



19-08-2020 Minutes

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STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 over Zoom at 7.30 pm**

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

Councillors: Cllr Shade Adoh

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

Members of the Public : 4

1. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Hayday and Etholen.

2. Declarations of Interest (agenda items)

None.

3. To Confirm Minutes of 8 July 2020

These were agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Baker; seconded:

Cllr Davis. Abstained : Cllr

Fearfield. **4. Matters Arising**

(information only)

None.

5. Reports/Actions

Cllr Watson reported a resident had recently been contacted about their overgrown hedge and was pleased to state they had complied with Council's request.

6. Notification of Parish Matters (information only)

(1) Cllr Watson – potholes at Rose Corner; (2) Cllr Davis – footpath, A40; Marlow Road, War Memorial; Medical Centre.

7. Planning:

(1) **20/06764** – Householder application for construction of front porch – Dominique, Cricket Ground, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TY - Mr and Mrs Lee and Kirsty Campbell – no objection. Proposed : Cllr Thomas, seconded : Cllr Davis. (2) **20/06810** – Application to fell to ground level x 1 Conifer (T1) - 11

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of 2 pairs of semi-detached dwellings & 1 x detached dwelling (5 in total) with bin stores, associated car parking and creation of new access from The Coppice – alternative scheme to 19/05556) to allow for alteration to all 5 plots plots – Rear of 3, 4 & 5 George Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3RN – Barar Homes – Cllr Preece said this was a similar application to previous ones except the end house had been turned around. The issue was still the turning circle which was not their property and had been raised previously. However, he felt planning permission would be granted but a comment about the turning circle should again be commented on. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Thomas. (4) **20/06919** – Application for prune back overhanging branches up to a height of approximately 2.5-3.0 metres to maintain clearance – The Vicarage, Wycombe Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3RG – Tony Kerry – No objection. Proposed : Cllr Thomas; seconded : Cllr Baker.

8. Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Adoh talked about the formation of the new Community Board and asked that suggestions for local projects be considered. There was some discussion about the boundary and which parishes were included. Cllr Davis raised his concern about the road signs that had gone missing at the top of Dashwood Hill and requested that Cllr Adoh take this forward on the Parish's behalf to which she agreed.

9. Finance

- **Bills Payable**

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

- **Monthly Reports – June 2020**

These were agreed. Proposed : Cllr Baker; seconded : Cllr Davis. Cllr Preece commented that the Parish's income was significantly lower than predicted and for budget purposes a deficit would be the worst case scenario. However, the reserves were healthy.

10. Correspondence



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had but he felt Mr Fisher was unimpressed with the proposal and it was made more difficult because Mr Fisher maintained the pitch and Stokenchurch FC owned the goalposts. Discussion took place about putting in another pitch, but this was not considered feasible. Mr Essex said they were not in a position to contribute to any maintenance and matters had become increasingly difficult. Mr Essex had thirty players interested, 80% of whom lived in the village. Cllr Chadwick stated the pitch was a village amenity and was for all to use if they wished. A parishioner stated this issue was a recurrent theme. The pitch was not owned by Mr Fisher although he was helping the Parish by maintaining it. It was public space for all to use and previously the Council had spoken to Mr Fisher to re-enforce this. Mr Essex was asked to forward to the Council the Terms & Conditions for the use of the pitch sent to him by Mr Fisher. Discussion took place about the Parish Council buying some goalposts and Mr Essex said he would forward quotes he had received which may be considered at the next budget round. Both Mr Fisher and Mr Essex would be invited to the next SPC meeting to progress the matter. (2) Request to close public right of way – Cllr Baker stated this was an ancient right of way which had been there before the road was put in. It was used every day and particularly by parents taking their children to school. Cllr Preece said this request had been received because a parishioner did not want to cut back their overgrown vegetation which was obstructing the right of way. The request was refused. Proposed : Cllr Baker; seconded : Cllr Thomas. (3) Request for permission to place gravel type stone and white picket fence to front of property. Cllr Fearfield stated he did not believe the proposal would make any difference and it was not felt to be a solution to the problem. It was agreed a precedent could not be set and the request was refused. Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Baker. (4) Vegetation issues – an email received from the owners of a property



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The Parish Council's role was to start the process on Buckinghamshire Council's behalf and then hand it over to them at a certain point. Polaris had been asked to quote for this work and had said it would cost £75. Although this could help with the continued problems with these houses, it could well set a precedent and cause further issues for the Council. Cllr Watson said he did not agree with doing this as it would end up as an ongoing problem for the Parish with others expecting their hedges to be cut and paid for by the Parish. The decision was to continue to implement Buckinghamshire Council's process and not engage in conversation with the homeowners. Proposed : Cllr Thomas; seconded : Cllr Davis. (5) Grassroots Football Restart – Cllr Chadwick said that alongside this request for information, an email had been received from Stokenchurch FC about the use of the changing rooms. The government guidance made it very clear that changing rooms were not to open. The team had to arrive ready to play and then had to go home to shower and change. This matter would be discussed further at the Longburrow Hall Committee meeting the following week. Cllr Preece said he could not see how Longburrow Hall could open in any meaningful way at the moment. Many halls were making the same decision as the government guidelines were very stringent. He felt someone would need to be on duty the whole time to ensure all the rules were adhered to, particularly in terms of cleaning of the hall between hirers and track and trace. The Finance Officer said that Musical Theatre had moved to Lane End on a temporary basis as decisions over the re opening of the hall had been left very late. Cllr Fearfield stated that Bledlow was open for bookings and felt that how they had managed this might be useful to know. Cllr Preece stated Councillors were personally liable for Health & Safety and it was not a matter of just making hirers responsible. If something went awry, every Councillor was liable. Health & Safety legislation was one of

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Proposed : Cllr Preece; seconded : Cllr Davis. (7) Impact of Covid-19 on Village pubs – The email which had been circulated was discussed. Cllr Baker said she did not feel it was right for the Parish to become involved. These were people's businesses and it might make things very difficult for them if the Parish decided to dictate what happened to these properties. It was agreed that Cllr Davis would call into the Fleur and ask their opinion.

11. The Commons

Cllr Chadwick said it had been anticipated that work on the Cricket Ground and elsewhere in the village would have started by now, but it might be that materials were difficult to obtain. Cllr Davis talked about the camper vans in the Kings Hotel car park. He had no objections to handovers taking place in the car park. Cllr Baker asked where the concrete slabs were going to be placed on the Cricket Ground. Cllr Chadwick replied they were going in the gaps at the top end and were metre cubes, although he would have preferred posts.

12. Health & Safety Audit

Cllr Chadwick said that he felt from last year's audit until this year's, the Council had done virtually nothing to comply with the action plan that had been set. He was not happy with this situation and did not want it happening again. He asked for volunteers to form a small H&S Committee to meet once a quarter and did not anticipate this would take much time once initial actions had been complied with. He spoke through some of the recommendations from this year's action plan. It was agreed that Cllrs Chadwick, Thomas and the Clerk would progress this work. Cllr Watson said he was also happy to help out.

13. Recommendations from the Allotment Committee

Cllr Thomas said the report had been circulated to Council. There were three main recommendations in that report. These were that (a) the allotments would remain under the management of the Parish Council; (b) there should be an increase in rents of 50p from 1 October 2020; and (c) for the proposed

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the Enclosure Award and felt she was best placed to respond. Cllr Baker said there were rules and regulations about this if Cllr Preece wished to read them. In relation to the views of the populus, Cllr Preece asked if a survey had been undertaken. Cllr Thomas said he had spoken to many allotment holders, but there had been no formal survey. Cllr Preece said he could not understand why a proposal had been rejected with what it seemed to him to be minimal evidence. Cllr Baker suggested that Councillors needed to learn about rules that applied to the allotments. Cllr Preece asked to what extent Mr Penny had been involved in these debates. Mr Penny said he had not been involved at all and felt the Allotment Association had simply been ignored. Another parishioner asked why Committee meeting dates had not been placed on the Parish Council website – or why key individuals had not been emailed about the meetings. Cllr Thomas said the meetings were very ad hoc and Cllr Baker asked who should be sending out meeting invitations as it seemed the Councillors sent some and the Clerk sent others. Cllr Chadwick asked Cllr Thomas to notify all those who had an interest in the allotments of any meetings in the future. It was agreed the allotments would remain under the management of the Parish. It was proposed the allotment rules would be produced as a booklet. The proposed rules were confirmed to be an amalgamation of generic allotment rules and those of the Parish Council. This was agreed. Proposed : Cllr Watson; seconded : Cllr Powis. In relation to the proposed increase, Cllr Preece stated this was the wrong time to be putting up rents, which was agreed. There was discussion about water supply in the allotments.

14. Other Parish Matters

(1) A vote of thanks was proposed for the Finance Officer who had completed and submitted the AGAR forms in a very timely manner this year. This was agreed. (2) Cllr Watson asked who owned the road around Rose Corner as there many potholes had appeared according to a resident he had met. Cllr



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going around the village at speed and would speak to the Police. (4) Cllr Davis said he had not managed to tend the flowers at the War Memorial as he would have done normally. Someone in the village had offered to help him out. (5) Cllr Davis updated the Council about how the Medical Centre was managing during the pandemic and highlighted some changes that had been made.

13. Any Other Business

(1) A request for a reduced rate of hire of the changing rooms had been received. However, this was not relevant as changing rooms would not be opening. The Finance Officer stated this all needed to be discussed at the Longburrow Hall Committee meeting so responses could be agreed for all the queries that had been received. Cllr Baker stated that in her view the Council should be doing the same for each football team and there should not be differences.

Meeting finished at 2115