

STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at Longburrow Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Mrs F Shelton

Members of the public: 5

1. **Apologies.** Apologies were received from: District Councillors: Cllr Adoh & Cllr Saddique.
Chairman announced the very sad passing of Cllr Mike Jones. The Parish Council would like to pass on their condolences to his family at this difficult time. A minutes silence was held.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Powis on bills payable.
3. **Minutes.** It was resolved that meeting that the minutes of the Council Meeting on 21st February 2018 be approved. Agreed, with one abstention.
4. **Matters Arising –** Cllr Chadwick more repairs to Cricket Ground but someone had been up today to put in posts and tape.
5. **Reports and Actions –** Cllr Thomas gave an update on the allotments and reported that he had spoken to Martin Elliott about the fence that need repairing and the hedges that need reducing in size. The Clerk spoken to some of the councillors involved when the Medical Centre was being built and it had come to light that the fence was installed by the developer so repairs are not the responsibility of the Parish Council. The Clerk had informed Martin Elliott. Mr Penny informed the Council that he will turn the water on at the allotments at the weekend. Cllr Chadwick suggested that we advertised the allotments vacancies on the PC Facebook page. Clerk to follow up.
6. **Notification of Parish Matters (information only) – Anderson Close – Tree In The Church Yard – Road Signs - Holes In The Cricket Ground – Advertising Boards**
7. **Planning – Planning decisions; permissions and refusals.**
 - 05546 - Prior Notification of improvement & maintenance to access track - OS Parcel 0040 City Road Stokenchurch Buckinghamshire - (Ms Sarah Barry). Stokenchurch Parish Council would object to this application of the following grounds. That the land is covered by an Article Four direction and therefore this matter should be determined by a full planning application. The area in question was an open field before this track was created. If this area is upgraded to a 'road' for plot owners to drive their cars up, we would have concerns about the increased usage and vision splay. This would need to be assessed by Bucks County Council. Such works would threaten the character of the Green Belt and AONB. Genuine farmers have accessed this land for hundreds of years and there would seem no justification to create a road for motor vehicles which may then lead to more applications by those wishing to site mobile homes on individual plots. The land should remain as it is – Green Belt and AONB. Objection, unanimously agreed.
 - 05538 - Proposed non-material amendment to permission for construction of single storey rear extension with alterations and widening of front driveway granted under householder planning ref. 17/07191/FUL - 8 Parris Road Stokenchurch Buckinghamshire HP14 3QF - (Mr Anthony Cook) No objection, unanimously agreed.
 - 05251 - Erection of agricultural workers accommodation for a temporary period of 3 years - Mudds Bank Stud Farm City Road Stokenchurch Buckinghamshire - (Mrs Jill Clark) Cllr Chadwick proposed the Council objects, Cllr Chadwick read the requirements for temporary accommodation for agricultural workers. The full objection can be seen on the WDC planning portal or is available in the Parish Council office. Objection, unanimously agreed.

- The Chairman read the response from WDC regarding the second stage complaint about the failure to enforce on the Mudds Bank polytunnel. Cllr Preece suggested we now escalate the complaint to the Ombudsman. Clerk to follow up.

8. District and County Councillors: Cllr Etholen reported that Bucks C C are going to be increasing council tax by 5.99%, 3% of which is for adult social care. WDC have agreed to increase their council tax by £5 per household on a band D property. Cllr Etholen gave an update on works for the M40 sound barrier - updates are available on <http://www.highways.gov.uk/m40-junction-3-to-8>. Cllr Etholen went on to say that the unitary debate continues, Dorset Council will have two Unitary Councils. Bucks had not been decided yet. Cllr Chadwick asked Cllr Etholen about Pendles Paddock, as he is concerned about the number of caravans on the site and the fire risk they may pose being so close to the motorway. Cllr Etholen will make enquiries. Cllr Preece asked both County Councillors present about NSL, the contractor who is responsible for enforcing the yellow lines in our area. Cllr Preece explained that it is impossible to get them to attend in this village. Cllr Hayday explained he is in contact with the new manager of the contract so will pass his details onto the Clerk. Cllr Preece asked for Cllr Etholen if he would take the time to take a look at the damaged pavement opposite Tescos on his way home and see for himself the parking issues. The Chairman explained that we have been trying to arrange a meeting with David Coupe but are not getting any response. Cllr Etholen will chase up. Cllr Hayday would like to pass on his respects to Mike Jones's family following his passing to his family; he was deeply saddened by the news. Cllr Hayday informed the council that he is looking to get some funding to repair the potholes in Studley Green and has asked for the hedges to be cut back by the top of Dashwood Hill. A parishioner also reported a short section of hedging that is over grown the path. It was established that this was in Cllr Etholen's area so he will follow up. Cllr Etholen stated that all the TFB guys did some great work with the recent bad weather conditions. He explained that all potholes need to be reported on the Bucks CC report it page but explained that the jet patcher cannot be used whilst the weather is wet.

9. Finance-

- Bills Payable to the amount of £4796.42, unanimously agreed.
- February accounts, unanimously agreed.

10. Correspondence –

- Clerk read a request for a TENS licence for Stokenchurch Juniors FC for a social fund raising event on Saturday 24th March 2018. Unanimously approved.
- Clerk explained that last week the hall was closed on Thursday and Friday so all the hall booking / regular classes that cancelled will get a credit for the hall hire. However, on Wednesday the hall was open and fully accessible but the day centre cancelled their booking giving only an hour's notice due to the volunteer's of the community bus not wanting to help attendees from their houses to the bus. The Council has received a request for a rebate. Following a discussion it was resolved by a majority vote to offer a refund of 50% for the hall hire.

11. Saw Mill Trust- Chairman updated the council on the recent communication between the Parish Council and the BMCF. They are looking to give a gift of £ 1 million pounds to the village. They also offered to pay an additional £10,000 for professional services to set up a trust but we need a committee of councillors to be organised to find suitable trustees. Cllr Preece suggested the council have a separate meeting in committee to discuss further details of the trust and then form a steering committee. The meeting was set for Wednesday 14th March at 6.30pm. Cllr Etholen informed the Council that Community Impact Bucks is there to help and assist with setting up a charity.

12. The Commons – None.

13. Other Parish Matters –

- **Anderson Close** – Cllr Preece the trees on private property are overhanging the path way could we chase up Landlord's Management Company to get them cut back. Clerk to follow up.
- **Tree in The Church Yard** – A tree in the church yard has some are broken branches quite high up that need attention. Clerk explained that these are on the approved quote for Complete Tree services and should be done in four weeks.
- **Road Signs** – Stokenchurch sign by the Dogs Trust has been cut back and the sign is visible but very dirty. It was established that as it is in a 40mph speed zone the cleaning of the sign falls to Bucks County Council. Cllr Etholen will follow up.
- **Holes in The Cricket Ground** – Cllr Chadwick reported several pot holes in Cricket Ground Lane and asked when the Parish Council plans to do the next portion of resurfacing. This is yet to be determined at the next budget meeting.
- **Marlow Road Cemetery** – Cllr Powis asked what is happening with the clearing of the branches and debris in the Marlow Road Cemetery. A skip was arranged in November but only three volunteers came forward so clerk will ask Complete Tree Services to add to the list of other jobs.
- **Advertising Boards** – Cllr Baker reported that the advertising sign for the new Bridal Shop is being left out overnight. Clerk to follow up.
- **WDC Complaint** – A Parishioner gave an update on her own complaint to WDC, a response was received from Alastair Nicholson but she questioned is it right that the complaint about a person is investigated by the person you are complaining about. The parishioner asked what is the law about this is. The parishioner had received a reply from a Jennifer Griffin saying the matter is now closed. The parishioner wanted to escalate the complaint to a stage two. Following that she will be escalating the complaint to the Ombudsman. The parishioner believes that we have to keep tackling WDC from all angles. Cllr Etholen advised he sits on the Standards Committee at WDC and stated it was referred to Julie Openshaw (District Solicitor) who is looking into the complaint. The complaint has been logged and Cllr Johncock had acknowledged the complaint.
- Cllr Preece asked if we can approach an ex Chartered Town Planner and Planning Officer for consultation, where required, on the complex planning issues at Mudds Bank. Following a lengthy discussion Cllr Nuthall will make contact with the lady in question and see if she would help us on occasions.
- Cllr Etholen asked if the Parish Council had considered doing a Neighbourhood Plan for Stokenchurch, it will determine where planning can go and give the Parish Council a lot more say. Funding is available from WDC to work on a Neighbourhood Plan. Then you do a referendum to all parishioners to agree. Cllr Etholen will get a contact to come and speak about the Neighbourhood Plan.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.10pm.