

The Minutes of the Stoughton Parish Council Meeting on **Tuesday 7th November 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)

189/22. Welcome, Introductions and Chair's Opening Remarks

BB welcomed all to the meeting. There are a lot of long-standing issues that need to be resolved.

190/22. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Elliott.

191/22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

192/22. Parishioners Comments

There were no parishioners present.

193/22. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 12th September 2023

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

194/22. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting of 12th September 2023

Hedge Tender. To be discussed under item 188/22.

TPO Request. TR has drawn up another letter thanking the HDC officer for his response and asking for further clarification/reasoning for the reject decision.

Bench for Paul Cresswell's memory. A decision needs to be made regarding the location for the bench on Stoughton Lane. Further discussions are needed with Paul's wife.

Action: TR to discuss further with Mrs Cresswell.

CCTV Signs. To be discussed under item 188/22.

195/22. 42 Gaulby Lane – Reinstalling Chimney

The chimney still hasn't been reinstalled. HDC are aware of this and are chasing the owner. It was noted that the incorrect address was stated on the correspondence and HDC were made aware of this issue.

Action: VW to chase this with HDC.

196/22. 23 Gaulby Lane

There has been no further progress with this ongoing issue and the Parish Council feel they have been let down by HDC. HDC have been writing to the owner with some letters being sent to the address of the property where the owner is currently living, and some letters being sent to 23 Gaulby Lane which go unread due to the infrequency of visits to the property by the owner. BB spoke with the owner and discussed their intentions with the property, but they weren't forthcoming with a decision. BB informed the owner the Parish Council would be applying for an Enforcement Order against the property.

KV spoke with the neighbours of 23 Gaulby Lane with one neighbour stating they aren't experiencing any issues but the property on the other side is experiencing rats under the floorboards, mould, damp etc. and they were encouraged to contact HDC about these issues.

BB asked the councillors if the Parish Council should make contact with the ombudsman and the press in relation to this on-going long-winded issue. All agreed it should be taken to the ombudsman and that HDC should be notified. The Parish Council would then take it further to the press if no appropriate response is received. Mr Limb should also be made aware of our decision.

Action: VW to draft a letter to the ombudsman in relation to this ongoing issue.

Action: VW to email to HDC and copy to Mr Limb

197/22. Accidents on Thurnby Lane

There are ongoing accidents on this road but due to no fatalities the issue isn't being taken seriously by LCC Highways who are under the impression that there are no real concerns on this road, that there have only been 3 serious accidents and that the mean speed on this road is only 41.9mph. They therefore won't consider installing any kind of traffic calming measures. The Parish Council will continue to keep a record of incidents as and when they occur and review this as and when necessary.

198/22. Overgrown Land at 1 Charity Farm

The land is still overgrown despite the owner agreeing to carry out the work. Brambles are overgrowing onto the pavement and are a hazard. The Parish Council may consider requesting an Enforcement Order from HDC if this issue isn't rectified soon.

Action: BB to draft a letter to the owner of the land in relation to this issue.

199/22. Speed Camera Signs

KV researched this and found that it isn't permitted to have the signs without having cameras in situ.

200/22. Playground Inspection

A very thorough inspection was recently carried out by ROSPA who have provided us with a very detailed report indicating that there are a number of areas that need attention. TR reviewed the report and identified that there are only 4 areas of real concern. TR and JS will therefore carry out a walk around and review the 4 items and draw up an action plan. The playground equipment is checked monthly by JS for wear and tear. The equipment is aging but isn't dangerous.

There are also some dead branches from tree's that overhang from the houses at the entrance to the park near to the village hall. TR and JS to review these also.

201/22. Police Liaison Representative

This is a new role found between LRALC and Leicestershire Police. A member from every local Parish Council is to be nominated to fulfil this role. It was agreed that until further information is provided the link will remain as the Clerk.

202/22. Issues with District Council, County Council and Police following requests for action

As discussed in item 196.

There is a broken drain cover outside the village hall that has been reported to the Parish Council by the nursery who use the village hall daily as they deem it as dangerous for the children. It was suggested this is reported to LCC.

Action: VW to contact LCC.

203/22. Complaint Response from LCC – Speed Hump Church Lane

LCC still refuse to review this situation following on from our official complaint via LCC's complaints procedure. What is the legislation for the height of speed humps. It was proposed the Parish Council request for the legislation of the speed hump height from LCC.

Action: VW to email LCC Highways.

204/22. Dog Walkers in Stoughton

Two parishioners have approached a Councillor stating they are scared to enter the park area when a dog walker who walks 15 dogs at one time is there. The dog walker has been verbally abusive towards parishioners when they speak to them in relation to their concerns. Are there any legal restrictions surrounding this.

Action: To remain on the agenda for future meetings to follow up on.

Two loose dogs have been seen around the village which live on Thurnby Lane. This has been witnessed by several people.

Action: JS to gather facts first and report at the next meeting.

205/22 D-Day 80 Years

All agreed no action should be taken.

206/22. Planning Application – 64 Stoughton Lane – Two storey side and front extension

The issue is that there is no image available to enable the Parish Council to see what this will look like. From the description it does not appear that it will cause any issues. No further action.

207/22 Planning Notification – Mr Dhada – to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed change of use of an agricultural building to 5 dwellings

The Secretary of State has previously stated there should be no further building on this land. This should be monitored and HDC should be informed if any unapproved building work takes place.

Action: To be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

208/22 Temporary Hard Standing area next to Hornbeam House

Temporary permission was granted for this on the condition that this should be taken down once the building work is completed. TR has written to HDC about this who have responded with an initial sympathetic response with a further reply that they have spoken with the owner of Hornbeam House who has informed HDC that the house won't be completed until January 2024. HDC will revisit this in February. It was suggested that a Councillor should approach the owners directly and discuss this.

Action: TM to approach the owners.

Action: To be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

209/22 Option to extend Recreation Grass Cutting Contract

This is in relation to the big recreation and playground areas. The initial contract stated this could be extended for summer 2024 and 2025. After this time, the Parish Council will then have to retender. All agreed to this extension. It was felt the grass could be cut a little shorter and M&BG will be asked to do so in the spring.

Action: VW to contact M&BG and request the extension.

210/22 Housing for people living in Leicester in proposed by HDC decision – Petition to stop this
There is a meeting in relation to this on the 22nd November but no time has been provided. The meeting can also be watched on-line. The Parish Council will be in a position to comment on all applications for such houses and we can object to this. It is likely they will be adding onto already existing housing estates in the local area.

211/22 Blocked Drains on Church Lane
The drains remain blocked with mud and is causing a hazardous area on the road.
Action: VW to write to LCC in relation to this again.

212/23. Accounts

a. Approve the Schedule of Payments

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

1. Victoria Webster September and October salary	£574.85
2. HMRC Tax for Victoria Webster October salary	£8.40
3. LRALC Communicating with your Community Training	£70.00
4. M. Ellis Fit replacement platform on climbing frame	£269.67
5. M&BG Grounds maintenance	£220.49
Payments agreed and paid outside of Parish Council meeting	
6. M&BG Grounds maintenance	£220.49
7. Stoughton Village Hall Parish Council Meeting Hire	£98.00
8. HMRC Tax for Victoria Webster September salary	£8.40

b. Councillors to review and approve the bank reconciliation.

All agreed to approval. Signed by the Chair.

c. 2024-2025 Budget

This was briefly reviewed and will be discussed fully at the next meeting.

188/22. Matters Arising

There is a hole in the grounds of the church yard that needs filling in otherwise it could be a hazard.

Action: TM to fill in the hole.

2024 Meeting Dates.

9th January 2024

5th March 2024

7th May 2024

9th July 2024

10th September 2024

12th November 2024

Hedge Cutting Tender.

The Parish Council approached 3 companies in relation to the tender. Toni Landscapes are currently too busy, Burnt Oak quoted £300, and M&BG quoted £650. It was proposed to accept the Burnt Oak tender. All agreed.

Action: VW to write to the three companies.

Bench.

This has been fixed but it took a lot of time and effort. It does not need to be walked on as this causes additional damage.

Church clock.

This still isn't working despite the Parish Council spending thousands on this previously. Unclear why this isn't now working. It should be taken to those responsible in Thurnby.

Action: Attend the village meeting for the church that has been scheduled and raise the issue there.

Aeroclub Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for the December 14th at 1.00pm.

Action: VW to confirm this meeting with Ivan.

CCTV Signs.

KV now has these signs, and they will be installed in the coming week.

Meeting closed at 8.54pm

Mrs Victoria Webster

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