

20-05-2020 Minutes

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STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish
Council held on Wednesday 20 May 2020
over Zoom at 7.30 pm**

Attendees: Cllr Ian Chadwick (Chairman), Cllr Camilla Baker (Vice Chair), 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 Carl Etholen, Cllr Darren Hayday

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

Members of the Public : 3

1. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest (agenda items)

Cllr Watson – Planning Application 20/06053

3. To Confirm Minutes of 4 March 2020

These were agreed. Proposed: Cllr Preece; seconded: Cllr Thomas. Cllrs Baker and Davis abstained.

4. Matters Arising (information only)

None.

5. Reports/Actions

Cllr Preece stated there had been a lot of youths playing football in Longburrow about which he had emailed Cllr Chadwick. Cllr Chadwick said if the police had been informed, there was little else the Council could do and talked through measures that had been taken to secure the MUGA.

6. Notification of Parish Matters (information only)

Cllr Thomas stated all issues all allotment plots were taken and he would pursue some holders who appeared not to be using their plots and report back for actions to be taken.

Planning:

- (1) **20/06070** – Householder application for construction of a



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seconded : Cllr Preece.

(2) **20/06053** – Application for change of use of existing agricultural livestock barn and partial change of use of existing agricultural dairy barn with retention of kitchen/machinery, store/workshop areas to equestrian use with internal alterations to both – Mudds Bank Stud Farm, City Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3EW – Mrs Clark. Discussion took place over the application and it was agreed to defer a decision to the Planning Department.

8. Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Etholen stated Buckinghamshire Council had been established on 1 April 2020. The local elections had been postponed for a year due to Covid-19 which meant all existing elected members from District and County would continue in post until the election. He clarified the various boundaries within the new Council and stated there were 198 Councillors throughout the County and 17 Cabinet members. A Crisis Fund had been set up for Bucks which could be used for local purposes up to a maximum of £2k. The first Council meeting had been due to take place that day, but had been cancelled. Committee meetings were being scheduled remotely and a Strategic Planning Committee had been established to oversee all the local areas. There were sixteen community hubs and Stokenchurch was part of the North West Chilterns Community Hub. Cllr Chadwick asked Cllr Etholen to send through more detail as it emerged, which was agreed. Cllr Hayday said the Councillors were having to learn basics again, particularly around planning and the first High Wycombe Town Council meeting was taking place the following week. He did not feel much would change over the coming year given the circumstances.



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neither Church Square nor an area along the front of the common near the Kings Hotel had been cut. Cllr Garrett said she had seen the contractor working on one of the wettest days and felt at best the grass was simply being flattened and not being cut. Cllr Garrett offered to speak with the contractor and Cllr Preece said the cutting needed to be done properly. There was discussion about withholding some payment. The Finance Officer would email the contractor and request a credit note. The Bills Payable were agreed subject to this issue. Proposed : Cllr Davis; seconded : Cllr Garrett.

· **Monthly Reports for March 2020**

Discussion took place about a review of the budget in the light of the Covid-19 restrictions and the Finance Officer would produce the April and May reports for the following meeting now this had taken place. The March reports were agreed. Proposed : Cllr Thomas; seconded : Cllr Baker. The Finance Officer stated the revised budget was working on the worst case scenario that Longburrow Hall would not re-open and a deficit was being predicted. Cllr Preece stated these were exceptional circumstances and all projects would be suspended. It was agreed the new external doors would be fitted, but the curtains would be deferred. Cllr Powis to action. Discussion took place about the doors previously bought and Cllr Powis would ask the carpenter fitting the doors if he knew of anyone who could make use of them.

10. Correspondence

(1) Cllr Chadwick talked through some issues with hedging that were causing problems and Cllr Powis said she would write to the two householders concerned requesting them to be cut back. (2) There had been a request to put up a gazebo on the common for a family picnic. This was refused. (3)

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support it as much as possible, with which Cllr Baker agreed. Cllr Chadwick said that when it was possible, a meeting with them would take place to see what support could be given. Agreed. (4) Cllr Davis said he had identified eight war graves, two from WW1 and six from WW2. Cllr Baker said according to information from the War Graves Commission, there were nine war graves. Cllr Davis said there was a belief that a soldier was killed in Cyprus but no-one had been able to find any memorial. Quotes were requested for the cleaning of the graves. (5) No 3 the Bowling Green – Cllr Fearfield stated the trellis fence was no longer an issue.

11. The Commons

(1) The Kings car park continued to be used as a site to park a campervan which was advertising its hire. Cllr Powis said it was also often parked down in Piddington. Cllr Preece stated he had recently found out the owner lived on Cricket Ground. Cllr Fearfield offered to contact the owner to discuss the matter. (2) Cllr Chadwick asked for an update about the posts on the common. Cllr Preece said he would pursue this with the contractor to find out what was happening.

12. Other Parish Matters

Cllr Chadwick stated that meetings would continue via Zoom until at least the end of June because of Covid-19. He would update when he heard anything further.

13. Confirm AGM & Annual Parish Report

Cllr Chadwick confirmed the APM and AGM were postponed until further notice. 14.

Any Other Business

(1) Cllr Davis raised the mobile vegetable service that had been operating in the village, which was very popular. A parishioner from the Memorial Hall thanked the Council for listening to - and understanding - their recent concerns and wished to help support the mobile vegetable service Cllr Davis had mentioned. The vendor had asked her if he could park outside



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in the cemetery and one of the three new graves now had a raised wooden edge plus various teddies and flowers on it. He was concerned that if this was not dealt with quickly, a repetition of previous issues would arise. He suggested a letter be written to the three grave owners saying that in the autumn the graves would be levelled and seeded. Cllr Chadwick asked members of the Cemetery Committee to deal with the issue and contact the grave owners by letter informing them of this. Cllr Baker stated it was not for the Cemetery Committee to do this as it was a Council decision. Cllr Davis said he would draft a letter to be circulated to Council for approval. (3) A parishioner said she was re-assured to see the Council was helping the social club and felt the Council should be helping to support the community and its local businesses through this difficult time. All small businesses were struggling to keep afloat and working extremely hard to survive. She did not feel the Council was being responsive to local needs which was disappointing and felt that sometimes exceptions had to be made. Any exception would only be a temporary measure and she wished her comments to be noted. Cllr Chadwick said he had noted them. Another parishioner stated he felt there was nothing lost in allowing a small amount of common land to be used effectively. Cllr Preece said he would like the Council to support local businesses during this current crisis and using the common in line with social distancing at zero cost to the Council would help the community and he strongly supported the parishioner's case. Cllr Watson believed the Council was bound by government regulations and could not see a way around this. Cllr Preece stated these issues could be handled informally and be dealt with locally. Cllr Baker raised a previous situation from 1981 when the Council had to attend a Hearing and ended up paying costs, which had not been an easy time. She felt legal advice should be gained before pursuing this as the Council could not be seen to be setting a precedent. The parishioner said



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legal advice should be obtained and dependent on that advice, a decision could be made. The parishioner said she felt things would ease from July and everyone needed to support each other, bearing in mind the wellbeing of the public. Another parishioner stated if people were having picnics on the common, she could not understand why some seating could not be put out if put away each day. Cllr Preece had checked the byelaws and felt the Council would be powerless in any event as there was nothing stated about temporary usage of the Commons by parishioners.

Meeting finished at 2105