

The Minutes of the Stoughton Annual Parish Council Meeting on **Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm in Stoughton Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Bob Battey (BB) (Chair)
Cllr Tom Richardson (TR) (Vice Chair)
Cllr June Sparrow (JS)
Cllr Tracy Mee (TM)
Cllr Kirsty Volpe (KV)
Cllr Peter Elliott (PE)
Victoria Webster (Clerk)

1/23. Election of Chair

BB put himself forward for Chair for 2023/24. All Councillors approved this proposal.

2/23. Election of Vice Chair

All Councillors proposed TR as Vice Chair for 2023/24. TR accepted the proposal.

3/23. Apologies

No apologies were received.

4/23. To Receive Councillors Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received and will be submitted to Harborough District Council.

5/23. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared.

6/23. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 7th March 2023

The minutes were agreed and approved by all Councillors.

7/23. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting of 7th March 2023

Renovation of village benches. JS has been sourcing someone to carry out the refurbishment and the price quoted is £300 for all the benches. BB proposed the Parish Council accepts the quote. Agreed by all Councillors.

8/23. Public Participation

No members of the public attended the meeting.

9/23. Appoint Representatives for the Community Gardens Committee

TM and TR were appointed.

10/23. Review Policies and Procedures

VW reviewed all the Parish Councils policies and procedures and only the Standing Orders required some changes to be made. These changes were put to the Councillors, and they were agreed by All.

During the review process it was identified that the Parish Council required a Subject Access Request Policy, Complaints Procedure, Press/Media Policy, and Employment policies. All Councillors agreed that these should be drawn up for the next meeting.

Action: VW to draw up the required policies stated above.

11/23. Review of Asset Register

VW reviewed the Asset Register, and the only change was the addition of the ACER laptop purchased for use by the Clerk. The Asset Register was presented to the Councillors for approval. All Councillors approved the document.

12/23. Review of Insurable Risks and Insurance Cover

Last year's policy documents were reviewed by VW and all Councillors, and it was agreed that no changes were required.

13/23. Review the Expenditure under S1.37 for 2022-2023

There has been no expenditure under S1.37

14/23. Accounts

a. Approve the Schedule of Payments

This was approved by all Councillors and cheques were signed.

1. Victoria Webster	£501.55
March and April salary	
2. HMRC	£44.60
Tax for Victoria Webster salary	
3. M&BG	£220.49
April grounds maintenance	
4. LRALC	£216.59
NALC and LRALC annual subscription	
5. Inside and Out	£100
Replace and recharge speed camera batteries	
6. Michael Ellis	£20.00
Repair to stand pipe	
7. BHIB	£528.08
Annual insurance premium	
8. Waterplus	£11.20
Community Gardens water supply	
9. Harborough District Council	£233.08
Dog and litter bin collection and Q3 grass cuts	

Payments agreed and paid outside of Parish Council meeting

10. M&BG	£220.50
March grounds maintenance	
11. Waterplus	£9.52
Community Gardens water supply	

b. Approval of Annual Accounts and signing of AGAR paperwork for 2022-2023

The paperwork was approved and signed by the Chair.

c. Precept receipt

VW confirmed receipt of the first half of the precept at a sum of £5397.00.

d. To approve the Community Gardens year end accounts

TR attended the annual meeting, and the year end accounts were approved. Plot fees equalled £350, and expenditure was £360 which included a purchase of a mower. The remaining total for the year was £806. BB congratulated the committee on their efficient expenditure.

15/23. Planning Applications

- 23/00344/FUL. Leicester Airport. Change of use of land/existing compound to Class E (old B1c) to B8 (general storage). No decision has been made yet.
- 23/00511/FUL. The Coppice, 20 Stoughton Lane. Erection of masonry pillars and gates and proposed new hedge. No decision has been made yet.

- 23/00631/FUL. The Coppice, 20 Stoughton Lane. Existing ditch infilled with soakaway to form level grass verge. No decision has been made yet.

A ditch elsewhere in the village was previously infilled and they were asked to remove it. The ditch in question continues to the bungalow next door so it isn't clear how the applicant plans to only do their half. The council have visited the site already. The ditch and roadside verge belong to LCC. TR proposed a response to the application. All agreed the response should be submitted.

Action: VW to submit the response on the Parish Councils behalf.

42 Gaulby Lane. The owner knocked the chimney down when they shouldn't have as the property falls within the conservation area. They were asked by the planning department at HDC to reinstate the chimney which they have not done. The owner has now retiled the section of roof where the chimney should be. JS spoke to the owner and appears he has no intention of replacing it. JS proposed the Parish Council should send a letter and accompanying photos to the planning department at HDC. All approved this.

Action: VW to send the letter and photos to HDC and copy to all Councillors.

Action: Add this item to the next agenda.

16/23. Future Meeting Dates

11th July 2023

12th September 2023

7th November 2023

9th January 2024

12th March 2024

14th May 2024

All Councillors approved these dates.

17/23. Community Gardens Annual Meeting

Nothing different to report other than what was reported in item 14/23. d.

18/23. LRALC Annual General Meeting

This will be discussed at a later date.

19/23. Sale of Land on Thurnby Lane

This land sold 6 months ago for £77,000 and it is once again for sale for £123,000. The owners probably found out they can't build on it as it is within the green belt.

20/23. 23 Gaulby Lane Update

This case is now with the Environmental Committee. BB wrote to them 3 weeks ago to request an update on the situation, but no response has been received. Christine Zachary said the Environment Committee are not in the public domain.

21/23. M.P. Actions

Following the recent summit with the local MP, it appears she has made a visit to Billesdon doctors' surgery and there is some improvement already. BB has written to the MP to obtain confirmation of this. BB confirmed he will contact the NHS if he doesn't get a reply from the MP as the surgery hasn't been inspected for some time. BB also requested the MP look into if the 20mph speed limit could be imposed like it is in Wales.

22/23. Plans for The Barn

The owner submitted a planning application which has now been approved by Consecutive Estate but with several conditions. The owner has made no further action since the application.

23/23. Aero Club Meeting

All Councillors are welcome to attend. TM, TR, BB and KV stated they would be attending the meeting.

Action: VW to contact Ivan and remind him of the scheduled meeting.

24/23. Roadworks on Gaulby Lane

Road work resurfacing is being completed as we speak, and we have been assured the dragons teeth will be reinstated upon completion.

We still haven't received a response in relation to the road humps despite phone calls and emails. We then put an official complaint in, and we still haven't received a reply. TM proposed we contact Michael Thornton to find out what the original request/job description was.

Action: VW to contact Michael Thornton to request a copy of the original request and copy this to Rob Griffiths who is Michael's senior.

25/23. Hedge on Church Lane

There has been an attempt to trim the hedge, but a bad job has been done. It was proposed we write to Bidwells again and ask for it to be trimmed appropriately so people can walk by and the path is clear.

Action: VW to contact Bidwells to request a proper cut of the hedge.

26/23. Community Speed Watch Posters

JS has seen posters in neighbouring villages in relation to the Community Speed Watch program. The program was discussed, and JS proposed the Parish Council apply to the program. This was seconded by TM.

Action: VW to obtain the program information and liaise with JS.

27/23. Rewilding the Roadside

A parishioner contacted the Parish Council about rewilding the roadside on Church Lane. TR proposed a response and all Councillors agreed to this. This was seconded by JM.

Action: VW to send the response to the parishioner.

28/23. Use of Facebook

KV bought the suggestion to the Parish Council of using Facebook as a means of communication with the village. There is a community village Facebook page with 122 followers. All agreed that KV is to post useful information about the Parish Council and village. All agreed to this.

29/23. Any Other Business

Village Dog Attack

A dog attack has been reported to the Parish Council involving a loose dog and a parishioner and their dog. TM received 3 phone calls on the morning of the incident happened. The dog was loose in the recreation area and ran towards the parishioner and her dog, upon which she had to pick her dog up. It is believed the loose dog was trying to get the other dog and bit the dog's tail and the owner on her feet. They managed to escape by climbing over a fence and went into a nearby house for assistance. TM phoned the owner to tell them their dog was loose, but the owner was out, and dog got out through the next doors garden. If this had been someone else within the village, it may not have been the same outcome. This has happened around 5 times over the last few years. The Parish Council has two alternatives, involve the dog warden, or take on the responsibility to inform the police. On the HDC website it states the police and dog warden must be contacted if a dog bites someone. As a Parish Council we have no powers to do anything. It was therefore proposed we contact the dog warden and police. In favour was JS, TR and BB. Against was TM. Abstain was KV.

30/23. Date of Next Meeting

11th July 2023

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

Mrs Victoria Webster

The Clerk, Stoughton Parish Council, 22 Rockingham Road, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7UJ