

The Minutes of the Stoughton Parish Council Meeting on **Tuesday 9th January 2024 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)
Cllr Tracey Mee (TM)
Cllr Simon Galton (SG)
Victoria Webster (Clerk)

214/22. Welcome, Introductions and Chair's Opening Remarks

BB wished everyone to good year ahead.

215/22. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

216/22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

217/22. Parishioners Comments

There were no parishioners present.

218/22. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 7th November 2023

Cllr Tracey Mee needs adding to the previous minutes as she was in attendance. All agreed to the accuracy of these minutes once this amendment was made, and they were approved.

219/22. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting of 7th November 2023

TM has filled in the hole at the church yard.

220/22. 42 Gaulby Lane – Reinstalling Chimney

This still hasn't been reinstalled despite contact from HDC. HDC stated they were preparing an Enforcement Notice on the 23rd October 2023. HDC needs to be made aware this still hasn't been reinstalled and ask them to remedy this asap.

Action: VW to contact HDC in relation to this.

221/22. 23 Gaulby Lane

It is believed that water has been running into the property due to the recent storm. The Parish Council wrote to the owner following the previous meeting, but no response has been received. The case is currently with the Environmental Department at HDC to review. SG commented that is unclear why it is with the Environmental team as they normally review cases where residents are present or if the issues effect neighbouring houses. Councillors confirmed issues with the house are affecting the neighbours, but they have not officially complained to HDC. It was proposed a formal letter is sent to the neighbours of 23 Gaulby Lane.

Action: VW to send letters to the neighbours.

It was proposed we write to Michaela Burton who confirmed she would be monitoring this and visiting the property and ask when she last visited and what her plans are.

Action: VW to send a letter to Michaela Burton at HDC.

222/22. Fly Tipping on Gaulby Lane

The issues has since been resolved as the farmer has moved their gate right up to the edge of the road so there is no room for a car to back into the gate entrance and fly tip.

223/22. Overgrown Land at 1 Charity Farm

This still isn't resolved. Proposed to ask the HDC to put an Enforcement Order for the land to be cleared. No action was decided upon.

224/22. Stoughton Flyer

A new printers called Chameleon was used to produce the last flyer and it was half the price but better quality. All agreed to continue printing with them.

225/22. Parish Council Logo

It was proposed the Parish Council develop a logo to use on social media and printed documents. KV has found a website where you can design a logo at minimal cost. All agreed to a Parish Council logo.

Action: KV to distribute some designs to all Councillors for comment.

226/22. HDC Planning Department Staffing Issues

They are seriously short staffed, and SG confirmed they are currently trying to recruit. They have already recruited several new staff members. The Conservation Officer has now been replaced after a two-year absence. HDC plan to recruit an additional 2 more Planning Officers. There is a new Chief Executive, John Richardson and we could share our views with him. SG confirmed the Planning Department lost 5 staff members 2 years ago and that is when the problems started. Nearly all staff now work from home. It was felt the Duty Officer was previously a valid role and someone we could easily contact and discuss any concerns we had but that position is no longer utilised.

227/22. Issues with District Council, County Council and Police following requests for Action

The Parish Council want a visit from a police officer so we can walk round the village with them and point out the issues. BB has written to the Police Commissioner to request a meeting, but no response has been received yet. The Parish Council complained to HDC about the speeding issues on Thurnby Lane, but they deny the number of accidents that we have logged and that there is no issue with speeding on that stretch of road following a survey 3-4 years ago. SG suggested it isn't unreasonable to request an up-to-date survey as this is now 3 years old and it isn't unreasonable to request where the survey is placed. If that data showed the speed limit is being broken, the police are then involved to enforce the limit. All agreed to write to LCC. It is felt the communication has deteriorated generally with both the Police and HDC.

Action: VW to contact LCC to request a new survey on Thurnby Lane

228/22. Complaint Response from LCC – Speed Hump Church Lane

It was proposed we now complain about this issue to the ombudsman as we have now followed the LCC complaints procedure. All agreed to this proposal.

Action: VW to report this issue with the ombudsman.

229/22. Dog Walkers in Stoughton

There have been no further complaints but will keep it on the agenda for one more meeting.

Action: VW to add to the agenda for the next meeting.

230/22 Actions by County Council regarding Road Works

Already dealt with.

231/22 Planning Notification – Mr Dhada – to determine if Prior approval is required for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to 5 dwellings

This has now been rejected.

232/22 Temporary Hard Standing area next to Hornbeam House

The council have agreed that the hard standing can be kept temporarily whilst renovations take place.

233/22 Communication Strategy

To go on the agenda for the next meeting to be agreed.

234/22 Housing for people living in Leicester in proposed by HDC decision – Petition to stop this

HDC are reviewing their Local Plan, and the public will get the opportunity to review and comment on this. The Parish Council will need to reply to this as a Parish Council also. HDC are aiming to get the Local Plan reviewed by June 2025. The key point is that Stoughton will remain on the lowest band for new developments which is based on facilities i.e. schools, shops, doctors etc. Low category settlements aren't classed sustainable for building. The big issue is the Welcome Trust land at the airfield as they have submitted a planning application for a new settlement on the airfield. We do get the opportunity to reject this in the review. The Parish Council would request a new green wedge between the village and the airfield in their comments.

235/22 Blocked Drains on Church Lane

Some of the drains on Church Lane are completely blocked with soil which is level with the drains and no water can escape. We have reported this on behalf of the Parish Council and on a personal level but they remain blocked. SG has offered to contact Robert Griffiths at LCC who is responsible for highway drains.

There is also an issue with the pavement on the Church Lane junction all the way down to the Byways, Hornbeam House. This needs reporting to HDC.

Action: VW to contact HDC regarding the pavement issues.

236/22 Aero Club Meeting

The minutes were distributed but there was no further comments or questions.

236/23. Accounts

a. Approve the Schedule of Payments

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

| | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Victoria Webster November and December salary | £695.28 |
| 2. HMRC Tax for Victoria Webster October salary | £11.80 |
| 3. DM Payroll Services Payroll services, October - March | £60.00 |
| 4. K. Volpe CCTV signs | £15.96 |
| 5. T. Richardson Community Gardens – petrol and hedge trimming | £69.66 |
| 6. Burnt Oak Developments Village hedge trimming | £360.00 |
| 7. Astley Computers Parish Council cloud back-up | £140.00 |
| 8. M&BG | £220.49 |

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|----------------------|--------|
| Grounds maintenance | |
| 9. T. Richardson | £88.20 |
| Gate post and cement | |

Payments agreed and paid outside of Parish Council meeting

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| 10. M&BG | £220.49 |
| Grounds maintenance | |
| 11. J.S. Brown | £100.00 |
| Replace batteries in speed camera | |
| 12. HMRC | £36.40 |
| Tax for Victoria Webster November salary | |

- b. Councillors to review and approve the bank reconciliation.
All agreed to approval. Signed by the Chair.
- c. 2024-2025 Budget
It was proposed that the precept is increased from £10,794 to £11,311 for 2024/2025.
All agreed to this proposal.

237/22. Matters Arising

The bins in the village aren't always being emptied regularly. Can we find out a date of the month when they are emptied.

Action: VW to find out when the bins are emptied each week/month.

The Parish Council notice board is looking awful. Can this be added to the agenda for the next meeting for discussion.

Action: VW to add to the agenda.

The memorial bench for Paul still hasn't been sorted as a suitable location hasn't been identified. TR to discuss further with his wife.

A date needs to be agreed for the Cheese and Wine evening, where the village can meet the Councillors. The deadline for content for the next Stoughton Flyer is the end of February so a date should be agreed on by then.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

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