

STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th April 2018 at Longburrow Hall at 7.30pm.

Attendees: Cllrs Nuthall (Chairman), Baker, Chadwick, Davis, Parkinson, Penny, Powis, Saunders Preece, Thomas. County Councillor Carl Etholen

Clerk: Mrs F Shelton

Members of the public: 3

1. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from: District Councillor Saddique, County Councillor Hayday.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Nuthall on planning number 05624 and bills payable. Cllr Powis on bills payable.
3. **Minutes.** It was resolved that meeting that the minutes of the Council Meeting on 21st March 2018 approved. Unanimously agreed, one abstention.
4. **Matters Arising – WDC –** Cllr Preece asked if the response from WDC could be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Clerk to follow up. Cllr Chadwick asked if Cllr Parkinson if he had looked at the oven door. Cllr Parkinson replied not yet and he will be taking a look tomorrow.
5. **Reports and Actions –** Clerk gave an update on the Clerks' meeting she attended which included the decision for a single Unitary Council, Modernising Local Government and the local district plan. The full report is available in the Parish Council office.
6. **Notification of Parish Matters (information only) – Anderson Close – Litter Marlow Road- Signs at the Top Of George Road – Foot Path Marlow Road- Studdridge Court – Bowling Green – Cemetery.**
7. **Planning – Planning decisions; permissions and refusals.**
 - 05838-Prior notification application (Part 6, Class A) to construct a new building to provide living accommodation for agricultural worker and office - Gibbons Farm Bigmore Lane Horsleys Green Buckinghamshire HP14 3UR - (Gibbons Farm Limited) No Objection, agreed with five abstentions, so a decision was made of no comment.
 - 05765 - Proposed non-material amendment to permission for erection of replacement 3 bed dwelling and associated works granted under planning ref. 16/07872/FUL - Dingle Dell Bigmore Lane Horsleys Green Buckinghamshire HP14 3UP - (Mr Chris Burnell) No comment, all agreed.
 - 05671 - Erection of a metal shed for the use in storing agricultural equipment - Lot D1 Mudds Bank City Road Stokenchurch Buckinghamshire - (Ms Ruth Blundell) these applicants are genuine Cllr Preece would like it recorded. Objection on the basis unreasonable development in the green belt, not agricultural use. All agreed, one abstention. Cllr Preece has an A3 map of the plot areas at Mudds Bank that he will bring into the office.
 - 05624 - Fell 1 x Ash tree due to close proximity to sawmill barn and potential damage to building due to root growth - Unit 2 The Common Stokenchurch Buckinghamshire HP14 3UH - (Mr John Lee) no objection, all agreed with one abstention. Suggested applicant donates another tree for commons.
 - 05523 - Householder application for creation of driveway and parking to front of property including dropped kerb - 59 Wycombe Road Stokenchurch Buckinghamshire HP14 3RR - (Mr David Alstead) no objection, all agreed with one abstention.

8. **District and County Councillors:** Cllr Etholen explained that The Secretary of State was 'minded' there should be a single unitary with nineteen local community boards. The District Councils put in a different bid. There is a consultation period up to the 25th of May 2018 for councils and parishioners to comment. In response to a previous request, Cllr Etholen advised the road signs by Mudds Bank had been changed as part of the A40 development for road safety following three accidents at this junction. Cllr Etholen reported that the budget of £ 1.1 m for potholes is not going to be sufficient this financial year and once the dryer weather comes the hole patcher will be able to come out and do them properly. There is a consultation on children's services in Bucks; dates will be advised for deadlines.
9. **Finance-**
- Bills Payable to the amount of £6072.09, plus four refund deposits not on bills payable sheet £632.00, total = £6704.09, unanimously agreed.
 - March Accounts: unanimously agreed.
10. **Correspondence – None.**
11. **Unitary council-** The Chairman explained that this has been spoken about by the Clerk and Cllr Etholen, however, we as a council now need to talk about how we feel about the unitary council decision of one council. Cllr Chadwick doesn't think we have received appropriate support from WDC with regards to planning so doesn't think we should support them. Cllr Etholen was asked how many people will the community boards consist of? Cllr Etholen replied between 6-10 individuals, there is a similar amount of Local Area Forums at the moment. These would consist of the elected councillors from that area and there would be five planning areas, this was the County Councils business case. Cllr Etholen continued saying the District Councils' business case was for two councils a north and south. There are cost savings to be had that should mean more money in the pot to spend. Cllr Preece had asked for this to be on the agenda but after speaking to several people in the village they seem disinterested either way and it wasn't an issue people were interested in. Therefore we just needed to get on with it. Cllr Preece stated that WDC was financially very well run and has portfolio of assets which should be protected for the Wycombe District taxpayers and not stripped out of the area. Cllr Etholen explained that either way it will be a totally new council. Cllr Preece agreed with Cllr Chadwick's statement about WDC planning and asked if the council can write to the Secretary of State and copy David Lidington expressing our concerns that assets need to be protected within the district. Cllr Baker asked Cllr Etholen which way does he lean towards a single or a dual unitary council, as a person that attends both district and county meetings. Cllr Etholen replied as a Bucks County Councillor the single unitary council. Chairman asked if there would be more devolved services coming to Parish Councils, Cllr Etholen replied almost certainly yes. The Clerk asked Cllr Etholen as Wycombe District has the lowest council tax area in Bucks, under the single unitary council, is it correct to say that our council tax would be brought up to the highest level of council tax in Bucks? Cllr Etholen replied probably yes. Cllr Preece asked what would be the timescale for an election following the unitary council. Cllr Etholen replied there is unlikely to be one before 2020 and the District Council elections 2019 may well be postponed. The Council agreed to write to the Secretary of State on assets and number of councillors points.
12. **Stokenchurch Juniors –** Cllr Baker asked if the team pay to play here. Clerk no. Cllr Baker so if they stop playing here they would need to remove container. Following a discussion, a container maybe installed behind the one already on Longburrow field and it would need to be painted green.
13. **The Commons –** Cllr Preece reported showed a photo of damage made by a skip on the common believed from the contractors of Tanaris House. Clerk will follow up. Bowling Green – Cllr Saunders had a report about a person who is driving over the bowling green to a garage. Cllr Baker explained that they have a right to do this.

14. Other Parish Matters –

- **Anderson Close** - Cllr Preece asked if we could escalate the request for hedge cutting to Bucks C C. Clerk replied that we have only asked Mr Lindsay (Manager of the let houses) to take a look and the Clerk is waiting for a response and will chase up.
- **Litter Marlow Road** – Cllr Preece reported that the litter the other side of the white gates on the Marlow Road is terrible he asked who is responsible for this. Cllr Etholen explained that he was told that WDC are responsible. The Parish Council are very frustrated that council tax is being paid and litter in these areas are not being collected. Chairman reported that we have had a good response regarding the community litter pick from parishioners who wish to volunteer, the first one is to commence on 26th May 2018 and the second on 29th September 2018. People will meet on the Kings Common and refreshments will be served at Longburrow Hall afterwards.
- **George Road** – Cllr Preece reported that the footpath opposite Tesco's is in a terrible state of repair some repairs have taken place but are of poor quality. Clerk will speak to David Coupe about this at their meeting.
- **Signs at The Top of George Road** – Cllr Preece reported that there are several estate agent signs on the corner of George Road could we ask for them to be removed. Clerk to follow up.
- **Foot Path Marlow Road**- Cllr Saunders reported the damaged footpath next to the Raven Road/ Marlow Road turning. Clerk to follow up.
- **Studdridge Court** – Cllr Saunders reported that there is a loose kerb stone on Studdridge Court Road. Clerk to follow up.
- **Cemetery**- Cllr Saunders explained that there is funding available for planting wild flowers in the parts of the cemeteries that aren't used. Cllr Saunders will give the contact number to the clerk.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9pm.