

# STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## **MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms.**

**Present:** Cllrs R. Trett (Chair), D. Warren, S. Grant, C. Letts; Ward Cllr Andrew Geary (from 8pm); 9 members of the public.  
Clerk Mr J. Vischer.

1 **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Allen.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS** – Cllr Letts: Telecoms mast; Ward Cllr Andrew Geary: all planning matters.

3 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – These were duly signed and approved. Proposer Cllr Warren, Seconder Cllr Grant. Unanimous.

### 4 **MATTERS ARISING**

4.1. 858657 streetlight on B536; ref 868665 streetlight by Village Hall (March) – These had been repaired.

4.2. New kissing gates request (reported 7<sup>th</sup> March). The Assistant Rights of Way officer, Rosie Armstrong, had inspected the three stiles.

4.2.1. 'Birds Lane' – "The stile is in a good solid condition, however I appreciate that this is probably a well used route so I shall contact the landowner about the possibility of replacing it with a gate. There is also a stile between this one and Dag Lane (in the rear garden of 57-59 Dag Lane). It would make sense to replace that one too at the same time. I would expect that the residents will not want a steel kissing gate in their back garden so I shall investigate the costs of buying a couple of timber gates and offering that as an alternative. Since these stiles are so close to people's homes I shall take careful consideration of any comments they may have." It was agreed to contact the residents concerned (actually 55 & 57 High St & ? Dag Lane) to ask their views. [*post-meeting note*: Mr & Mrs Rawlings of 55 High St were present, after the meeting they expressed no preference]

4.2.2. 'Old metal gate by Westside Farm field' – "...has received improvement works to its hinges, so that it now opens and closes without any difficulty... This gate is in good working order and does not need replacing."

4.2.3. 'Stile to the rear of the playing fields and tennis courts' – "I can confirm that it has been agreed that it shall be replaced with a kissing gate. I would anticipate this work to be done within the next two weeks."

4.3. Vehicle-activated sign – (*originally reported 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 ref 480206 & since re-reported. Ringway's responsibility*) No update from Ward Cllr J Green. Ward Cllr Geary promised to investigate.

**Ward Cllr Geary**

4.4. Land opposite Reading Rooms – shrub removal/grass seeding/bulbs; bollards (re-reported 7 Oct.).

4.4.1. *Bollards*: - Tony Toynton, Highways, no reply to email of 28<sup>th</sup> Feb; Rob Ward had promised to investigate why no progress was apparently being made, 1<sup>st</sup> March. No update from MK Council (MKC) It was agreed that the clerk ask that the bollards be removed if MKC cannot replace like with like as soon as possible given the Best Kept Village Competition (BKV). **Clerk**

4.4.2. *Shrub bed*: the clerk reported that SERCO had responded positively stating that the project sounded like one they would like to be involved in. A site meeting had been proposed for this coming Friday (8<sup>th</sup> April) but not yet confirmed. [*post-meeting note*: subsequently arranged for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 13.30 by the Reading Rooms]

4.5. Seat in front of old rectory/new rectory/allotment area – cleaning/repainting seat. This had been re-varnished by Cllr Warren and was ready to be re-installed. The rubbish bin had vanished. **Chair**

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- 4.6. Recreation ground/tennis courts – Ascot rail; leylandii hedge work – the latter had been completed. Cllr Grant to ascertain that the ascot rail had been fixed. **Cllr Grant**
- 4.7. New road-name sign for Malting Close – email enquiry 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. *Logged as ref 833617 Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – awaiting bulk purchase.* No update from Ward Cllr J Green. Ward Cllr Geary promised to investigate. **Ward Cllr Geary**
- 4.8. Potholes on Church Lane about 100yds from the main road. *Reported 12 Jan, ref 820836. ‘in progress’.* Cllr Letts reported that these had been done, although more were appearing.
- 4.9. Cleaning of the bottom end of Dag Lane – (reported 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb – ref 842365) *11Feb* – ‘To be done on next visit’. Whether this visit had taken place or not was impossible to determine. The area was still dirty. Ward Cllr Geary promised to investigate. **Ward Cllr Geary**
- 4.10. Replacement tree (Western Power) – (contacted 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb) The Clerk reported that speaking on the phone in early March the contractor had stated that he would replace the tree albeit with a whip and contact the Clerk when he was available to carry this out so that Cllr Warren could be present to ascertain site position. The contractor had not been in touch. **Clerk**
- 4.11. *Items kept on agenda for monitoring purposes – Dag Lane Drain, School Parking.* The latter had not progressed in spite of the Clerk’s invitation to both Adrian Carden and Tony Toynton (8<sup>th</sup> March) to attend a site visit at busy school times. Ward Cllr Geary promised to investigate. Clerk to forward original email to Ward Cllr. **Ward Cllr Geary**

ANY OTHER MATTERS not covered below – None

5. **FLOODING** – The Chair reported back on the recent heavy rain which has seen the first severe test for the flood defences. He toured the whole village but the only problem area seemed to be Orchard Way, which has two issues. Here he had met with Andy Dickinson (MKC) and Ward Cllr A. Geary:
- 5.1. Water was coming from the fields above Dag Lane and running down Orchard Way without getting into the brook. He agreed with Andy Dickinson that this could be solved by a “speed hump” built in tarmac. Residents have made a temporary one.
- 5.2. The brook had been very close to overtopping. Ideally the level of the stone wall should be raised a few inches. The wall contains non-return valves to allow water that collects in the low point of Orchard Way to drain into the brook but prevent the brook back flowing into the road when the brook rises. One of these valves was jammed open with debris. These valves need monitoring.
- 5.3. Outside the Sharp’s house a fountain of water had been spurting up, however there was no flood risk. It was unclear as to the source of the water. It was agreed that a site meeting between councillors, Andy Dickinson and Ward Cllr Geary was required to see if the source could be established and its course diverted. **Clerk**
- 5.4. It was noted that the bunds had been at maximum capacity and in one place where they had been driven over needed shoring up. **Ward Cllr Geary**
- The conclusion was that the flood defences had done their job for without them some properties would definitely have been flooded.

6. **MK PLAN** – The Chair reported that the finished response had been submitted and posted on the village website - <http://www.stoke-goldington.org.uk/page7.php>

7. **FINANCE** Cheques & balances 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 –

| <u>Chq No</u> | <u>Service</u>               | <u>Amount</u><br><u>(gross)</u> | <u>VAT</u> |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| dd            | Eon                          | 144.94                          | 24.16      |
| 102266        | Best Kept Village fee - 2016 | 20.00                           |            |
| dd            | Eon                          | 115.50                          | 19.25      |
| 102267        | S KITCHEN                    | 37.50                           |            |

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|        |   |               |       |              |
|--------|---|---------------|-------|--------------|
| 102268 | Warners - 10717                           | 71.40         | 14.28 | <i>p1032</i> |
| 102269 | Hartwell Safety Services - fire ext check | 36.00         | 6.00  |              |
| 102270 | AH Contracts - 8595                       | 112.98        | 18.83 |              |
| 102271 | J VISCHER - salary                        | <u>214.96</u> |       |              |
|        |   | 753.28        | 82.52 |              |

Available balance £14,287

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

The Ward Grant of £250 had been received.

The Chair reported that he had searched through all the minutes going back to 2011-12 to find any reference to an agreement to retain the services of J Darlow (Pest Control); this was supported by the Clerk who had also looked, in vain, for any contract documents. The last cheque was paid in September 2011. It was agreed to write to Mr Darlow explaining that unless he can produce any paperwork to back-up his claim for services the Parish Council could not find the justification to pay the invoice.

### 8. PLANNING

- 8.1. 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) – *Application Withdrawn*
- 8.2. 16/00273/FUL Hillcrest, 2 High Street Stoke Goldington. Demolition of existing garage and erection of detached garage with ancillary accommodation. *Pending*. A resident was present and explained that the garage was a foot longer at the far end and the garage was not intended for accommodation. This satisfied the Parish Council's official objection, which could now be withdrawn, but the clerk was asked to obtain an email confirmation from MKC planning.
- 8.3. **NEW** – 16/00282/DISCON, Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road, Details submitted pursuant to condition 3 (internal finishes), 4 (roof material), 5 (boarding materials), 6 (rainwater goods), 7 (window details), 8 (door details), 9 (retained windows and doors specification), 13 (repointing sample board), 14 (stonework/brickwork samples) and 15 (floor details) attached to listed building consent 14/00509/LBC. No comments (beyond Parish boundary).
- 8.4. 16/00530/FUL 55 High Street Stoke Goldington, Part two storey part first floor front extensions and part two storey and part single storey rear extension. Demolition of an existing rear conservatory. Both proposer and neighbour were present. It was agreed to meet on site with the owners and discuss the application on Friday morning (8<sup>th</sup> April).
- 8.5. 16/00564/FUL Access Path North East of Bulls Head Farm Eakley Lanes, Widening of existing field access and the laying and formation of access track across the field. The application relates to the first 25m of access track. It was agreed that there was no objection proper to the proposed track but that a comment should be submitted to the effect that the gate should be recessed well back from the road to allow large vehicles to wait whilst the gate was being opened, without blocking traffic on the main road. Furthermore the gate must open inwards. [*post-meeting note*: when the Clerk went online to submit comments he found the application had been withdrawn.]
- 8.6. 16/00622/FUL Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road Ravenstone, Erection of a single dwelling. No comments (beyond Parish boundary).

### 9. SUB COMMITTEES:

- 9.1. **N. W. Area Ward Forum** – No meeting.
- 9.2. **Guntrip Fund** – the Trustees had met last week to agree the Easter pay-out. Cheques to be signed.
- 9.3. **Reading Rooms** – Cllr Allen had reported that the Fire extinguisher check had been carried out and the invoice submitted. Cllr Letts informed councillors that the sand bags were found in the shed.
- 9.4. **Recreation Ground/Highways** – Cllr Letts reported that he had sown the wildflower seeds and erected a temporary sign to warn the grounds contractors and passers-by.  
**Dog Fouling** – New reports had come in about fouling on the Recreation Field and along Dag Lane.

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It was agreed to shuffle warning signs around – Cllr Grant still had two new sticky signs.

- 9.5. **Village Hall** – Cllr Letts reported that the interior of the Hall had been redecorated.
10. **CORRESPONDENCE** – A British Legion commemorative appeal had been received. It was agreed not to donate in addition to the annual Armistice appeal.
11. **COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS**  
Cllr Grant reported seeing the large waste bin outside the Village Hall being used by an apparent passing motorist to dump rubbish from the boot of their car.  
A resident affirmed that a new telecoms mast was long overdue in the village as reception was non-existent in much of the area.
12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – As the next meeting would fall on a public holiday (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) it was proposed to hold the meeting on the Thursday of that week, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Chair offered his apologies for both dates, and so it was further agreed to move the Annual Meeting to Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

THURSDAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

*signed*

*date*