

The MINUTES of the meeting of  
held on Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.00pm  
at Stoughton Village Hall

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**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)  
Cllr Peter Elliot (PE) (District Councillor)  
1 parishioner present

**001/22 Welcome and introductions and Chairs opening remarks.**

Chair BB opened the meeting and wished all a happy New Year. He pointed out that the plaque from the Aerodrome that was presented at the summer fete to the Parish Council and noted that it would need to be relocated due to lighting in the Village Hall the plaque is not displayed in the most appropriate way. Cllr Sparrow is going to oversee.

**002/22 Apologies for absence**

None received.

**003/22 Declarations of Members Interests.**

There were no declarations of Interest.

**004/22 Parishioners Comments**

Parishioner raised their concern about the application for the felling of tree in the conservation area. Chair (BB) advised that application in question was on the agenda for discussion under planning. Chair (BB) thanked the parishioner for raising this.

**005/22 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 09.11.2021.**

**Approved.**

**006/22 To review any actions from the minutes of the meeting on 09.11.2021**

i. There has been no response from H.D.C. planning department to the letter sent by Stoughton Parish Council requesting a meeting with the planning department. Chair (BB) asked if it could be due to restrictions that there had not been a response. District Cllr (PE) said he could see no reason not to be able to have a meeting with the planning department and suggested the Council contact David Atkinson Head of Planning at Harborough District Council. (H.D.C)

**Chair proposed** that Clerk write to Head of Planning at H.D.C. to request a meeting and state the Councils major concern that no response from Senior Planning Officer or Conservation Officer has been made and to ask for a meeting in the immediate future and send agenda previously sent to Senior Planning Officer.

**Agreed by All.**

ii. 23 Gaulby Lane – The Parish Council have major concerns about the condition of the property. The Parish Council have written to H.D.C. on numerous occasions. There are major concerns that looking at the building from the outside the building no longer appears to be watertight. Floorboards have been removed. There is an enforcement order still outstanding on the wall, but no work has been done and no further enforcement action taken.

**It was proposed** that Clerk include this in the letter to Head of Planning the Department at H.D.C.

iii. There has been no further communication from Savills or the Co-op on the proposed sale of the recreation area. Legal advice has been sought on the lease that has 108 years remaining. The Council have been assured that the lease must be maintained even when the land is sold. The decision the Council must make is whether to make another offer or to write to say that the Council regret the fact that they have not had a response to their offer.

**It was resolved:** Clerk to write letter to Savills and Co-op to include the fact that the Council regrets the fact that no response to their offer has been made.

**007/22 To approve the Budget Statement for 2022-2023**  
**Approved**

**008/22 To approve the Budget and Precept Requirement for 2022-2023**

A discussion on the Budget took place. Cllr (TR) stated that it was considered prudent to allocate £3000.00 under General reserves. Inflation was 5.1% in November and goods and services could potentially go up at the same rate. Future considerations to be considered include the potential refurbishment of the Play Area.

As the Co-op are actively marketing land in the Village potentially there could be a need to seek legal advice which would incur additional costs. It is also possible that if the situation arose that the Village Hall was on the market in the future it is possible that Parish Council would want to purchase a share.

It cannot be guaranteed also that Grass Cutting subsidy from LCC ceases in the future. A 5% increase on Precept equates to £3.00 per household per annum and raises an additional per £422.50 annum for the Council.

**It was Proposed:** to increase the Precept in the present circumstance by 10 per cent as inflation in 2022 could be higher than anticipated so an adjustment now is appropriate. This equates to £6 per household per annum.

**It was resolved to approve:** a budget and precept requirement of £9295.00 for the financial year 01.04.2022 to 01.04.2023. This is an increase of 10% or £6.00 per annum increase in Council Tax per band D equivalent properties.

**009/22 Financial Matters**

- a. **To approve payments detailed in expenditure.**  
**Approved**

**b. To approve Bank Reconciliation to 03.12.2021**

Clerk received Bank statement to 03.01.2022 so reconciliation to 05.01.2022

**Approved**

**Stoughton Parish Council**

**Bank Reconciliation**

**As of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Prepared by Karen Giddens Clerk and RFO

To be approved by Council and signed by Bob Battey, Chairman.

NatWest Current Account

Balance per bank statements as of 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	£12613.38
Plus, unpresented cheques as of 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	£0.00
Plus, unbanked cash as of 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	£0.00
Net Balance as of 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	£12613.38

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Opening balance 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	£9610.84
Add receipts to 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	£9918.61

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<b>Total</b>	<b>£19529.45</b>
Less Payments to 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	£8047.61

**Closing Balance as per cashbook as of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**    **£11,481.84**

**£11,481.84**

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman    Date    11.01.2022

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk    Date    11.01.2022

**010/22 Grass cutting tender 2022 2026**

Of the four invitations to tender sent out only two have been received. Based on cost and individual hourly rate for any additional work required it was resolved to offer the 2022 – 2026 contract to M&BG.

**Agreed by All**

**011/22 Notice of Intention to close Churchyard at Stoughton Church**

The Parish Council have been notified by the Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Thurnby with Stoughton of their intention to apply to the Ministry of Justice for an order in Council to discontinue burials in the Churchyard under section 1 of the Burial act 1953. Chair explained this means the maintenance responsibility automatically falls to the Parish Council but if they do not want to take responsibility it must give a written resolution within a three month period from the date of receiving the notice of intention to close. It then becomes mandatory for the District Council to take responsibility for the Churchyard maintenance.

**It was resolved** not to accept responsibility for the Churchyard and give notice to the District Council.

**012/22 To note any Planning matters**

**21/02129FUL Land to the south of Gaulby Lane Stoughton**

Chair (BB) discussed the planning application on the Barn. The onsite notice states if householders make an objection the objection must go to the secretary of state. Cllr (TR) noted that permission under class Q has already been approved and building can commence at any time, however this application is under full planning has previously been turned down. If this application is allowed, it would be approval of a planning application on the green wedge. Cllr (BB) as a Stoughton resident has sent a letter to H.D.C. raising his objections.

**21/02212TCA Works to trees in Conservation Area, Gaulby Lane, Stoughton**

An application for the removal of the regenerated diseased Elm. Cllr (TR) stated that a tree safety report has been carried out by Tilhill Forestry and that the tree tag No 1090 was dead. Cllr Richardson been onsite and has confirmed that the tree is dead.

**It was approved** That the parish council have no objection to the removal of the regenerated Elm but request that no work be done to the adjacent Tilia or Aesculus specimens. They also ask that the gap that will be left taking out the tree but insist that the gap in the hedge is replaced with hawthorn whips before mid March. Cllr Mee wanted it noted for the record that she could not agree.

**Resolved:** Clerk to submit approval subject to conditions stated.

**013/22 Annual Playground Inspection Report**

The playground inspection did not highlight any urgent immediate action required. It was resolved: to review any action required following the annual inspection report as and necessary repairs to be completed as required.

**014/22 Dragon Teeth when entering Stoughton on Gaulby Lane past old Charity Farm**

The dragon teeth have not been reinstated when entering the village on Gaulby Lane past Old Charity Farm. Cllr (JS) also raised that since the resurfacing work the state of the road surface has been left in an extremely bad condition. At the turning into Old Charity Farm the top surface has completely come off in patches.

**It was resolved:** Clerk to formally submit issue to Highways.

**015/22 Condition of Gaulby Lane road surface from junction of Old Charity farm to junction of Stretton Lane Airfield**

Cllr (JS) raised that since the resurfacing work the state of the road surface has been left in an extremely bad condition. At the turning into Old Charity Farm the top surface has completely come off in patches. Cllr (TR) stated that she is in ongoing contact with the designated officer responsible at L.C.C. and has raised both issues whilst raising her major concerns that a speed hump on Church Lane that been that was scheduled to be raised has been totally removed and the road surface flattened.

**It was resolved:** Clerk to formally submit issue to Highways.

**016/22 IT back up Support**

With immediate effect IT back up support with Astley computers was agreed To be reviewed before renewal in a year.

**It was resolved to approve**

**017/22 Queens Platinum Jubilee**

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations take place over an extended bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It was agreed to publicise in the next flyer Village. Cllr (PC) suggested having a village photo to commemorate the occasion the date and time to be confirmed and published on the Village Facebook, website, and flyer. Also, a Commemorative tree to be planted. Type and location to be confirmed.

**Agreed by All.**

**018/22 Meeting with Aeroclub Stoughton Airfield – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The Parish Council are meeting with the Aeroclub on 27.01.22 @ 13:00pm  
Cllr Richardson has noted two occasions of unbearable noise to be discussed.

**019/22 Thurnby Lane Residents**

Annual lease on land at rear of resident’s gardens has been terminated by the Co-op  
Plots are currently on the market.

**020/22 Meeting with Young Persons Officer H.D.C. - 10.11.2021.**

No young persons from the village have responded to invitation in the flyer.  
No further action required.

**021/22 Date of next meetings.**

- 08.03.2022
- 10.05.2022
- 12.07.2022
- 13.09.2022
- 08.11.2022

**Matters arising for discussion only**

New batteries for the defibrillator estimated cost £180.00.  
Subject to discussions with the British Heart Foundation.

The lack of Chimes from the Church Clock was discussed.

**Meeting Closed at 20:50pm**