

## STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Longburrow Hall at 7.50pm.**

**Attendees:** Cllr V. Nuthall (in the Chair), Cllr C. Baker, Cllr I. Chadwick, Cllr D. Davis, Cllr C. Parkinson, Cllr J. Powis, Cllr A. Preece, Cllr R. Thomas and Cllr N. Watson

**In attendance:** Cty Cllr C. Etholen and District Cllr S. Saddique

**Members of the public:** 2

**Apologies** were received from Cllr S. Garrett and District Cllr S. Adoh.

At the start of the Meeting, Councillors remained seated for a minutes silence, in memory of June Perry a former Member of the Council, who is to be buried on Friday

1. **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Powis in respect of Bills Payable.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September were approved subject to three amendments:- in item 11(iv), the Parish Warden is not responsible for grass cutting in the cemetery, in item 12, to read 'kerbstones remain not permitted' and in item 13 (f) to read that 'the Allotment Association has made an application for grant under the Skipton Building Society scheme' Proposed Cllr Thomas, seconded Cllr Parkinson, Cllr Baker abstained as she was not present.
3. **Matters Arising.** It was confirmed that a reply had been sent to the 'Freedom of Information' complainant and that the website had been updated in relation to the cemetery regulations.
4. **Reports and Actions. (1)** Cllr Preece has followed up enquires re the tree by the Tesco Store – BCC had confirmed that its maintenance was the responsibility of the landowner, and if this was not clear, the Parish Council should assume responsibility. There is no urgency as the dangerous branch has been removed, but in due course, the Council should contact the Tesco land agent, Crusader about maintenance or itself undertake any required pruning; the tree has a TPO, so application to WDC will be required, but Members noted that there is no fee applicable. **(2)** Cllr Parkinson regretted that no Parish representative was present at the recent Local Area Forum, at which the lack of work at the Marlow Road junction had been discussed – Cllr Thomas had been held up at another meeting in London. **(3)** Cllr Powis reported on a booking, when the hirers had left the hall and car park in an untidy state – the Council agreed to deduct £56 for extra cleaning from the refundable deposit. **(4)** Cllr Watson advised that the caravan at Mudds Bank has been removed, but that a good deal of litter remains; also that the Parish Warden has cleared footpath 75 **(5)** Cllr Thomas attended the Battle of Britain celebrations and reported on discussions with a local MP **(6)** The Chairman informed Members that the vacancy for the Parish Clerk had been advertised with a closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> October (Cllr Thomas declared an interest as an acquaintance may be an applicant).
5. **Parish Matters.** Street lights 197 and 198 in Slade Road, car parking, litter picking, allotments, Mill Lane, Remembrance Day, Container and Cemetery.
6. **Planning.**
  - 07142 No objection agreed, proposed Cllr Preece, seconded Cllr Parkinson, all in favour.
  - 07275 The plan, which has been submitted is not correct; this is a very large and obtrusive building, built on land which was not the original garden; the owner had acquired adjacent land, which is part of the Green Belt. There are no grounds for development on Green Belt land and Members unanimously recommended 'Object' proposed Cllr Preece, seconded Cllr Watson.
  - 06997 No objection agreed, proposed Cllr Preece, seconded Cllr Powis, all in favour.
  - 08994 (Appeal) The District Council had unanimously agreed to refuse this application on grounds of overlooking other properties; Cllr Watson had made detailed notes, which will be forwarded to WDC to support the Parish Council's recommendation that the appeal should be turned down
  - Recent Planning decisions – Maplefield Farm, application withdrawn, Five Oaks Farm yet to be decided and fencing at Mudds Bank stud farm approved.
7. **County and District Councillor presentations.** Cty Cllr Etholen highlighted the work of Bucks Waste Partnership, which has achieved some significant improvements in the quantities of recycled waste; he recommended use of the ' Bucks Waste Wizard' which advises the user on which materials can be recycled. There is a possibility that the Bledlow Ridge Recycling Centre may be closed and Cllr Etholen is producing a

leaflet advising local residents about the situation and how they can register their objections. The site at Bledlow Ridge is popular with Stokenchurch residents, but expensive to run and too small for expansion; it was suggested that costs could be saved if it was opened for a part week and that closure was a false economy, in that it would lead to an increase in fly tipping and possible illegal parking by Travellers. On other issues, Cllr Davis sought an apology from BCC for the confusion over the Marlow Road Highway works. There are overhanging trees along the A40 by Bigmore Lane and Dashwood Hill near the Studley Green bus stop. District Cllr Saddique together with Cllr Adoh had met with members of WDC Planning Department to discuss local issues; officers said that it was not possible to resist some developments due to changes in planning rules affecting agricultural land; however, some planning applications will be called-in on a case by case basis. The Enforcement officers were said to be 'doing their best' but they had limited resources to cover all the WDC area, not just Stokenchurch – but Councillors were most unhappy that the officers were ignoring WDC's own policy, eg Mudds Farm gates and other examples – it was predicted that residents will soon be altering their properties without seeking WDC consent!

**8. Finance.** The Bills Payable were approved (Proposed Cllr Chadwick, seconded Cllr Baker) including a refundable deposit for a recent Hall hire, which had been cancelled at short notice, but it was agreed that the hire fee should not be refunded. Members noted that cleaning costs to the end of August had been included. It was agreed that a bag of coins should be donated to the War Memorial fund.

**9. Correspondence.** A member of the public sought permission to install a low level kerb-stone around his parents' grave; he explained that he had paid a substantial deposit to a stonemason, who had not informed him of the Parish rules. However the kerb will be flush with the grass and he will be present when it is installed and will replace top soil as necessary. It was agreed to defer this request for more consideration and the Chairman will notify the applicant when a decision is reached. Several items of correspondence were received:- Meeting of the Rural Forum postponed to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Invitation to Dementia Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> November, advice re possible grant to improve the War Memorial, proposal to divert a bridleway on the Ibstone/Stokenchurch boundary (no objection), donation from the Masonic Lodge for repair of the War Memorial (grateful thanks recorded), invitation to Community Library AGM (Cllr Davis to attend), invitation to BALC AGM, application from a resident in Mill Road for re-positioning of a street light, receipt of Best Kept Village certificate, information from WDC re Mudds Farm Stud Farm registration, information from Persimmon Homes concerning the Scholars Rise development (the Parish Council has no interest in this matter) and lastly, a response from the resident in Ferndale, who had been requested to cut back his overhanging hedge and trees (clerk to advise that the Highways Authority will be requested to undertake the work for which he will be charged).

**10. The Commons.** Members agreed that the Commons were looking good. Cllr Watson reported that Village Hall committee at Studley Green were concerned about the car park tarmac; a base coat had been applied about 8 years ago and now a top coat was urgently required, especially around the entrance. The committee had proposed to offset the cost against the rent, but Members preferred to add the job to the list of items for consideration in next year's budget.

**11. Other Parish Matters.** (1) Cars are being parked on the grass verges along the Marlow Road. (2) There are some large potholes in The Kings car-park; it may be possible to ask The Kings to give a donation towards the repair work. (3) The road sweeper is failing to clean both sides of the road at the school crossing patrol location and by Hartmoor Close, where fir trees are dropping their needles; another fir tree is becoming over-grown. (4) Litter-picking is to be postponed to 6<sup>th</sup> October; Cllr Preece will organize and hopefully refreshments will be available at the end. (5) Allotments: a complaint has been received from a plot-holder; Cllr Thomas has prepared a letter to be sent to all allotment holders regarding rents for 2018/19 (6) It was agreed to re-instate posts, either concrete or steel in Mill Lane (7) a road closure order to be requested in connection with the Remembrance Day Parade; a wreath has to be ordered from the Royal British Legion. Repair work for the War Memorial is required and to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the Great War, a record of the service held in 1918 is available. (8) a container belonging to the Junior Football team at Longburrow has been damaged and should be removed (9) cemetery: stonemasons and funeral directors have been submitting photographs of headstones for approval, but then installing kerb stones without obtaining permission. They should be advised of the Council's policy of 'No kerb-stones' and told that they will be responsible for the cost of removal.