

STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday FEBRUARY 1st 2016 at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms.

Present: Cllrs. D. Warren (Chair), S. Grant, Allen, C. Letts; Ward Cllr. J Green; 3 member of the public.
Clerk Mr J. Vischer.

1. **APOLOGIES** - Ward Cllr A. Geary.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS** – None

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** 4th January 2016 – These were duly signed and approved. Proposer Cllr Letts, Seconder Cllr Allen. Unanimous.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a. **Drain at the bottom of Dag Lane** – The matter was brought up as a standing item at the Ward Forum on Thursday 28th January but no update was forthcoming. The clerk had conferred with Rob Ward, Business & Liaison Milton Keynes Council (MKC), who assured him that: “it was in the program, but I don’t know when”. When pressed he admitted that it did not rate very highly in the priority list because resources were being spent on crucial flood alleviation works and also because the drain problem was not a threat to property. In the light of this it was agreed to keep the item on the agenda for monitoring purposes.
- b. **Vehicle-activated sign - reported 8th January 2015 ref – 480206 – re-reported 4 Feb. 2015 ref 507189 [part of Ringway maintenance program since December 2015 meeting]** No change. Ward Cllr Patey-Smith had offered to obtain a point of contact with the contractor Ringway but had been told “that we cannot provide direct contact details for Ringway” (email 13 Jan). Cllr Grant reported that 4 out of the 5 speed activated signs did not function in the area. Ward Cllr Green offered to take the matter up on the Parish Council’s behalf.
Ward Cllr Green
- c. **Land opposite Reading Rooms – shrub removal/grass seeding/bulbs; bollards (re-reported 7 Oct.)** Cllr Allen advised that SERCO were in the process of creating a Community Support Grant. Clerk to ascertain details when available for this project. No update on the bollards.
- d. **Seat in front of old rectory – cleaning/repainting seat; blocked road drain.** The blocked road drain had been cleared. The Chair had not been able to attend to the seat.
Chair
- e. **Church area, Footpath:** request for better signage (reported 9th October). It was noted that the signage had been refurbished but only on the small posts. The new kissing-gate had also been installed. It was agreed to remove the item from the agenda, although the situation in fairer weather should be monitored – i.e. to ensure that the path was marked out across the field once the crop had sprouted.
- f. **High street – cleaning road signs; post boxes.** The Post Office should have completed their audit of the condition of the post boxes and as no notification had been received it was possible that all had passed muster. The clerk had established that no road sign cleaning schedule existed but parish councils were invited to report signs to Rob Ward who was collating information. Ward Cllr Green added that in conversation with Cllr Legge an £8,000 budget had been set aside for the cleaning of one hundred dual carriageway road signs. Councillors marvelled at the cost and agreed to put their minds to a list of signs for reporting and volunteer work in preparation for the Best Kept Village Competition in the Spring.
- g. **Recreation ground/tennis courts** – Ascot rail; leylandii hedge work. Colin Charge had not been able to do the work due to the wet conditions.
- h. **New road-name sign for Malting Close** – (*‘Maltings Close leading to Hollowbrook’ 10th Dec.*) The clerk had been in contact with another officer, Tony Toynton, who had assured him that the sign had been logged. Rob Ward had informed the clerk that the programme for sign replacement was designed to benefit from ‘bulk purchase’ to keep costs down, so this sign would not be fixed in isolation. Ward Cllr Green offered to take the matter up as the clerk had learned that legislation dating back to the 1920’s imposed a legal requirement on local authorities to replace signs for emergency vehicle access.
Ward Cllr Green
- i. **Purse Lane, potholes** – reported by the clerk 10th December, ref 799989. These had been repaired promptly by 19th January.
- j. **Edge of the Olney road breaking up** – Reported 12th January, ref 821322. This had been repaired promptly.

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- k. **Potholes Re-reporting the potholes on the main road in Gayhurst** – reported 12th January but no reference or reply given. It was agreed to abandon this item as it was not in the parish.
- l. **on Church Lane** about 100yds from the main road. Reported 12th January, ref 820836. Marked as ‘in progress’. To be checked.

ANY OTHER MATTERS not covered below – The clerk had been asked to enquire as to the **Service Level Agreements** between the respective contractors and MKC, regarding all maintenance tasks in order to understand more about why so many requests for repair and maintenance are not responded to by MKC and to help manage expectations. The reply from Andy Hudson, Head of Environment and Waste had not offered to share such details but had enumerated the frequency of various services or those with no schedule at all – e.g. road sign cleaning – and directed enquiries to the MKC website for matters such as the grass-cutting schedule. He passed the request on to the Highways department, which not only covered roads and redways but also gully-emptying, street lighting and so on.

- 5. **MK PLAN** – Copies of the consultation brochure were distributed. Unfortunately no members had been available to attend the recent Castlethorpe meeting but another meeting was planned at Hanslope on 23rd February at the School Hall – 6.30 for 7.00pm. Councillors agreed with the Chair’s statement that the best things about Milton Keynes –such as the openness, the grid roads, the parkland - were what made it a desirable place to live and to propose an expansion of the city without including these features was at best short-sighted and at worst a failure to understand what made the city a success. If expansion must occur, which seemed to be the case, then it must be along these lines, with service provision constructed first before the building of huge numbers of houses. It was agreed that this would become the corporate Stoke Goldington Parish Council view.

6. FINANCE Cheques & balances 15th January 2016 –

<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount (gross)</u>	<u>VAT</u>
102251	RJ Sharp - annual + seat repair	825.00	
102252	DR Jones - emergency exit signs	250.00	
102253	Cllr. Allen - RR expenses	38.61	4.14
102254	S KITCHEN	37.50	
102255	AH Contracts - 8483	90.38	15.06
102256	J VISCHER - salary	246.23	
102257	J VISCHER - admin expenses	<u>28.47</u>	<u>2.84</u>
		1,516.19	22.04

A further cheque to Cllr Allen was approved for Reading Room items of £109.99 (chq no.102258)

Available balance at 15th January £15,326

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

- b. Adoption of proposed Budget and Precept. It was agreed to adopt the proposed budget and precept of £13,549 and £11,585 respectively. Proposer Cllr. Allen, Seconder Cllr Letts.

Unanimous.

- c. Accounting software – It was agreed that the Parish Council’s small turnover did not warrant this expenditure.
- d. Reading Room Invoice payments – Cllr Grant reported that with her change of job it was no longer convenient to pay cash payments for the Reading Room hire into the bank. Cllr. Allen offered to take over this duty. ‘Payments to go to Cllr Allen’ would be marked on all invoices. **Cllr Allen**

7. PLANNING

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

8. SUB COMMITTEES:

- a. **N. W. Area Ward Forum** – The meeting held on January 28th 2016 was attended both by Cllr Allen

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and the clerk who was attending on behalf of Haversham & Little Linford Parish Council but nevertheless spoke up for SGPC regarding Dag Lane drain (*see above*) and road sign cleaning (*see above*). Cllr Allen reported that the SERCO landscaping contractor, of which two representatives were present, had been largely praised for the efficiency of the grass-cutting and pruning schedule last year. Ringway the Highways contractor had a budget for local initiatives and was inviting communities to suggest schemes. Cllr Allen added that discussion had also been about Plan:MK, briefly, and the well-advanced proposal to replace pink sacks with blue bags for the recycling collection. This is now being trialled, prior to making a final choice. A complete revamp of the MKC Environmental Portal was underway using purpose-built software, where items will be properly referenced and tracked.

- b. **Guntrip Fund** – no meeting since last month.
- c. **Reading Rooms** – Cllr Allen had purchased the Fire Exit Emergency signs and had them installed. No Smoking and In Case of Fire signs had been purchased but not fixed. The CO2 and smoke alarms had proved unsuitable for kitchens and so needed changing. He had also replaced the leaking kettles. The maintenance schedule/checklist was being drawn up. Following the circulation of an email the clerk had obtained a quote for commissioning the fire extinguishers. This was markedly lower than that paid previously. Cllr Allen to verify the contractor was registered as necessary before accepting. The roof had no loft insulation; the clerk was asked to contact E-on to see if they still provided this service. The final quarter invoices had been sent out. Steps at the back door and exterior painting refurbishing remained outstanding. A new crack on an internal wall was being monitored. **Clerk/Cllr Allen**
- d. **Recreation Ground/Highways** – nothing to report.
- e. **Dog Fouling** – Cllr Warren had received reports of dog fouling in Mount Pleasant. One of the large warning signs had been moved up there along with two smaller signs. To be monitored.
- f. **Village Hall** – Cllr Letts reported that the electricity box by the tennis courts was not 'live' and would soon be tidied up. The Ladies toilet was being refurbished and at Easter the interior of the Hall would be redecorated.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – The Pensions Regulator had been in touch with reference to the new requirements. The clerk had followed the instructions and registered as the mail/email contact. The Chair and Vice Chair were invited to the Mayor's Civic Reception. MK Bus Users Group Newsletter was circulated.

10. COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS

'Clean for the Queen' Litter-pick - postponed until the next meeting.

Cllr. Grant: Parking by the school at drop-off/pick-up times seemed very busy on both sides of the High Street. Mrs Thomas, who had been asked in the past and lived in Ram Alley, remarked that it was not too bad and access had been left open but visibility for turning out was always an issue. To be monitored.

Cllr. Warren reported that the tree stumps had been planed. He added that it was time to plant the replacement flowering cherry tree and asked the clerk to contact Western Power. **Clerk**

It was now time for the Village Sign refurbishment and he requested help taking the sign down. **Cllr Warren/Chair**

Mrs Thomas suggested the cleaning of the bottom end of Dag Lane where much loose material and sludge had accumulated. **Clerk**

A resident complained of verge damage at the entrance to Malting Close, which may well include tree damage. **Cllrs to investigate**

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday March 7th 2016 at 7.30pm at the Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

signed

date