

STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms.

Present: Cllr. R. Trett, (Chair), Cllr. D. Warren, Cllr. Allen, Cllr. C. Letts; Ward Cllr A. Geary; 6 members of the public.

Clerk Mr J. Vischer.

1. APOLOGIES Cllr. S. Grant

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS – None

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 2nd November – These were duly signed and approved. Proposer Cllr. Letts, Seconder Cllr. Warren. Unanimous.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Drain at the bottom of Dag Lane – (Ward Cllrs. Geary/Green with MKC's David Hall). Following a request from the clerk Ward Cllr. Geary had followed this up and emailed the response to date: the first provided the useful information, not before seen by the Parish Council, from the engineer's report that: "the proposal is to replace the existing "stone" culvert with a 300mm diameter pipe from where it discharges into an existing brick arch culvert up to a manhole opposite 6 Dag Lane. The existing culvert is in a poor condition we can't jet it for fear of collapse and can't get a CCTV camera through to survey it. The existing culvert copes with "normal" rainfall but during very heavy rain water surcharges out of the manhole opposite 6 and runs down to pond on the road (then drains down a road gully). There is no threat to property flooding and is a low priority". This demonstrates that the matter had been looked into. The second was a denial by Rob Ward (Business and Liaison Manager at MK Council) that assurances had been given to the Parish Council via the clerk that the repair would be done this year. Clerk to draft a response maintaining a) that the situation is more serious than suggested and b) that MKC had pledged to do the work this year.

b. Vehicle-activated sign - reported 8th January ref – 480206 – re-reported 4 Feb. ref 507189 (Ward Cllr. Geary/Green with MKC's David Hall). The clerk had re-reported asking that the sign be removed if it was no longer going to be working. Ward Cllr. Geary reported that David Hall had told him that it was now with Ringway as part of their maintenance budget. This did not explain why the reporting system had clearly failed in this case (the reporting system should have passed it on to Ringway in any case).

c. Reading Rooms – Fire Risk Assessment – Cllrs. Allen and Grant had carried out the check in the interests of extra safety. Matters to be considered: To purchase at least one No Smoking sign; to purchase illuminated Fire Exit signs that would light up in the event of a power cut; to research Emergency Lighting (this may be combined with Fire Exit signs); to fit fixed bolts on rear doors (already done); to post an 'In The Event of Fire' Notice on the back of the door; to install rear steps and indicator signs; to research a Heat Alarm for the kitchen as recommended by the Fire Brigade website (approx. £19). All the above were agreed. A monthly and annual schedule would be drawn up to ensure regular inspection of equipment. **Cllr.**

Allen

d. Car Park by Allotments – (awaiting application outcome). No update.

5. OCTOBER WALK-AROUND UPDATE

a. Land opposite Reading Rooms – *shrub removal; grass seeding; bulbs; rubbish bin; bollards* (7 Oct. new ref 748909 for bin 'resolved' 13th October). The Clerk had re-reported the rubbish bin.

b. Seat in front of old rectory/new rectory/allotment area – *cleaning/repainting seat; blocked road drain; ivy*. The Chair offered to deal with the seat and verify if the drain was still blocked.

Chair

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- c. **Church area – Footpath: request for better signage** - reported 9th October. The footpaths officer, Rosie Armstrong, was looking into the matter.
- d. **High street – telegraph pole: a second request had been put in for the warning sign to be removed on 8th October – no response from BT; cleaning road signs; post boxes** – the Chair offered to remove the offending warning sign. Royal Mail had informed Cllr. Grant that the post boxes in the worst condition would be repainted imminently.
- e. **Around War Memorial – spring bulbs:** the bulbs had been planted by the contractor RJ Sharp
- f. **Village hall/recreation ground/tennis courts – Ascot rail; leylandii hedge.** Two quotes had been received for the leylandii hedge work from Warners and Colin Charge. It was agreed to accept the latter as the price was not only cheaper but included the ascot rail repair. Proposer Cllr. Trett, Seconder Cllr. Warren. Unanimous. **Clerk**
- g. **Proposed small conservation area** – Cllr. Letts had measured the area at 10x30 metres; this would mean a cost of seed purchase at between a £100 and £150. Cllr. Letts reported that the Village Hall Committee was in agreement with the scheme.

6. **MK PLAN** – in between meetings the Parish Council had subscribed to the appeal along with neighbouring parish councils ‘calling-in’ the MKC decision to go ahead with this consultation. Ward Cllr. Geary stated that although the consultation was still to go ahead in January the result had been to require MK Council to add more detail to the proposal and eliminate the named settlements where substantial new building might occur. Councillors could not see how this helped much, in that the time allowed was not long enough to properly explore details and the potential settlements would have to be named in the end. However the threat of having to involve barristers had been removed. Ward Cllr. Geary was intending to hold meetings with planning officers in the coming weeks to ‘put flesh on the bones’ of the consultation.

7. FINANCE Cheques & balances –

<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>(gross)</u>	<u>VAT</u>
dd	e-on (21st October)	7.82	
dd	e-on	44.73	
102238	J VISCHER - salary	197.06	
102239	Post Office - HMRC/PAYE	160.00	
102240	RJ Sharp - annual + seat repair	825.00	
102241	Colin J Charge - bench install	125.00	
102242	S KITCHEN	37.50	
102243	Warners - 10459 (final)	84.00	14.00
102244	AH Contracts - 8368	90.38	15.06
102245	J VISCHER - admin expenses	20.17	2.28
102246	D Geliher (website, annual)	<u>43.06</u>	<u>7.18</u>
		1,634.72	38.52

Available balance at end of November: £16,027.

The payments above were approved. Proposer Cllr. Allen, Seconder Cllr. Letts. Unanimous.

- b. Budget discussion – The current Budget vs Actual paper was circulated. It was agreed to hold the extra budget meeting on January 13th at the Chair’s house at 7.30pm.

8. PLANNING

15/02314/FUL 3 Dovehouse Mews High Street First floor rear extension, single storey rear and side extension and front porch - *permitted*

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15/02575/FUL The Malting House 66 High Street, Application for change of use from Public House/Restaurant (use class A3/A4) to residential (use class C3) including external works. (& 15/02576/LBC: listed building consent) – objected to – pending.

NEW – None

9. SUB COMMITTEES:

- a. **N. W. Area Ward Forum** – next meeting January 2016.
- b. **Guntrip Fund** – The Xmas cheques are going out.
- c. **Reading Rooms** – Cllr. Allen reported that D. Jones had carried out the internal cleaning of the storage radiators and that they had been found to be in good condition and not very dirty. A vote of thanks was agreed - to be passed on to Dave Jones.
As the Hoover had broken down again it was agreed that it was time to purchase a new 'Henry' vacuum cleaner at a cost of approx. £100.
Outstanding invoices were being chased. **Cllr. Allen**
- d. **Recreation Ground/Highways** – Cllr. Letts reported the dire state of the potholes in Purse Lane. Clerk to report. **Clerk**
- e. **Dog Fouling** – no incidents reported.
- f. **Village Hall** – Cllr. Letts reported that the items from the October Walk-round had been taken on board.

10. CORRESPONDENCE – The Chair and Vice Chair had received personally addressed invitations from the Joint Civil Aid Corps (Civil Defence) to an Opening/Fund-raising Event which had passed by the date of this meeting.

An invitation to a 'Mandela Celebration' by the Bletchley Youth Centre had also been received (12th Dec)

11. COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS

Cold-calling in Maltings Close – a detailed email had been received from Mrs Jane Geary complaining of rude and abusive cold-callers and requesting a 'No Cold-calling Zone' for the Close. It was pointed out that these Zones were no longer enforceable and it would be more effective to go direct to Trading Standards but also to complain to the police via the 101 number so that a record of incidents would be kept. The Chair offered to request feedback from other residents on this matter through the next Gate News article. Mrs Geary also complained of the recurring problem of receiving neighbours mail due to a historic mix-up of postcodes, but she agreed that there was little to be done and that the postman was very helpful. Her third and final point related to the unclear naming of the Close and the confusing house-numbers in Hollowbrook making it hard for anyone, from emergency services to delivery vans, to find addresses. It was agreed to request a new road name sign to replace the already damaged existing one stating 'Maltings Close leading to Hollowbrook'.

New domain name – Mr David Geliher had reported to the Chair and clerk that he had obtained an option on the new ".uk" domain names for the Parish Council and asked if the Parish Council would like to take the option up (stoke-goldington.uk). The domain registration is free for the first year and £5.99 every two years thereafter. This was agreed. He added that the website could become www.stoke-goldington.uk with some small costs involved during the transfer period but the ongoing costs would be the same as they are for the current site – an email option for councillors (pc@stoke-goldington.uk or councillor@stoke-goldington.uk) was available but would cost about £60 per year. He would research more detailed figures if required – it was agreed to request this. **Clerk**

The Church warden reported that after 9 centuries the Church was going to be connected to the mains water supply so that a kitchen and toilet could be installed.

Jackie Sharp reported that the repaired Anglian Water cover was leaking water. Clerk to report. **Clerk**

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday January 4th 2016 at 7.30pm at the Reading Rooms

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

signed

date