

MINUTES OF STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 6th November 2024
Longburrow Hall, Stokenchurch at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Robin Thomas (in the Chair), Cllr Camilla Baker, Cllr Racquel Burnham, Cllr Valerie Jenkinson, Cllr Ryan Pearse, Cllr Tracy Ramsden

Inattendance: Louise Steele (acting RFO) and three members of the public

1) Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Ghost, McNeill, Nuthall and Young

Apologies were also received from Unitary Councillors Adoh, Carrington, and Hayday

2) Declaration of interest (Agenda items)

Cllr Baker Item 6a-Bills Payable.

3) To confirm minutes of 2 October and 16 October 2024

The minutes of the meetings held on 2nd October and 16th October were confirmed as accurate records of the meetings.

4) Open public forum

A Parishioner raised the question of a street light by Longburrow and discussion followed about the fact that SatNav often takes visitors for Longburrow Hall (at speed) down Park Lane and that a note should be added to the hire agreement clarifying the location of the hall. There was also discussion of the problem of vehicles parking on the footpath at Briarswood Close and its approaches.

5) Buckinghamshire

Councillors Cllr Etholen
advised that:-

He had received an email from the Assistant Clerk about a road closure for Remembrance Sunday; the road concerned is an A road and unfortunately a road closure at short notice might not be possible.

He had received a complaint from a resident of Wycombe road about a loose manhole cover and the resulting noise; James Tunnard the Local Area Technician had checked – it is a Thames Water cover and is marked for repair. There was some speculation at the meeting that the repair might have taken place that day.

Mudds Bank – the enforcement team had planned a drone flight for week commencing 21 October – it did not happen that week but might have taken place a week later.

A parishioner gave some praise for bin collections and said that Veolia was good.

6) Finance

- a. Bills Payable-These were presented to the Council for approval and, upon the proposal of Cllr Jenkinson, seconded by Cllr Ramsden, were agreed without division.
- b. Monthly Accounts. The RFO apologized that she had not been able to prepare the monthly accounts for October for this meeting and agreed to provide two months (October and November) for the next meeting.
- c. 2025/2026 Budget– it would be necessary to convene the Finance Working group at the earliest opportunity.
- d. Any Finance Updates:- there were none
- e. Date for Finance Working Group meeting – Cllr Thomas to ask members of the Working Group to agree a date as soon as possible.

7) . Correspondence from the Monitoring Officer regarding governance observations

The Council agreed to implement the observations in full and that arrangements for Councillor training will be determined at a later date.

8) **Locking post – Fleur Common** – this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

9) **Post Survey**– this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

10) Kings Hotel update –

It was reported that Bucks Council had received number of emails from residents because the hotel is an eyesore – though it was agreed that the matter is out of everyone's hands. Cllr Ramsden informed the meeting that nothing is likely to be resolved anytime soon. There was some discussion about taking the item off future agendas but on balance it was felt that it should remain a standing item since the parish council is an adjacent landowner.

11) Tree Cutting - 2 Chapel Cottages – It was decided by the Council that there was nothing we could do and that it should be left to the Tree Officer at Buckinghamshire Council.

12) Bucks Council Tree Maintenance Contract

It was reported that a decision needs to be made about whether to renew the Bucks Council Tree Maintenance Contract. Upon the proposal of Cllr Jenkinson, seconded by Cllr Baker it was resolved to renew the contract.

13) Oven for Hall

Upon the proposal of Cllr Ramsden seconded by Cllr Jenkinson it was resolved to purchase a new oven for the hall being an Adexa Commercial Electric Cooker (HSQ962B) with six square burners at a price of £1,995 excluding VAT.

14) Cemetery Working Group Update

Cllr Baker gave an update on the meeting between the group and the Church which focused on the need for a new soakaway in the churchyard at a cost of £2.5k. It seemed to be suggested that the parish council should pay and indeed there would be a benefit to the council in doing so because it would stop or reduce run-off across the Council's car park which was damaged by it. However, the church yard is not a closed cemetery and the meeting decided that the Church should be advised that the council was unable to help. The offer of the Church coming to Full Council to discuss the position was made.

The memorial application for Brian Butler was agreed.

15) Cemetery maintenance quote

Upon the proposal of Cllr Jenkinson seconded by Cllr Burnham it was agreed to accept the cemetery maintenance quote of £14,400 per annum at no increase from the current contract.

16) Short Circuit quote - MUGA

A quote of £1,055.47 excluding VAT from Short Circuit for works to the MUGA lights was accepted

17) Sparx quote – Street Lamps

Following a report of Street Lights out in Slade Road, Beacons Bottom, St Francis Road and Ferndale Close, quotations for repairs/replacements has been sought. A quotation from SparkX for the replacement of lanterns at 193 Slade Road and 4 Beacons Bottom and a second quotation from SparkX for the replacement of lanterns at 34 St Francis Road and 5 Ferndale Close has been submitted to the Council each for the sum of £781.32 +VAT= £937.50 (£1,875 inc VAT in total). It was proposed by Cllr Jenkinson and seconded by Cllr Pearse that this expenditure be approved and this was agreed without division.

18) **Cricket Ground Lane – quote** - this item to be deferred to the next meeting

19) **Electricity Renewal quote** - this item to be deferred to the next meeting

20) **Litterpick update**– Cllr Burnham advised the Council that the litter pick is to take place on 30 November

21) Donation of yew tree from Mr Bryant for the cemetery / memorial garden

This was discussed in detail and declined as there was serious concern about the nature of the roots.

22) Christmas opening hours for the Parish Council office

It was agreed that 20th December shall be the last working day before Christmas with the office re-opening again on 2nd January 2025.

23) Planning

24/07267FUL - Application for: Householder application for construction of part single, part two storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory. Provision of replacement hardstanding to front.
53 Jubilee Road, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3SH - Michelle Howe

No Comment agreed without division.

24/07210/FUL - Application for: Householder application for construction of part single part two storey rear extension, following removal of the existing rear extension and outbuilding garage.

4 Lowes Close, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, HP14 3TN - Balbir Kaur
No Objection agreed without division.

24) Any Other Business (Report Only)

There was some discussion of items of news for communication through the website .

25) Item/s for Next Agenda

Kitchen Floor, Precept and 2025/2026 Budget, Lighting Renewal, Kings Hotel, Cricket Ground Lane Quote, Calendar of Meetings for 2025 and Notice of Vacancy for a Councillor

At this point the open session of the meeting closed –Council resolved to exclude public and press in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of the Item 26 set out on the agenda due to the confidential nature of that Item. It was agreed that Mrs Steele should remain to take the minutes of the confidential session

The meeting closed at 21.05hrs