

STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday NOVEMBER 6th 2017 at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms

Present: Cllrs D. Warren (in the Chair), I. Allen (minute-taker), L Freeman, C. Letts, N. Lovell. Ward Cllr Andrew Geary; 5 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES – Clerk Mr J. Vischer

The Clerk had been admitted to hospital at short notice. The Council expressed their wishes for a prompt recovery

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS on items on the agenda –None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2nd October 2017

3.1. The minutes were duly approved and signed. Proposer Cllr Freeman, Seconder Cllr Letts. Unanimous .

3.2. MATTERS ARISING

3.2.1. Dag Lane – Sat Nav traffic. Unfortunately Ms Sharp was not present.

3.2.2. Cllr Freeman reported that the ditch along Orchard Way had been cleared. Ward Cllr Geary advised getting this added to the regular annual list of maintained items to prevent it getting in that state again. Agreed to confer with MKC officer Mark Bennett to try and get something documented. **CLK**

3.2.3. Tree hanging over Village Hall Car Park – This has now been completed very satisfactorily. Landowner would like a copy of any agreement about the boundary **CLK**

3.2.4. Blocked drains – The meeting was unsure whether the original reported drain by Westside Lane, was still blocked. **CLLR ALLEN**

3.2.5. Cllr Freeman had investigated the process of setting up a Neighbourhood Watch initiative and had all the details. Anyone interested in contributing should contact him or any Councillor. He has a contact willing to come and discuss if there is sufficient interest.

3.2.6. The 'smiley-face' speed monitor - FS59831519. [*post meeting note*: the Clerk had been contacted by a new Highways Liaison Officer Akwinder Rai who declared that 'The Clerk of Works overseeing these assets has put through a request to Dynniq (contractor) to look at both VAS's in Stoke Goldington']

ANY OTHER MATTERS not covered below

3.2.7. – Lime Trees (2) on recreation ground. It was agreed earlier in the year to get these attended to in Autumn. To contact tree contractor and arrange. **CLK**

4. PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT –

4.1 The contractor had not yet started the work on alterations to the main playground gate and access slope. To chase contractor for a date . **CLK**

4.2 The play house roof had been reported as unsafe, but was fixed by the council within 24 hours. MKC has supplied a quote for replacing the roof (£850), or replacing the whole playhouse.(£3 to £4,000).In light of possible playground revamp in 2018,it was agreed to delay any decision on this.

4.3 We need to progress any likely grants for work on playground in 2018, and see what progress has been made on a working party. **CLK/CLLR ALLEN**

5. FINANCE

Due to the unforeseen absence of the Clerk, information was not available for discussion. [*post*

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meeting note: Subsequent to meeting, finance notes and payments were circulated and approved by Councillors via email]

6. PLANNING

6.1. Previous Planning Applications

17/01899/FUL Addersey Farm House Eakley Lanes, Single and two storey side and rear extensions. New porch to principle entrance door, Re-instatement of garages with roof structure raised to form new office over, Adjustments to windows and doors, New and replacement windows & doors throughout and new porch.	Pending
17/02043/FUL The Malting House 66 High Street, Change of use from pub (A4) to commercial offices (A2). The Parish Council has objected	Pending
17/02187/FUL Woodland Lodge Purse Lane, Replace the gates at Woodland Lodge with new gates.	Permitted
7/02249/CONS Cheyney Farm Eakley Lanes, Horse ménage/school.	Pending
17/02240/TPO Hilly Close 3 High Street, Tree preservation order consent to remove deadwood and prune the crown by up to 1.5 metres all around to 1 x Walnut tree (T1)	Pending
17/02230/FUL 3 George Inn Place, Change of use from barn to 1 x 2 bed dwellinghouse (use class C3) and construction of garage, parking and garden areas.	Permitted
17/02299/TCA Chestnuts 1 George Inn Place, Notification of intention of the crown reduction by up to 1 metre to 3 x Horse Chestnut Trees to remove epicormic growth and lateral limbs overhanging neighbours drive and buildings.	Permitted.
17/02423/FUL Brook House 17A High Street, Detached house and outbuilding (part retrospective). The Parish Council has objected	Pending
17/02502/FUL Erection of a timber, accessible lavatory St Peters Church Dag Lane.	Permitted

6.2 New Planning Applications –

17/02359/TCA High Jasmin 10 Mount Pleasant . Notification of intention to reduce to a height of 2.4 metres to 4 Leylandii Trees .	No objection.
17/02761/FUL Bulls Head Barn Eakley Lanes. Proposed sitting room extension to Bulls Head Barn, Stoke Goldington.	No objection

6.3. Any Other Planning Matters –

6.3.1. SG Settlement Boundaries –

Note re 6.3.1 - The September meeting minutes were confusing about the format of the November 6.30pm meeting to discuss this item. The subsequent note in the Oct/Nov GGN (deemed to reach everyone) referred to the item being discussed as part of the normal November public meeting, but we accept this could have been better clarified. 3 residents turned up for the 6.30 pm meeting, with another arriving at 6.45pm .The Parish Council apologies unreservedly for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

Cllr Warren re iterated his comments as mentioned in the last (Oct/Nov) Gate Group News (GGN) Chair's report. Milton Keynes Council (MKC) were conducting a review of village boundaries as part of a wider plan, and had given the opportunity for villages to review their boundaries as part of this. MKC suggestion for Stoke was to increase by 1 dwelling, which had already been granted planning. The existing Village boundary is now 50 years old, and offers limited availability for future development , which reduces the opportunity to ensure continuing support for the local amenities (Shop, Pub, School, Garage, Church).In addition some homes and facilities, (notably the village Hall) were ,technically, outside the village.

Considering this, and using the 2012 village questionnaire as a guide, the Parish Council had identified some of the issues as a lack of suitable sites within the existing boundary, access (the village is very linear with already restricted access off the high street), and the need to avoid any increased risk of flooding. The overriding aim was the best interests of the village.

As per the chairman's report in the last Gate Group News, the Parish Council outlined possible areas

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for development for discussion at the meeting, and asked for public comments. Cllr Warren reiterated that things were only at an exploratory stage, and views and comments were being sought. The comment was made that the settlement boundary item had not been adequately publicised, and residents had only just been made aware of it, and needed to be discussed in a public meeting. The settlement boundary had been an agenda item and was discussed and minuted in both the September and October Parish Council meetings. It had also been highlighted in the Parish Council Summary in the Oct/Nov Gate Group News as a topic to be discussed in the November meeting. The GGN is delivered to every home in the Stoke Goldington area. The monthly Parish Council meeting is held the first Monday of every month in the reading rooms at 7.30pm, and is a public meeting. Minutes of meetings are posted on the Parish Council notice board, Reading room and PC website. It was agreed that a reminder of future Parish Council meetings could be put on the village face book page about a week prior, although it was agreed not every one used or had access to it. **CLLR LETTS** Concerns were expressed about the impact on traffic flows, especially if it was to lead to any kind of restriction (e.g. new road layout). The view of the Parish Council was that anything which reduces traffic speed through the village is to be welcomed.

There were questions about the ability of the infrastructure to cope. This would still be subject to MKC planning policy, and people like the environment agency, just as currently.

The local schools infrastructure ability to accommodate more village children was questioned, as residents were already experiencing difficulty in obtaining places at Newport and Olney schools.

There was a worry that, as no village plan existed, development within an expanded village boundary could not be controlled. Any development would still be subject to comment by local people and subject to MKC planning policy, and people like the environment agency, just as currently.

The Parish Council was challenged as to why (unlike Sherington) no village plan had been produced for Stoke Goldington. The Parish Council investigated this possibility about 4 years ago, but the cost was prohibitive (between £15 and £20,000), and no central funding was available. It also required a very high level of local input. Cllr Allen had attended a meeting of MK 2050, where, initially, it had been said that all neighbourhood plans were subservient to the emerging plan, and therefore, redundant.

There was some debate as to whether, as MKC had almost finalised its latest strategy, any changes would be acceptable to them. Ward Cllr Geary's view was that he felt they would look favourably on it, but he would check. **WARD CLLR GEARY**

The comment was made that the effort involved in the neighbourhood plan process had been substantially reduced, and central funding was now available, although it would not cover 100% of the cost. Ward Cllr Geary suggested we ask MKC planning for advice, on this and the above point and offered to facilitate a meeting with a MKC expert and the Parish Council. **WARD CLLR GEARY**

It was agreed to try and do this before the next meeting, and feedback at the December meeting. In the meantime the Parish Council would not progress further. The annual precept will require setting in January, and if there are any implications of a neighbourhood plan they can be included in that process.

7. SUB COMMITTEES:

7.1. N.W. Area Forum – No date set as yet. (NAG had been held)

7.2. Guntrip Trust – there are ongoing issues with bank mandates.

7.3. Reading Rooms –

7.3.1. The latest batch of invoices had virtually all been paid.

7.3.2. Further Archiving of files – To be arranged. **CLLR WARREN/CLK**

7.3.3. Tables – there is difficulty getting cheaper tables to match height wise, and the only ones broadly similar, are more expensive, (£100 ea). Will continue looking, but in the event of not finding, the decision to go ahead and purchase 4 for £400 was agreed **CLLR ALLEN**

7.4. Recreation Ground/Highways – nothing to report.

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7.5. Dog Fouling – no complaints received.

7.6. Village Hall – Cllr Letts reported that there have been problems with the burglar alarm going off which is being investigated

There have been several resident complaints about recent events.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE** – None. (Clerk absent)

9. COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS

9.1. Councillors –

Cllr Letts reported that only two of the three pillar-boxes had been re-painted. To await further possible painting.

Cllr Allen noted the increasing number of cars parking on the pavement, and in some cases, the whole of the verge. It was agreed to monitor the situation and review next meeting. If the problem persists, to draw to relevant authorities attention.

9.2. Residents -

Post January, the M1 from Junction 14 will be upgraded to “smart” motorway, with possible increase in traffic through Stoke, is there anything we can do? Very little, although it was thought from Jan 18, the speed limit on these sections was being raised from 50 to 60 mph ,which may help.

A reminder that Sunday 12th November is Remembrance Sunday, and last year was marred by constant shotgun fire during the minutes silence, Can anyone who knows people likely to be out during this time please remind them.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –

Monday DECEMBER 4th 2017 at the Reading Rooms at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

signed

date