

MINUTES OF STOKENCHURCH EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 20th July 2026

Longburrow Hall, Stokenchurch at 7.30pm

Present:- Cllr; Robin Thomas (Chairman), Cllr Camilla Baker, Cllr Racquel Burnham , and Cllr Lee Mathers.

The Meeting Started at 19.32hrs.

1. Public Forum.

In attendance;- Three (3) members of the public.

A parishioner present at the meeting was asked for some information by Cllr Burnham about the fence and this will be provided asap.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr, Sonia Bhatiani, Cllr Andrew Seddon and Cllr Marion Watson.

3. Declarations of Interest.

None.

4. To confirm the Appointment of Mr B Hemsley as Parish Clerk for Stokenchurch Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Burnham and agreed without division that Mr B Hemsley be appointed as Parish Clerk for Stokenchurch Parish Council with effect from Friday 24th July 2026.

5. To agree that BALC provide support to the new Parish Clerk at Stokenchurch Parish Council.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Burnham and agreed without division that BALC be asked to provide support to the new Parish Clerk at Stokenchurch Parish Council.

6. Swilley Pond Lease.

The Council currently lease Swilley pond to Stokenchurch Estates until 2033, and they wish to reorganize into one company called Swilley Ltd and they wish to modify the draft licence to assign to reflect this change. It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Burnham and agreed without division that we ask GL to confirm the ownership of the lease and that we ask Stokenchurch Estates to cover the cost of this exercise.

7. To approve the Expenditure of the installation of Fire Doors at Longburrow.

The recent fire assessment at Longburrow identified a requirement for two Fire Doors to be installed at a cost of £3700 pounds from Firedoorsuk Ltd. It was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed without division that the quotation be accepted and the design being photo 4. The Chairman will communicate this decision to Firedoorsuk Ltd.

8. To approve the request from Bucks Council to replace the Fire Damaged Timetable at New Road.

Cllr Seddon had previously advised the Parish Council that the Bus Timetable at New Road had been set alight and that Bucks Council would arrange for it to be replaced at no cost to the Parish Council provided that the Parish Council approved the request from Bucks Council to do so. It was proposed by Cllr Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed without division to approve the request.

9. Triple A Amusements – Further request on common (late September 2026).

Cllr Baker asked if the late request for a September booking would clash with the yearly booking date of Lendrums September children's fair? It was proposed by Cllr Burnham seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed without division to permit this request and the details would be published on the Council website.

10. Footpath Obstructions – Correspondence to property owners.

The Council have received complaints regarding hedges causing footpath obstructions and **Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980** gives local highway authorities legal powers to require landowners and occupiers to cut back or remove hedges, trees, and shrubs that overhang or endanger public roads, footpaths, and bridleways.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Burnham, seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed without division that the Council will write to the owners giving them 14 days to comply, failure of which will result in a further extension of 14 days, after which details of the owners will be forwarded to Buckinghamshire Council for their attention.

11. Devolved Services Weed Spraying Request.

Cllr Burnham raised this item as it was part of the devolved services agreement and required attention. The Chair and all the Council agreed to this and will therefore seek quotations from suitably qualified and licensed operators to perform same.

12. Church Path – Review of damage and maintenance responsibility.

The Council had at the request of Cllr Watson undertaken a walk around the church and its environs to identify and agree those areas which come under the remit of the Parish Council. There was concern about the Church Path in that it had been damaged. The Council have identified the areas of their responsibility and these will be incorporated in the maintenance contract which is coming up for renewal. The Church Path having been put in by the late Betty Messenger is determined to be the responsibility of the Sawmill Trust.. It was proposed by Cllr Burnham, seconded by the Chair and agreed without division that a meeting be held with the Parochial Church Council - PCC – as soon as possible.

13. Churchyard Tree Maintenance Pollarding.

The trees that line the entrance to the Church, which is in the Diocese of Oxford have various rules and regulations see their website;- <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/parish-support/church-buildings/permissions-and-how-to-apply/caring-for-our-churchyards.php>

These trees are the responsibility of the Parish Council, are in conservation area and any work on these trees may need approval from the Diocese of Oxford. The Chairman will contact a Tree Surgeon for advice asap.

14. Freedom of Information Request (FOI) Kings Hotel.

The Council noted that a request had been received and Cllrs Baker, Burnham, Mathers and Thomas will provide a reply by 30th July 2026.

15. Marlow Road Cemetery Hedges.

There have been concerns about the hedges on the Marlow Road Cemetery obstructing Pedestrians and Cllr Thomas advised that remedial work will be undertaken this week. Cllr Thomas also advised that similar action will be undertaken by Anchor who have a contactor responsible for the hedging at the Old School Close complex where it obstructs the footpaths on the A40.

The Remainder of the Meeting was closed to the Public and a Vote is required to allow this to go ahead. Cllr Burnham proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded and this was agreed without division.

The Meeting Closed at 20.50hrs.