

**The MINUTES of the meeting of
held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7.00pm
at Stoughton Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Bob Battey (BB) (Chair)
Cllr Tom Richardson (TR) (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mrs June Sparrow (JS)
Cllr Paul Cresswell (PC)
Cllr Mrs Tracey Mee (TM)
Clerk Karen Giddens (KG)

32/31 Election of Chair of 2021-2022

Cllr Battey was nominated for the office of Chair. There were no other nominations. Cllr Battey was elected as Chair for 2021-2022.

33/21 Election of Vice Chair for 2021-2022

Cllr Richardson was nominated for the office of Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Cllr Richardson was elected as Vice Chair for 2021-2022.

34/21 To receive Councillors Declarations of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Battey and Cllr Richardson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

35/21 Apologies for absence.

None received.

36/21 To receive Declarations of Members Interests.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

37/21 Chair's Annual Report for year ended 31.03.2021.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Council for their support in holding the Parish Council meetings by Zoom. I would also like thank Tom for taking the Chair in my absence and for his support.

There are two things that I wish to discuss. The first one, I have been extremely disappointed with the lack of contact and follow up from Harborough District Council Planning Department. I have sent a letter and received no response from them and am therefore going to request an appointment to see both the Planning Officer and the Conservation Officer with reference to 23 Gaulby Lane. For this reason, I have scored the Department poor on their recent evaluation survey. 23 Gaulby Lane. Grade 2 listed building and I believe this applies not only to the outside of the building but also the inside which is in an extremely poor condition.

Over the year the Council have been able to protect green open spaces and acted appropriately with planning issues. For the future I have concerns over the new planning

laws. In the future the new planning laws could be an issue. The Council need to look at planning very carefully as taking out a lot of green space is being talked about. Protected areas may be in danger. I am looking to take up an appointment with local the local MP to discuss these issues.

Cllr Gaulton has said in his election address that he will support with enforcement of the 20mph speed limit. There has been a slight impact from the input of the dragons teeth, however I feel the bumps in the road in some areas are not high enough and this is something we will be looking into this year to see if they can be raised. The 20mph speed limit is enforceable in some areas and I feel we should once again make communication through the Police Constable and Police Commissioner. This is something to pursue in the coming year.

This year there has been minimal Parishioner's complaints which is an indication of contentment in the village.

The Council are looking into further planting of trees that are suitable for the village and treating the benches. The joining of the Wildflower verge scheme is also further enhancing the village.

38/21 Parishioners Comments

None.

39/21 To appoint representatives for the Community Gardens Committee.

Cllr BB and Cllr TM and Cllr TR were appointed as representatives.

40/21 To adopt the Terms of Reference for the Community Gardens Plots Committee.

These were reviewed and adopted by the Council.

41/21 To review the Risk Assessment.

The risk Assessment was reviewed and adopted by the Council.

42/21 To review the Asset Register.

The Asset register to 31st March 2021 was agreed as accurate by the Council.

43/21 To review the Standing Orders.

The Standing Orders were reviewed and adopted by the Council.

44/21 To review the Financial Regulations.

The Financial Regulations were reviewed and adopted by the Council.

45/21 To review the Equal Opportunities.

The policy was reviewed and adopted by the Council.

46/21 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 09.03.2021.

Resolved: The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

47/21 To review any actions from the minutes of the meeting held on 09.03.2021.

i) 23 Gaulby Lane

The response from Harborough District Council was that they have spoken with the Owner and that he was going to carry out some work in April and has agreed to update them. H.D.C. have allowed additional time to comply with the requirements of the S215 Notice to rebuild the wall due to challenges presented by the Covid restrictions over the last year.

On the matter of the internal condition of the building H.D.C. stated:

“there is no requirement to force an owner of a listed building to maintain it except where it is identified as a building at risk, or/and is so bad that it would require a repairs notice (which is not the case with this property).”

H.D.C. stated they would be reviewing the case the first week in May and would notify the Parish Council of any developments. To date nothing has been received.

A parishioner has reported rats in the garden frightening a child while playing.

It is also reported that joists have been sawn, and cracks have appeared in a neighbouring wall. The Parishioner has been in contact with H.D.C. with no response.

Chair (BB) has expressed extreme concern that officers of the council are not supporting the public in serious matters such as this when they arise.

It was resolved: Cllr (TR) would ask Parishioner if the Parish Council could have copies of the letters sent to H.D.C. in order to escalate this matter.

i) Fence at 12 Gaulby Lane.

The fence at this property which backs onto the recreation area is in disrepair. Concerns have been raised that it could potentially be a hazard to children and pets.

Resolved: To send a letter to the Parishioner and the outcome to be reported at next meeting.

ii) Trees at 14 Gaulby Lane

Trees at this property have been removed without the appropriate action being taken.

Resolved: To send a letter to no 14 to ensure they are aware that you cannot cut down trees in a conservation area.

iii) Branches on the bank by Sandybank Cottage

These have still not been cleared despite the Council previously contacting Leicestershire County Council.

Resolved: Clerk to raise a further request to L.C.C.

iv) Clerk salary

To authorise Standing Order for payment of Clerks Salary quarterly.

Resolved: Standing Order form signed.

Financial Matters

48/21 To approve the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21.
Resolved: To Approve.

49/21 To approve the accounting statements 2020 – 2021.
Resolved: Approved

50/21 To approve the Accounts and Financial statement and for end of year to 31.03.2021.
Resolved: Approved

51/21 Bank reconciliation and bank statement verification for year ended 31.03.2021.
Resolved – Approved.

52/21 To approve Community Garden Accounts for year ended 31.03.2021.
Resolved – Approved.

53/21 To approve payments detailed in expenditure.

54/21 To approve bank reconciliation to 05.05.2021.

55/21 - Planning

21/00325/FUL - 42 Whiteoaks Stoughton Lane - Approved

21/00383/FUL - Rose Cottage Gartree Lane - Withdrawn

56/21 Wildflower Verge and Pond area update including funded offer of space on parish wildlife pages on Naturespot website.

Wildflower verge scheme in progress. No decision made on the Naturespot page. To look into further and add as an agenda item for next meeting.

57/21 Refurbishment of benches, tables and play equipment.

The memorial bench in the allotment area has already been treated.

Around the village the total number of items that need refurbishment:

1 semi-circular bench, 7 benches and 4 picnic tables in need of refurbishment.

Resolved: To obtain three and add to next agenda.

Agenda item for next meeting

58/21 Blossom Trees

It was resolved to plant a suitable blossom tree in the recreation area next to the circle and bench in memory of Duke of Edinburgh November.

Agreed by all.

59/21 Visual Inspection of Play Area

Replacement swing seat has been fitted.

Basketball net to be repaired.

Climbing frame slates need reinforcement and quote received: to purchase and paint with nonslip coat on back right platform of climbing frame and support underside. Quote received £90.00.

Resolved: To Approve.

60/21 H.D.C Council Call for Sites

No sites to submit.

61/21 Airport Noise

A letter of complaint has been received by the Council.

We have discussed this matter thoroughly and looking further into the matter and will get back to the Aeroclub to discuss in more detail and get back to the Parishioners at the earliest possibility.

Resolved: To look into further and feedback at the next meeting in July.

A.O.B – For notification only.

Bonfires

The Parish Council are aware of a recent increase in the number of Bonfires taking place in the village. Regrettably, our Local Waste Tips have been operating a much reduced, service for over a year now and as Summer approaches, it may be tempting to attack the overgrown garden and use the arising material to make a bonfire. Please respect those living near to you – to them this may be offensive, injurious, or even a serious health threat. If it hurts or harms your neighbour in any way, don't do it. A notice will be going out to residents in the next edition of the Stoughton Flyer.

The Parish Council are contacting the District Council with regard to the width of the path on Church Lane. Vegetation had made it is very narrow, and they are to investigate the possibility of the path being widened North east side the whole length of church lane. This may just be that the vegetation needs clearing.

To be reviewed at next meeting.

62/21 Date of next meeting – 13th July 2021

The Meeting closed at 21:05