



The Minutes of the Stoughton Parish Council Meeting on **Tuesday** **25th June 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 Tracy Mee (TM)
Victoria Webster (Clerk)

34/24. Welcome, Introductions and Chair's Opening Remarks

35/24. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Elliott (PE) and Cllr Volpe (KV) and approved.

36/24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared.

37/24. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

38/24. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 7th May 2024

The minutes were agreed and approved by all Councillors.

39/24. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting of 7th May 2024

There were no matters arising to discuss that aren't already on tonight's meeting.

40/24. Director of Communities and Wellbeing – New Role at HDC

Not in attendance.

Action: VW to write to the Director about the missed meeting.

41/24. 23 Gaulby Lane Update

BB proposed the Parish Council now contact the Leicester Mercury with this issue due to no further progression with HDC. It was suggested that photos are also sent. Historic England have already been contacted in relation to this property, but a response is yet to be received.

Action: BB to draft a letter to the Leicester Mercury.

JS proposed the Parish Council make the village aware of what lengths we have gone to in relation to this property with HDC and the owner to try and either get the property sold, renovated or a compulsory purchase order from HDC. BB seconded this.

Action: JS to put an article together.

42/24. Stoughton Parish Council Cheese & Wine Evening – 2nd July 2024

Currently only 10 villagers have rsvp'd to the invite for this event. BB proposed we postpone this event due to the holiday season. All agreed to this.

Action: KV to reschedule this event.

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43/24. Overgrown Land at Charity Farm and Gaulby Lane

No further progress has been made. BB proposed we contact both LCC and HDC to chase up this situation. All agreed to this.

Action: VW to make contact with LCC and HDC

44/24. Paul Cresswell Memorial Bench

It has already been agreed to purchase this bench and the location has been agreed, down from the stone circle, against the hedge facing back to see the church and the stone circle. The cost will be between £350-£500 and there will be a plaque in place on the bench. This budget was approved.

Action: Bench and plaque to be purchased.

45/24. Areas of Anti-social Behaviour

There have been several instances of anti-social behaviour around the village over the last two months. Over the bank holiday weekend, two boys were seen uprooting two apple trees in the playing field, which consequently died. Children were seen trampling the crops and throwing stones into the road at cars. On the same day, later in the evening, the whole family were seen trampling the crops. One child was seen on the roof of the neighbouring building to the village hall and minutes later a window was broken in the village hall. A child was seen staggering around the corn field, smoking who had clearly been drinking. There were witnesses to all of these incidents and all of these incidents have been reported to the police and the anti-social officer at HDC. There has been no response from either of them. It is important that every single incident is reported each and every time.

A village family's teenage child had a party which progressed to the village park where they were seen running all over the park equipment, drinking and swearing. They left all their bottles at the park. This is the third report of incidents involving this family.

46/24. Cow & Plough Gate/Footpath Access

There is a sti in situ to gain access and permission has been given to access the Cow & Plough.

47/24. Planning

Application 23/01487/PDN. Appeal. Notification to determine if Prior Approval is required for the proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to 5 dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Qa and Qb).

The Parish Council has submitted an objection to this application.

48/24. Internal Audit Service Provision

VW felt the audit this year was very productive and the auditor helpful. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Parish Council remain with the LRALC audit.

49/24. Application for TPO on Pine Spinneys

The Parish Council did not receive a reply to their response to Adrian's email until it was chased several times and after we contacted Adrian's boss. Adrian replied and asked for confirmation of the location. This was confirmed but he still felt this was unclear so TR found an ariel picture of the location so there can be no confusion.

Action: TR to draft a response and VW to send.

50/24. Maintenance of Play Equipment

There are a few items that need maintaining on the park equipment. The bar that runs across the walk across climbing apparatus needs replacing. The carousel turn style needs its bearings greasing. A couple of boards are rotting on the small toddler slide. The big climbing

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frame has some wood slats that need replacing. The staircase leading up on the big climbing frame will need to be replaced soon.

Action: TR to meet with a volunteer villager to arrange the maintenance.

51/24. Separate Bank Account for the Community Garden Funds

During the recent audit of the Parish Councils 2023/2024 finances, the auditor highly recommended that the Parish Council holds the funds for the Community Gardens in a separate bank account. All Councillors agreed to this.

Action: VW to open the separate account and transfer the funds.

52/24. Thurnby Lane Accidents and the Danger of the Road

Additional signage and speed reduction measures are required to help reduce the accidents on this road. There is a blind corner which is the issue. There is little more the Parish Council can do other than continue to keep a record of incidents as and when they happen.

53/24. Police Officer Amy Stokes to Visit the Village

Amy has agreed to visit the village to enable the Parish Councillors to walk around with her and highlight any issues. All Councillors are welcome to attend. It was proposed we ask Amy for her availability.

Action: VW to ask for Amy's availability.

54/24. Pathway/Hedge Junction of Church Lane/Gaulby Lane

There is a wooden fence along this point of the road and when you look through the hedge a fence can be seen which we understand to be the boundary. The hedge is quite overgrown and protruding onto the pavement. It is unclear who is responsible for cutting this hedge and they are clearly not maintaining the land. It was suggested we contact LCC about this initially.

Action: VW to report to LCC to see if it is there responsible

There is further land in the village that also needs cutting.

Action: TR to locate the addresses for these and VW will contact LCC initially.

55/24. Village Noticeboard

This needs re-varnishing.

Action: TM to investigate this.

56/24. Accounts

a. Approve the Schedule of Payments

This was approved by all Councillors and cheques were signed.

1. Victoria Webster	£297.71
May salary	
2. Kirsty Volpe	£30.00
Stoughton Flyer printing reimbursement	
3. M&BG	£220.49
May invoice	
4. T. Evans	£24.98
Key cutting	
5. Waterplus	£12.79
Community gardens water	

Payments agreed and paid outside of Parish Council meeting

6. HMRC	£12.00
Tax for Victoria Webster May payroll	
7. M&BG	£220.49
Grounds maintenance	

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- b. Councillors to review and approve the bank reconciliation.
The bank reconciliations were reviewed and approved.
- c. Councillors to consider and approve documents relating to the 2023-2024 AGAR:
 - i. To complete and sign the Certificate of Exemption
The certificate was approved and signed.
 - ii. To receive the annual Internal Auditors Report for 2023/2024
All Councillors have received a copy, and no points were raised.
 - iii. To consider recommendations or matters arising from the Internal Auditors narrative report
All recommendations are on the agenda at tonight's Parish Council meeting.
 - iv. To complete and sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/2024
The statement was completed and signed.
 - v. To receive and sign the Accounting Statements for 2023/2024
The statement was received and signed.
 - vi. To receive and consider the explanation of variances
There were no variations to consider.
 - vii. To receive and consider the breakdown of reserves held
The reserves were discussed and considered with no changes approved.
 - viii. To agree the dates for the period of public rights.
The dates between the 26th June and the 12th August were agreed.

57/24. Councillor Email Addresses

Councillors understood the reasoning for .gov email addresses but had concerns about the set up and management of them.

Action: VW to obtain further details about this and circulate.

58/24. Safety of Lithium I-on Batteries and E-scooters and Mobility Scooters

All Councillors agreed to supporting the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal.

59/24. Asset Inspections

The recent audit highlighted the need for the Parish Council to ensure they minute any safety checks that are carried out on any village assets to ensure we have adequate records in case of issues. All Councillors agreed to this

60/24. Remove 'Matters Arising' From the Agenda

The recent audit highlighted the requirement for us to remove AOB from our agendas as this is not best practice and no decisions can be made under this point. All Councillors agreed to this.

61/24. Tree Planting Opportunity

Due to the village not having adequate space available for this venture the Councillors agreed the Parish Council should not partake in this.

62/24. Any Other Business

There were no items for discussion.

Date of Next Meeting

10th September 2024

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Mrs Victoria Webster

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

Chair Signature: _____

Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

Chair Signature: _____