

## STOKENCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7 November 2018 at Longburrow Hall at 7.30 pm**

**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

**District :** Cllr S Saddique

**County:** Cllr C Etholen

**Minutes :** Heather Presland, Clerk (welcomed as the new Clerk to the Parish)

**Members of the Public :** 8

**1. Acceptance of Apologies for Absence**

Cllr S Garrett; Cllr C Saunders, Cllr S Adoh

**2. Declarations of Interest (agenda items)**

Cllr Nuthall (bills payable); Cllr Watson (bills payable)

**3. To Confirm Minutes of 17 October 2018**

The minutes of the meeting of 17 October were approved, proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Baker

**4. Matters Arising (information only)**

Cllr Preece - enquiries had been made about the cost of 1000 stickers on the wheelie bins on the main road - £475. Clerk to check Wycombe District Council has no objection to this.

**5. Reports/Actions**

Cllr Preece – Cllrs Baker, Preece and Chadwick had recently completed a premises audit of Longburrow Hall. A document is being prepared with recommendations and budget which will be presented to the Council to agree future improvements. Cllr Davis – (1) Cllr Davis had been to the recent Red Kite meeting who are proposing a block of 3 and a block of 2 flats as you go into Britnell Court. There were a lot of objections, mainly around the parking problems. (2) Cllr Davis went to the library's first meeting which was a sell-out. It went very well and the next meeting is also sold out. (3) Cllr Davis said roadworks were being undertaken on the main road from 19 November. He had been assured the Parish Council will be informed about this. Cllr Watson – There was discussion about who owned the land where a car and other rubbish had been dumped in Bigmore Lane. It was believed to be Mr Ayres name on the Land Registry. Cllr Thomas – An inspection of the allotments had taken place and he had circulated identified issues in an email.

**6. Notification of Parish Matters (information only)**

Councillors raised the following matters : Mill Lane footpath issues, bus shelter in Marlow Road, flowers, speed signs, CJ Stores, pavement in Chalk Farm Road

**7. Planning**

**18/07744** - Jacobs Ladder, Bricks Lane, Beacons Bottom - Householder application for construction of a single storey front extension, entrance porch canopy and fenestration alterations to second floor and internet alterations incorporating new lift (Mr & Mrs Hopkiss). No objection - proposed by Cllr Preece and seconded by Cllr Chadwick.

**18/07568** - Land at Maplefield Farm City Road, Stokenchurch - Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for the retention of a mobile home as residential dwelling. Cllr Preece said there was a belief there had been deliberate concealment. As mobile home was less than ten years old, the conditions for approval were not met.

Objection proposed by Cllr Preece and seconded by Cllr Davis.

**8. District & County Councillors**

County issues

Cllr Etholen confirmed there would be one Unitary Council with effect from 1 April 2020. All elections due to take place in May 2019 would be postponed until 7 May 2020. He went through the benefits of move to one Unitary Council and the draft secondary legislation would pass through Parliament in early January 2019.

There would be active engagement with the local communities about the changes and a lot of engagement with Parish Councils about devolvement of services and discussions about the financial benefits. A shadow Council would be put in place and it was expected this would be more District than County led and District and County Councils were being encouraged to work together.

Asked about whether it was possible to challenge the timeframe Cllr Saddique said the only option was to ask for a judicial review but one had recently taken place elsewhere in the country and had been lost. He also explained that Councillors will have to be co-opted from May 2019 until the 2020 elections. The next election would take place in 2023 and would then revert to the District Council election timetable.

Cllr Etholen said the Bucks County Council annual budget consultation was currently underway until 14 November. He also spoke about changes to other statutory requirements and would forward these to the Clerk for distribution.

Cllr Preece thanked County for the vegetation clearance in Mudds Bank. Thanks were also given for the improvements to the road through to West Wycombe as well as to CJ Stores. Cllr Etholen said he would ensure the teams involved in these works were aware of the appreciation expressed.

District issues - Cllr Saddique asked Councillors to consider any suitable local projects that could be considered for inclusion the upcoming Budget discussions.

#### 9. Finance

Mrs Veronica Wood was welcomed as the Parish Council's new bookkeeper.

- **Monthly Accounts for October 2018** - October's monthly accounts were approved. Proposed by Cllr Preece and seconded by Cllr Baker.
- **Bills Payable** - Bills payable were approved. Proposed by Cllr Preece and seconded by Cllr Thomas.
- **2019/2020 Budget** - Cllr Preece said a Finance Committee meeting would be held on 21 November at 1100 in Longburrow Hall to discuss the 2019/20 budget.

Cllr Nuthall said everyone need to think about and ideas and projects to be included in the next budget round and our precept need to be with County by January. She requested proposals for any projects and a list of those proposals to be considered should be sent to the Clerk before 20 November. These will be reviewed at the Finance Committee on 21 November and will then be for consideration and discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 5 December.

#### 10. Correspondence

(1) CJ Stores - An email had been received from a member of the public about a parking sign that had appeared outside the stores. Discussion took place about this and Cllr Watson suggested the matter be revisited when a police officer attended a Council meeting. Cllr Preece stated the objective was to stop people parking there in the first place which had been achieved.

(2) Charity Challenge 2019 – This would be taking place over the weekend of 27 and 28 July 2019. It was to be a 60 mile run and walking event with around 2000 participants. Also made contact about hiring of the hall. There were no objections.

(3) Allotments – There had been a request from an allotment holder to house a honey bee hive on his allotment and a proposal had been submitted. Cllr Thomas clarified the background to the request and said set up costs to the allotment holder would be around £1000. Cllr Preece felt caution should be exercised as there appeared to be an element of risk to the Parish and legal advice should be sought before a decision was made. Cllr Baker

objected on the grounds that the allotments are public land owned by the Parish and others use that land. Decision deferred until legal advice received.

(4) A consultation was currently underway about school transport, including its cost.

Cllr Chadwick said there was an educational charity which can help disabled children with the cost of transport.

(5) An email had been received about future devolved services for a further four years.

This had previously been discussed by the Parish and it had been agreed that the grass cutting services would be retained but there was no interest in having funding for minor road repairs and dropped kerbs.

#### 11. **The Commons**

(1) Cllr Baker asked whether a Christmas Tree had been ordered. It was confirmed it had, with a delivery date of 23 November. (2) Cllr Nuthall asked that a Councillor met with Simon Tickner about the first 20 posts to be installed. Cllr Davis offered to do this and Cllr Baker suggested the first posts be installed on Mill Lane.

#### 12. **Other Parish Matters**

(1) Cllr Preece raised a concern from a member of the public who had fallen over in Mill Lane. Cllr Baker stated Mill Lane was an unkept tarmac road and it was believed the path had been put in without consent. (2) Cllr Davis stated the Marlow Road bus shelter had been vandalised again and although it could be repaired, it needed something more permanent. (3) Cllr Nuthall read out a thank you letter received after the Parish delivered a bouquet of flowers to a resident who had celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. (4) Cllr Davis said the speed signs were working again and Cllr Watson he would be going out with the Parish Warden to check them. (5) Cllr Davis requested Councillors to visit the Memorial Club to see the work that had been done in there for which they had raised their own funds. (6) Cllr Davis stated the Fleur de Lis was soon to re-open. (6) Cllr Chadwick said there were residents who would like to plant some bulbs in the village and Cllr Davis added there might be an opportunity to buy bulbs from the garden centre which was coming to the end of the season. (7) Cllr Watson said the pavement outside 39 Chalk Farm Road was being pushed up by some hedging. He would ask the Parish Warden to visit and then a standard letter may have to be issued. (8) Cllr Nuthall raised the perceived increase in crime in the area, much of which had been debated on the Stokenchurch Community Facebook page. She had spoken to PC Danny O'Driscoll who had sent through a report on crime reported to Thames Valley Police in Stokenchurch since 1 October and only 11 crimes appeared. She emphasised that members of the public needed to report crimes to the police either on line or by phone. PC Danny O'Driscoll was coming back to her with some dates to hold a Crime Prevention Meeting to be held in Longburrow Hall which would be widely advertised. It would be about giving advice to members of the public. Cllr Baker felt a higher ranking officer would be beneficial to be in attendance as the local officer could only do so much. A resident said he had done an audit of the Stokenchurch Facebook page and from all the crimes which had been mentioned since July/August, there appeared to have been a 43% increase for the HP14 area. He was asked to email the information to the Clerk.

From the Floor - (1) Mr Randall asked whether there was an update on the lighting on the motorway bridge. Cllr Preece said it had already been repaired several times. He had also personally reported it. There appeared to be an underlying problem that needed to be addressed, but the issue was in a queue awaiting attention. (2) Mr Randall asked whether there was any update on the light by the school. Cllr Nuthall replied she did not know. Mr Randall said the light by the vicarage was now working again although he realised it was not a Parish responsibility. Cllr Preece said he would have a walk along there and report it if needed.

**Meeting finished at 2055**