



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7.30 pm at Longburrow Hall, Stokenchurch**

**ATTENDANCE:** Cllr Nuthall (Chairman), Cllrs Baker, McNeill, Ramsden, Thomas, Jenkinson, Young

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLOR:** Cllrs Adoh, Carington, Etholen

**CLERK :**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** 11

**1) Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllrs Hayday, O Hayday, Etholen, Burnham, Ghost, Pearse

**2) Declarations of any personal interests**

Cllr Nuthall disclosed an interest with 6(a) Bills Payable. Cllr Ramsden disclosed an interest with agenda items 7 & 20.

**3) Meeting closed by Chair and opened to the public**

A parishioner raised concern over the long-standing parking of a vehicle in the Kings car park that is untaxed. Cllr Jenkinson responded that enquiries have already been made with TVP and will chase up.

A member of the public requested that the council consider the option of a handover pack in the event of a significant change in councillors as a result of the forthcoming election.

In addition, the subject of dogs on the cricket ground was highlighted from the last council meeting. A suggestion from the floor was for dogs to be banned from the cricket ground during the cricket season and then allowing them off out of season.

Speed – concerns raised with the speed of motorists coming through the village.

Streetlight at entrance to Longburrow. Cllr Jenkinson confirmed that a replacement post had been installed by the contractor but not the post that the Parish Council had identified and approved to replace due to damage sustained last year. Parishioner also requested that the council consider give way and or white lines in Park Lane / entrance to Longburrow.

It was reported that there are a number of significant potholes in Church Path.

Meeting closed to the public and reopened to council meeting.

**4) To Confirm minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The Minutes of the Meeting were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

**5) Buckinghamshire Councillors**

B482 – cats eye installation. This work will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> April for three nights.  
Mudds Bank – Cllrs Adoh and Carington reported that Stephanie Penney had responded with feedback to the council following her visit to the last parish council meeting. Cllr Adoh and Carington confirmed that they were making enquiries with Thames Water and SSE with regards to reports of illegal water and electricity breaches. Cllr Carington reminded council of the local plan communication – call for site. Cllr Adoh confirmed that she was aware of the concerns regarding speeding and will support. Cllr Etholen confirmed that he will be retiring and not standing again in the forthcoming elections. Cllr Nuthall thanked Cllr Etholen on behalf of the council

and residents for his support and contribution to the parish over the years and will be missed.

#### **6) Finance**

- a. Bills Payable – The Bills Payable were proposed for approval by Cllr Jenkinson and seconded by Cllr Baker. The rest of the Council concurred with this decision.
- b. Monthly Accounts for March 2025. This was deferred until the April meeting due to the absence of the RFO.
- c. Consideration of quotation from Mr Brian Ludgate regarding internal audit services in respect of 2024/25 AGAR. This was agreed unanimously by the council to proceed for the sum of £70 plus £35 for each subsequent visit if required.

#### **7) SGCC Lease & Memorial Hall Lease update**

Cllr Nuthall reported to the meeting that meetings with the committee of the Studley Green Community Centre last month and more recently with the trustees of the Memorial Hall social club had taken place. Both parties have raised the same concerns with regards to the revised lease in particular removing the liability clauses stipulated in the revised lease, request for a break clause, concern regarding the rent clause and insurance costs. Cllr Nuthall confirmed that these concerns have been forwarded to the parish council's solicitors and now awaiting revised draft leases for further review.

#### **8) B482 Marlow Road, A40 Wycombe Road**

The chairman reported concerns raised by residents over the current state of the roads and the number of potholes. A meeting has been scheduled between Cllr Nuthall, James Tunnard, Bucks Highways together with Cllrs Adoh and Carington to discuss in more detail.

#### **9) Community Speedwatch, speeding concerns**

The chairman reported to the council that residents had contacted the council over the current issues with speed through the village. A couple of parishioners have come forward to say they would be interested in helping with a community speed watch initiative and two of those have already received the necessary training. It was agreed that a community speed watch scheme should be supported and enquiries to be made. The chair requested as much public participation in this exercise. In addition, the chair summarised a communication from Bucks Council regarding speeding issues whereby handy links to report such activity should be reported. It was stressed the importance of reporting incidents as it provides TVP the data and evidence of an issue for the parish. This information was shared on the village community group facebook page as well as the parish council page.

#### **10) Update from Betty Messenger Charitable Foundation regarding the grave of the late Betty Messenger**

The chairman reported that a response had been received from the BMCF to say that their recent request had been closed, and no further action would be taken. This was noted.

#### **11) Kings Hotel**

The chairman reported that Greg Smith MP has recently written to Buckinghamshire Council for their support in escalating the ongoing situation with the Kings Hotel.

#### **12) Mudds Bank**

It was reported to the council that Stephanie Penney, Enforcement Team Leader for Buckinghamshire Council had responded to the concerns raised at our last meeting. Since this report, a 20ft shipping container has arrived on site and has been notified. Enforcement is currently investigating and will keep us updated on developments.

#### **13) Swilley Pond**

It was reported to the council that to date no response has been received from Stokenchurch Estate with regards to the unauthorised use of Swilley Pond. It was

agreed unanimously that the council proceed with the advice of Geoffrey Leaver solicitors and proceed to litigation.

**14) Water End Allotments**

Cllr Thomas reported complaints from allotment holders due to deers eating plants and damage to the fence. A quote had been received in the region of £400 to repair the fence. It was also reported that trees had fallen which need removing. Cllr Thomas agreed to contact the trees officer at Bucks Council. Finally, the allotment tap is leaking and needs replacing.

**15) Dogs on Cricket Ground**

The chairman reported that there had been a significant mixed response on social media to the council's decision regarding dogs on the cricket ground. It was agreed unanimously by the council to call a public meeting to discuss this matter and to welcome suggestions/ideas on how to move forward.

**16) Rose Corner**

The chairman reported that the council are still awaiting quotations so suggested that this item is deferred to the May meeting. A parishioner who lives on Rose Corner suggested some heavy duty planters, stones to deter delivery vans or vehicular traffic. This was noted.

**17) Longburrow Hall Car Park**

Cllr Jenkinson reported that the potholes had been filled at Longburrow Hall car park free of charge by John Lee Construction. Cllr Jenkinson requested that her thanks to Mr Lee are recorded for the minutes.

**18) Office Update – staff vacancies**

The council are currently interviewing for the positions of Admin officer, Parish clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

**19) Planning**

25/05461/FUL – Householder application for construction of a new boundary fence and associated planting (retrospective) at Lime Trees, Church Path, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TJ. Councillors were asked to revisit plans and report back to clerk with their recommendations. Extension request to planning officer.

25/05459/FUL – Householder application for creation of off-street parking and associated dropped kerb at 4 Lowes Close, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TN. Unanimously agreed no objection.

25/0524/CTREE – Remove epicormic growth around base and reduce tips of three or four longest branches on west side of canopy by up to 2m (from 6.8m to 4.8m) to create reasonable clearance to Warmwell House x 1 Sycamore (T1) at Day Nursery, Lower Church Street, Stokenchurch, HP14 3TG. Unanimously agreed no comment and leave for trees officer to comment.

25/05358/FUL – Change of use from dwelling house (use class C3a) to children's home (use class C2), installation of solar panels, construction of cycle store and hard landscaping to parking area at 24 New Road, Stokenchurch, HP14 3RT. Unanimously agreed no objection.

**20) Any other business (report only).**

The chairman reported that the "Great British Spring Clean" is still ongoing until mid April and encouraged the public to help.

**21) Items for the next agenda**

Litter Pick, Grass Mesh CJ's. MUGA Lights.

The chairman thanked all the Parish councillors, Buckinghamshire councillors and the community for their support over the last four years and wished the best of luck to those councillors who were standing for election in May.

**The Meeting was closed at 21.02 hours**

***The Councillors then went into Closed session.***