch Juniors FC which had been circulated to Council. They were requesting to paint grid boxes next to the football pitch and players had to stay within these boxes. Agreed. Proposed : Cllr Watson; seconded : Cllr Parkinson.

(8) Cllr Chadwick said signage had been offered by Bucks Council which was centrally funded to be distributed to the village retail outlets. The signs had been received the previous day and the Parish Warden had been out distributing them. (9) Busy Bees – Request for Additional Support – Cllr Chadwick said a request for a further three months' rent free had been received, which would be deferred and paid back during the second quarter next year. Discussion took place about the pothole in the access road which was the nursery's responsibility under their lease. It was agreed Council would get a quote to get the pothole filled and this amount would be added to their lease money for repayment next year. Request approved on this basis. (10) The Finance Officer said there had been an enquiry from a hall hirer about the re-opening of Longburrow Hall and felt some thought should be given to risk assessments. Cllr Watson had received some information from another source the previous day about this and would circulate it. Discussion took place and Cllr Etholen was requested to ask Bucks Council whether they had any processes in place which would help the Council to progress this. This was agreed.

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the police for investigation.

12. Other Parish Matters

(1) Cllr Baker said the hedge by Bangalore House was very overgrown again, causing an obstruction. Cllr Preece said the offending hedge was on a plot of land beside Bangalore House and he would happily go and cut it back at the weekend. (2) Cllr Watson said he had received some correspondence seeking clarification about Thirds Wood as blocking of a pathway had been reported to him. There was discussion about the history of who owned the bridleway and pond. Cllr Watson agreed to investigate this further. If the pathway was blocked, he would contact Cllr Hayday. (3) Cllr Thomas had received a request from Social Link to have an allotment at Stokenchurch. He believed he could allocate them a plot and would progress this. He confirmed that a letter regarding the hedge on Marlow Road had been sent and said the only one outstanding was the one in Ferndale.

He would get a letter out shortly. (4) Abandoned car on Wycombe Road - Cllr Davis spoke about a historical issue with a car that had been abandoned and had been removed by Bucks Council and wondered if the same could be done with this car. Cllr Watson suggested it be reported on fixmystreet. Cllr Thomas said he would do this and get a picture of the vehicle. (5) Cllr Parkinson said he had noticed that both the fish and chip shop and the chemist were leaving their signs out on the common overnight. Cllr Chadwick would ask the Clerk to contact both shops to ask them to take their signs in overnight. (6) Cllr Parkinson asked why the Council had been sent the Risk Security email about mobile patrols as he did not feel it applied to them. It was agreed it did not apply to them but was an update from the Council's security company. (7) Cllr Preece said the skips at the Kings Arms had gone but it seemed work at the hotel was continuing with fences put up and rubbish accumulating behind them. Cllr Davis agreed it looked a mess. The Clerk was requested to ask for an update. A parishioner commented on a large pothole which was dangerous in

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Regulations and there had been a more recent complaint from a relative of a grave owner saying something similar. Cllr Chadwick said he was at a loss to know what to do about the cemetery complaints and Cllr Watson agreed. Cllr Davis said a letter he had written had been circulated to Council for approval. If approved, the letter should be sent to the three grave owners in the new Lawn Cemetery. There was some discussion and the letter was approved. He felt this was imperative as wooden edgings and teddies had already appeared on one of the new graves. The Parish Warden would be filling in the graves with topsoil in the autumn and they would then be turfed. Cllr Davis said he would be working with the Parish Warden to put in a demarcation line for the new rose bed which would have to be dug out and grave owners could plant a rose in there as a memorial. The Finance Officer said she recalled Cllr Garrett was meant to be doing a summary of the new Regulations and these were to be displayed in a notice board. Cllr Baker said a draft was circulated a few months' back and a couple of Councillors made comment about amendments, but she did not recall seeing an updated version so this was still outstanding. Cllr Preece asked the Parish Warden to be asked to take a photo of the plot complained about in the older part of the cemetery and circulate it to Council before a response could be sent to the complainant. (2) Cllr Chadwick said the next Council meeting would be on Wednesday 8 July which would be to consider the internal audit, but would also include other agenda items, such as planning applications.

Meeting finished at 2110