The MINUTES of the Stoughton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13th September 2022 at 7.00pm

at Stoughton Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Bob Battey (BB) (Chair)

Cllr Tom Richardson (TR) (Vice Chair)

Cllr Mrs Tracey Mee (TM)

Cllr Mrs June Sparrow (JS)

Clerk Victoria Webster (VW)

**081/22 Welcome, Introductions and Chairs opening remarks.**

Chair BB welcomed all to the meeting and explained that tonight’s meeting would take on a different format to normal. The meeting would be held in two halves, a formal statement will read in relation to the recent death of the Queen, followed by one minute silence. Following this, items 91 and 92 will be brought forward for discussion in agreement with Councillors.

**It was resolved:** to bring these items forward.

All agreed to this.

**082/22** **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from and Cllr Paul Cresswell.

**It was resolved**: to accept and approve the apologies of the Councillor.

**083/22** **Declarations of Members Interests**.

Cllr Mrs June Sparrow is a trustee of the Village Hall.

Cllr Bob Battey read out the following

We are meeting tonight at a time of great sadness due to the passing on of our beloved Queen. As she lays in rest before her funeral it is right and proper that this Parish of Stoughton in Leicestershire pays homage to the excellent work she has done for our country, the state and the commonwealth.

During her very long reign she has shown very high degrees of compassion, commitment and understanding. She has always given her best and we feel secure that as her son, King Charles the third takes over he, with the support of members of the Royal Family, will show the same commitment to their work. Good Save the King.

This was followed by one minute silence.

**084/22 Parishioners Comments**

Two parishioners attended the meeting to discuss their concerns with the roundabout on Shady Lane. They use the roundabout regularly and, on several occasions, have nearly been involved in an accident. The vision is poor, people don’t give way or even see the roundabout as the signage is poor. The parishioners have already written to the City Council but have not received a reply or acknowledgement. The parishioners believe this is a common feeling throughout Stoughton.

Councillors sympathised with the parishioners and agreed that this is also their experience of the roundabout and that they felt it was appropriate to take action.

**It was resolved:** to send a letter to the City and County Council

All agreed to this.

**Action:** TR to draft a letter

Bill Richmond, a village hall trustee attended the meeting to discuss and report on the auction of the village hall. Please see the separate document attached to these minutes which contains Bill’s full report.

Bill formally wrote to the auctioneers and the Co-op on the 31st August 2022 to inform them that the data on their website is a mis representation of the property/land. Bill is yet to receive a reply.

Bill confirmed that the village hall charity has accumulated £30k over the years through good management which could potentially pay for the purchase of the village hall. This is through the long-term agreement with the school.

The Parish Council wrote to Alicia Kearns in relation to the matter who replied that it was outside her remit and advised us to seek legal advice.

The village hall trustees could potentially register the village hall as an Asset of Community Value, which would give them the right to buy but this takes up to 8 weeks to be processed. Whilst this would not meet the auction date of the 20th October it could stop the auction going ahead for 6 months to enable the trustee’s to raise the required funds, as per the terms of the guidelines.

A discussion ensued with regards to contacting the press in relation to this matter but there was no definitive outcome as to whether this would have a positive impact.

It was resolved: that whilst the Parish Council is in sympathy of contacting the press, they would wait until chance of negotiation has passed and then, if necessary, call an emergency meeting. To discuss this option further.

**Agreed by all.**

**It was resolved**: to thank the village hall committee for all their efforts to keep the village hall in the village

**Agreed by all.**

**085/22 Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26.07.2022.**

The minutes were approved.

**086/22 To review any actions from the minutes of the meeting on 26.07.2022**

There were no recorded actions to consider.

**087/22 Discuss 23 Gaulby Lane**

At least 11 and half years have passed since the property was purchased and very little has been done to the property apart from taking the inside to pieces. Despite the receipt of a reply from the Enforcement Officer, who has confirmed they have no concerns with the property, the Parish Council would like to see the property evaluated for safety from the inside. It is felt the property will soon fall into disrepair.

**It was resolved**: to write to the owners again to ask them their intentions towards the property as it is in a serious state of repair, request their reasoning as to why very little has been done to the property and what their plans are for the property. It will be suggested that if they are unable to progress the property, they should sell it as it is now an eyesore and dangerous. A copy of the letter will be put through the door of the property and sent to the Enforcement Officer.

**Agreed by all.**

**Action: VW to draft and send a letter to the owners, in conjunction with TM.**

**088/22 Discuss the conversion of barn**

The appeal is still ongoing. The Parish Council lodged their response to the appeal on the 21st April 2022 with the District Council and no response has been received yet. It is unknown if any visit has taken place.

**089/22 To discuss and approve the use of the Village Hall on a Tuesday for Yoga Classes**

Resolved prior to the meeting. This was just a one-off event and will not impact the Parish Council’s ability to continue to utilise the village hall for their meetings on a Tuesday.

**090/22 Dealing with the issues in the village, contact the Police Commissioner**

The village has been experiencing a number of anti-social behaviour issues which have been reported to the necessary authorities. However, it is felt that that situation isn’t being taken seriously enough and the Parish Council are considering writing to the Police Commissioner to make him aware of the situation and gauge his opinion/guidance.

There was a meeting with the Police Commissioner in Thurnby recently, which TR was unable to attend but was able to pass on the Parish Councils concerns to be presented. We were informed the Police Commissioner would respond to our concerns, but no response has been received yet.

The Parish Council have written to the housing association again where the residents live that are causing the majority of the anti-social behaviour. A response has been received confirming they have passed our comments on to the relevant departments, authorities etc.

**It was resolved**: to write to the Police Commissioner outlining our concerns.

Agreed by all.

**Action: TR to draft a letter**

**091/22 To discuss the issues with the mini roundabout on Shady Lane**

Discussed in item 084/22.

**092/22 To discuss the auction of the village hall**

Discussed in item 084/22.

**093/22 Thank you letter for the Jubilee photo**

**It was resolved**: to write to Sharn to acknowledge our appreciation.

**Action:** JS to draft a letter.

**094/22 To authorise the purchase of Replacement pads for Defibrillator**

The pads must be replaced every 2 years and they are due to be replaced in October.

**It was resolved**: JS will order the pads and bring the invoice to the next meeting for payment.

It was noted that the torch from the box next to the defibrillator was taken and the replaced torch donated by a villager. The second torch has now also been taken.

**Action:** to review how this can be stored in the box securely.

**095/22 To discuss Church Lane hedges**

This was discussed at a previous meeting. A number of hedges on Church Lane needed to be cut due to them encroaching on the path. Numbers 13, 9 and 5 still haven’t cut their hedges as previously agreed following a letter sent to them in the Spring and following TM speaking directly to them about this.

**It was resolved**: to write to them again and if they do not cut the hedge following this third attempt, the Parish Council will employ professionals to carry out the work and charge the individuals.

**Action:** VW and TM to liaise and draft a letter.

**096/22 To discuss the church clock**

TM reported that the church clock doesn’t chime despite the Parish Council paying a lot of money to get the chime repaired. TM would like to know why this is the case.

**It was resolved**: to speak to the church and ask them why.

**Action:** TM to contact the church

**097/22 To discuss the Church Lane, road hump**

The road hump on Church Lane is not fit for purpose and does not slow traffic down. It has been confirmed that it is not standard height and needs increasing in height. A letter was sent to the Council asking if this could be revisited but a reply hasn’t been received.

**It was resolved**: that a further letter should be sent to the Council.

**Action:** VW to liaise with TM about this and double check if we have received a reply.

It was also noted that the village is still waiting for the dragons teeth to be repainted on Gaulby Lane.

**It was resolved:** that a letter needs to be sent to Highways reminding them this needs to be done.

**Action:** TR to draft a letter

**098/22**

**a.** To approve payments due and detailed in expenditure.

**Approved.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PAYEE** | **DETAILS** | **NET** | **VAT** | **GROSS** |
| M&BG | Grounds Maintenance 87451 | £183.74 | £36.75 | £220.49 |
| Waterplus | Community garden water | £33.04 | £6.61 | £39.65 |
| V. Webster | Parish Council Laptop | £249.17 | £49.83 | £299.00 |
| V. Webster | Microsoft Office for Parish Council Laptop | £0 | £0 | £59.99 |
| V. Webster | Clerks Salary | £0 | £0 | £190.73 |
| M&BG | Grounds Maintenance 86710 | £183.74 | £36.75 | £220.49 |
| HMRC | V. Webster Tax August 2022 | £0 | £0 | £47.60 |
| DM Payroll Services | April 2022 – September 2022 | £0 | £0 | £60.00 |
| J. Sparrow | Reimbursement for flyer & photos | £0 | £0 | £160.85 |

**b.** To approve Bank Reconciliation

The clerk was unable to reconcile the bank accounts due to not having received the bank statements from the previous clerk.

**It was resolved**: that the clerk will send around an up to date bank reconciliation to the Councillors within the next week and also provide a full bank reconciliation at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action:** VW to distribute a bank reconciliation

**Matters arising for discussion only**

There is a Red Range Rover with the number plate SUL9 that continuously speeds through and around the village. TM has visited the property where the driver lives and spoke to the mother who spoke to her son who is the driver and reassured her, he wouldn’t speed again. He continues to do so.

**It was resolved**: to send a letter to the driver, expressing the Parish Councils concerns with his excessive speeds, both through the village, which is a 20mph area and also, in the 60mph area, beyond the village. He will be warned the police strictly enforce the 60mph and ask them to visit the village. They will be advised to contact BB if they want to discuss the matter further.

All agreed to this.

**Action:** TR to draft a letter.

The wall outside the Moffit’s property is now cracking quite badly now. The Parish Council will continue to monitor this. It is likely the tree would need to be removed to stop the wall from being damaged.

Date of next meeting: 8th November 2022

**Meeting Closed at 8.47pm**