

## The Minutes of the Stoughton Parish Council Meeting on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm in Stoughton Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Bob Battey (BB) (Chair)  
Cllr Tom Richardson (TR) (Vice Chair)  
Cllr June Sparrow (JS)  
Cllr Kirsty Volpe (KV)  
Victoria Webster (Clerk)

### **169/22. Welcome, Introductions and Chair's Opening Remarks**

BB welcomed all to the meeting.

### **170/22. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mee and Cllr Elliott.

### **171/22. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **172/22. Parishioners Comments**

There were no parishioners present.

### **173/22. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

All agreed to the accuracy of these minutes, and they were approved.

### **174/22. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

No matters arising to be discussed.

### **175/22. 42 Gaulby Lane – Reinstalling Chimney**

The chimney has not yet been reinstalled despite the owner moving in, the builders leaving and it being a condition of the planning permission. It was proposed that this should be reported to Harborough District Council Planning. All agreed. **Action: VW to contact the Planning Department.**

### **176/22. Parish Council Communication Get Together**

KV recently attended a 'Communicating with your Community' training session on how to build a communication strategy. Several of the suggestions on how to improve communication, the Parish Council already do but there were several suggestions which we could choose to do. It was proposed a separate meeting would be beneficial to discuss this further. **Action: KV to organise this event.**

### **177/22. Accidents on Thurnby Lane**

A reply was received from LCC Highways in response to our communication in relation to the Parish Council's concerns of the number of accidents on Thurnby Lane. They reply stating that they only have 2 accidents reported and so would not be taking the issue any further. This is not the case and the Parish Council have kept their own record. It was proposed by BB the Parish Council respond to LCC's reply and send our own record to them. KV seconded this. **Action: VW to reply to LCC and send a copy of our records to them.**

### **178/22. Overgrown Land at 1 Charity Farm**

BB has now met with the owner of the land who has agreed to tidy the area up prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

**179/22. Overgrown Sites in and Around the Village**

The site facing the village hall was recently trimmed neatly and is no longer an issue. The properties on Thurnby Lane are overgrown but it doesn't really affect other properties etc. as they can't be seen.

**180/22. District County Council Services**

There are several services within the Council that are becoming increasingly more difficult to work with and get a response from. Cllr Peter Elliot is very helpful and will regularly assist the Parish Council with achieving our outcome. He also often attends the Parish Council meeting and contributes where he can.

The Parish Council feel they are being let down by the Council in relation to 23 Gaulby Lane. There are two main issues with the property, the first being the internal of the building and the second being the overgrown exterior. The Council, however, are trying to wrap the 2 issues into 1. The owner used to keep the exterior tidy but no longer does this. The Parish Council need to stress that these issues are separate and that the garden is no longer being maintained, there is a separate enforcement order for this. BB proposed sending a letter to the two officers who are dealing with this property, Michaela Burton and Christina Zacharia and copied to David Atkinson. All agreed this should be sent. It was also proposed the Parish Council write to Mr Limb, the owner of the property and ask the District Council to forward it to him as they have his address. All agreed. **Action: VW to put a letter together.**

The question was raised if the neighbours either side of 23 Gaulby Lane have formally complained about what the deterioration of 23 is doing to their property. The Parish Council has been in contact with them previously about this as they need to contact the District Council directly in relation to the issues 23 is causing with their property. **Action: KV to speak to the homeowners.**

**181/22. Contacting the Media in Relation to the item**

Please see below.

**182/22. Contacting the Council Ombudsman**

BB spoke with the District Council who outlined that they have their own complaints procedure and our complaint in relation to 23 Gaulby Lane should be considered under this. If the Council do not respond accordingly by the next Parish Council meeting, BB proposed the Parish Council contact the ombudsman and following that the press. All agreed to this.

**183/22. Complaint Response from LCC – Speed Hump Church Lane**

It was felt that LCC have no intention of reinstalling the speed hump, despite it previously being deemed to be required. The question was raised as to what the legal element of this is, is this illegal to not reinstall the speed hump? **Action: VW to contact LCC and ask the question.**

**184/22. Recent National Grid Work**

The National Grid carried out some work earlier in the year where they upgraded the grid. The fence surrounding the equipment has never been reinstalled and the temporary fence has now fallen over. It is not secure, and cables are still exposed on the surface. It was suggested we contact them about this issue. Stoughton Lane, next to Pinetree House. **Action: VW to report this.**

### 185/22 CCTV Signs

We are permitted to put such signs up without having a CCTV camera in the areas in question and could prove to be a good preventative. It was agreed to purchase 4 signs, 2 for Thurnby Lane layby and 2 for Charity Farm. **Action: KV to purchase these.**

Could the Parish Council do the same with speed camera signs within the village? Other villages appear to have such signs without cameras. **Action: KV to look into this.**

### 186/22. Blocked Drains on Church Lane

To be deferred to the next meeting.

### 187/23. Accounts

a. Approve the Schedule of Payments

This was approved by all Councillors and cheques were signed for the following payments:

1. Victoria Webster	£577.25
July and August salary	
2. HMRC	£8.60
Tax for Victoria Webster August salary	
3. Waterplus	£11.59
Community gardens water	
4. Victoria Webster	£77.11
Printer ink cartridge and Microsoft annual subscription	
5. M&BG	£220.49
Grounds maintenance	
<b>Payments agreed and paid outside of Parish Council meeting</b>	
6. M&BG	£220.49
Grounds maintenance	
7. Waterplus	£11.29
Community Gardens water supply	
8. HMRC	£8.40
Tax for Victoria Webster July salary	
9. J.S. Brown	£242.00
Fit new notice board panels & replace & recharge speed camera batteries	

b. Councillors to review and approve the bank reconciliation.

All agreed to approval. Signed by the Chair.

### 188/22. Matters Arising

Planning.

Whitehouse Lane. Replace existing sliding doors with French doors and replace existing French doors with new French doors. No issues with this application.

The Parish Council would like to do something in memory of Paul Cresswell. Ideas were discussed but it was agreed to TR would speak to Paul's wife.

TPO. A response has been received and the Council have rejected our application. TR proposed to respond and argue the case of the importance. All agreed to this. **Action: TR to reply.**

Meeting closed at 8.24pm.