

MINUTES OF STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 5TH
FEBRUARY 2025
Longburrow Hall, Stokenchurch
7.30pm

Attended by Cllr Nuthall (Chairperson), Cllr Baker, Cllr Pearse, Cllr McNeill, Cllr Ramsden, Cllr Jenkinson, Cllr Burnham & Cllr Thomas

4 members of the public in attendance

Acceptance of apologies for absence

Cllr Ghost, Cllr Young & Buckinghamshire Councillors Darren Heyday & Orsolya Heyday, Cllr Adoh & Cllr Etholen

1) Declaration of interest (Agenda items)

Cllr Nuthall – bills payable | Cllr Ramsden - Item 20 | Cllrs Burnham, Thomas & Baker - Item 10

2) To confirm minutes of 8th January meetings.

The minutes for 8th January full meeting agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Jenkinson and seconded by Cllr Ramsden

3) Open public forum

Cllr Nuthall opened the public session.

- A member of the public brought up the issue of inconsiderate parking on New Road. This is an alleged contravention of the highway code and was acknowledged in the presence of Bucks Cllr Carrington.

- The Objection of a planning request was noted by a member of the public who was in agreement. This is related to Item 23) Planning - 'Milking Parlour'

- Street lighting outside Longburrow Hall was raised and it was stated by the council that it is on today's agenda. The potential for clearer signage guiding visitors to the hall was also mentioned with agreements from council.

- Holes in the hedging around Longburrow Hall was raised and agreed to add to March's Agenda to look at options.

Cllr Nuthall closed the public forum.

4) Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Carrington addressed the council and the public on the following:

- Mudds Bank: Bucks council are 'aware' & working on it'. Cllr Carrington mentioned a planning enforcement officer will be attending from Bucks CC in March's meeting to address Mudds Bank.

- Bucks CC are sending an individual to explore Broadband black spots within the Parish to ideally allocate county funding to improve access in those areas. This individual should be joining a future meeting. - Kings Hotel: MPs office is trying to push the Ministry of Justice into enabling quicker decisions. Cllr Nuthall took the opportunity to remind Cllr Carrington about the flytipping by council contractors at the Hotel. - Safety on the B482: This is waiting updates.

- Council Children's Care Home on New Road: Bucks CC have purchased a property on New Road with the intention of creating a care home for children to enable more secure and safe lives. Immediate neighbours were made aware before the council. Council requested that we receive correspondence at the same time in future.

- Precept: Bucks CC have to agree funding on 26th February before this Parish Council can move forward with the Precept process.

Cllr Nuthall closed the public session

5) Finance

- a. Bills Payable – Agreed after proposal by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Baker.
- b. Monthly Accounts:
 - 1st September - 30th November Proposed Cllr Ramsden, Seconded Cllr Jenkinson
 - 31st December Proposed Cllr Jenkinson, Seconded Cllr Baker
 - 31st January Proposed Cllr Jenkinson, Seconded Cllr Baker
- c. AGAR- Council took this opportunity to re-affirm the new Governance procedures we have implemented to ensure stronger oversight over the council.
- d. Green Space Devolution - Cllr McNeill is continuing an audit of the benefits this parish receives from Green Space Devolution funding. Cllr McNeill also requested Highways Devolution figures, to which will not be available until March. Further updates in future meetings.
- e. Sparkx Street Light Replacement Quote: £2411.11+VAT. Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Ramsden

6) Dignity at Work Policy & Revised Standing Orders

Amended Dignity at Work Policy and Revised standing orders both agreed.

Dignity at work - Proposed Cllr Thomas, Seconded Cllr Ramsden

Standing Orders - Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr McNeill

7) Mudds Bank

Mudds Bank was addressed in the public forum, see above.

8) Swilleys Pond

Council previously agreed to write to leaseholders re their misuse of the land in regards to their lease. Council decided to ask our solicitor for advice and send an official letter from a legal perspective. Proposed by Cllr Thomas, Seconded by Cllr McNeill

9) Playground Equipment

Cllr Burnham informed the council that quotations for Playground Equipment are elongated due to the proximity of contractors to the parish. Quotations are currently in the process and we expect an update. The Council is also looking into grant funding from local and governmental providers.

10) Allotment/Toilets Grant

Cllr Burnham presented outdoor toilets tailored specifically to allotments, sustainability and easy-maintenance. It was agreed to move ahead and seek grants for this addition to the Allotments. Proposed Cllr Pearse, Seconded Cllr Ramsden

11) Kings Hotel Trees & Any Updates

The Kings Hotel was addressed in the public forum, see above.

12) Flowers in the village

An array of flower installations have been proposed for the village and it was agreed to seek funding for a planting and install of these arrangements in the village. Quotes will be presented in March for councillors to agree to.

13) Parish Council Website

The council has agreed in principle to go ahead with a website provider called 'ParishOnline' at a price of £475+VAT for the initial build. This was proposed by Cllr Ramsden, Seconded by Cllr Jenkinson.

14) Damage to the Hall - Marquee Damage

The damage created by the Marquee at Longburrow Hall at the Christmas Fair is repaired and done so by the Marquee providers.

15) Councillor Training

This council has requested Governance Refresher training from BALC and have yet to hear back from them re options for this council to attend.

16) Election Communications from Bucks County Council

Bucks Council have provided no formal schedule as of yet. This Council is prepared regardless.

17) Street Lighting

Replacement street light at Longburrow Hall previously agreed. Council looking at new options around processes or providers.

18) Casual Vacancy

The vacancy on the council is still open and we encourage applications. Local elections are in 3 months time and we all believe applying now and serving 3 months is an opportunity to see if this is right for you.

19) Bus Shelter Vandalism

The Bus Shelter near CJ's and opposite the kings was purposefully damaged. The council has agreed to spend £250 of Parish money needed to repair it.

20) Renewal of leases - Stokenchurch Memorial Hall & Studley Green Community

Centre Leases for both parties are with them and awaiting return to the council.

21) Church Yard

Curb Stones agreed around a requested grave in the Church Yard. It was also agreed to review our policies for church yard burials.

22) EV Charging

The initial offer from RuralEV's has been retracted due to the current industry climate. Council is to look at a quotation for one EV Charging Point in the village.

23) Planning

25/05064/FUL – Application for construction of two storey extension

Bramble Cottage, Mill Lane, Stokenchurch, Bucks, HP14 3TW – Mr Adam Moss

No Comments - Proposed, Cllr Pearse, Seconded Cllr Thomas

24/08037/FUL – Application for demolition of ancillary attached storage

rooms and erection of a single storey rear extension to create storage for the main building
The Royal Oak, Church Street, Stokenchurch, Bucks, HP14 3TH – Mr Narinder Jutla

No Comments - Proposed Cllr Jenkinson, Seconded Cllr Baker

Enforcement action notice:

Breach of planning control – without planning permission erection of building

The Milking Parlour – Eastwood Farm, New Road, Stokenchurch

The Council acknowledged this in the public session, see above.

24) Any Other Business (report only)

We must re-engage the Farmers Market for Springtime

25) Item/s for next agenda

Grass Protection Mesh - CJ's

Bucks CC enforcement attending in March

Holes in fencing/hedging Longburrow
Highways Devolution
Playground Quotations
Flowers Quote/Grant

Meeting Closed at 21:30 and council moved into an exclusionary meeting in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.