

STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday APRIL 5th 2018 at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms

Present: Cllrs D. Warren (in the Chair), I. Allen, N. Lovell. Ward Cllr Andrew Geary; 6 members of the public. Clerk Mr J. Vischer.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllrs L Freeman, C. Letts. These were accepted.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS** on items on the agenda – None
3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – 5th February 2018
 - 3.1. The minutes were duly approved and signed. Proposer Cllr Allen, Seconder Cllr Lovell. Unanimous.
 - 3.2. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - 3.2.1. Drain on bend - puddle (B526) – This was still outstanding
 - 3.2.2. Grit bins refilling - FS71125799 – Advised that no bin filling would occur until the autumn. Clerk was instructed to bring back to the agenda in October. **CLK**
 - 3.2.3. Footpath 23 & B526 signage - the footpaths officer had replied: ‘...we cannot guarantee an immediate fix for this unfortunately, due to current budget restrictions, but it shall be attended to as soon as is possible.’ 8 March 2018
 - 3.2.4. Flood-retaining bund damage repair (*carry forward*). It was noted that the bunds were coping well with the recent wet weather.
4. **Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)** - (traffic speed monitor) – the quotation for two signs had been firmed up by MKC and amounted to £9,246.33. It was not clear whether this included the 18% surcharge, the whole of the 5-year maintenance contract or just one year’s charge, or even which size of sign. The Clerk had subsequently been told that it was for the 600mm sign. In the meantime the Clerk had received publicity from another supplier which appeared to be much cheaper. The Clerk had contacted the MKC officer concerned who promised to investigate further. Ward Cllr A Geary would find out how a neighbouring parish had avoided paying the 18% surcharge on a similar contract. It was agreed to resolve this pricing issue before placing a firm order. **CLK/WD. CLLR**
5. **FINANCE**
 - 5.1. **Payments (gross) for April & balance** – Payments: Clerk’s salary (Mar) - £233.66; RR cleaning (Mar) - £45.00; Bins emptying (*inv9997A*) - £90.38; admin expenses - £28.05; Electricity (Mar) - £202.69; HMRC (PAYE 4th Qtr.) - £183.80; Cllr expenses (Reading Rooms) - £33.85.
Available balance at 29th March: £10,328 (excluding savings account of £13,370).
The financial statements were approved.
6. **PLANNING**
 - 6.1. **Neighbourhood Plan** - village meeting arrangements – publicity was well in hand for the upcoming meeting on 23rd April in the Village Hall.
 - 6.2. **Previous Planning Applications**
 - 17/02043/FUL** The Malting House 66 High Street, Change of use from pub (A4) to commercial offices (A2). *Permitted*
 - 17/03145/FUL** Land North of Westside Lane, Minor residential development for 4 detached dwellings with garages (linked to 17/02989/FUL). *Pending*
 - 18/00137/LBC** The Malting House 66 High Street, Redecorating whole downstairs section of pub to create reception and meeting spaces. Bar space will be removed. *Permitted*
 - 18/00333/FUL** 3 George Inn Place Change of use of land alongside 3 George Inn Place to garden land associated to planning approval 17/02230/FUL. *Pending*

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6.3. **New Planning Applications** –

18/00549/FUL 45 High Street Stoke Goldington, Proposed conversion of existing detached garage store to home office. No objections

6.4. **Any Other Planning matters** – Ward Cllr A Geary reported that MKC had lost its defence of its ‘Five-Year Land Supply’, which meant parishes were more exposed to un-wished for housing development. MKC may seek a Judicial Review. This made the case for a Neighbourhood Plan more pressing as, quite apart from the intentions of the Plan, only a ‘Three-Year Land Supply’ was required if a Plan was in place.

7. **SUB COMMITTEES:**

7.1. **Guntrip Trust** – Nothing to report.

7.2. **Reading Rooms** –

- 7.2.1. **Online bookings diary** – Cllr Allen presented a draft spreadsheet. This would be updated monthly and posted online. Hard copy would also be posted in the Reading Rooms. **CLLR ALLEN**
- 7.2.2. **Exterior woodwork** – awaiting drier/warmer weather. **CLLR ALLEN**
- 7.2.3. **Further Archiving of files** – To be arranged. **CLLR WARREN/CLK**
- 7.2.4. **New** – PAT Testing had been completed.
- 7.2.5. Cllr Allen suggested that it was time to increase hire rates for the Reading Rooms – proposal to be brought to the next meeting. **CLLR ALLEN**
- 7.2.6. Cllrs Allen and Lovell to plan to insert the roof insulation (already agreed). **CLLRS ALLEN/LOVELL**

7.3. **Recreation Ground/Highways** –

- 7.3.1. Gravel dressing outside the Hollow Tree – completed.
- 7.3.2. **New** – the Clerk was asked to contact the resident that had shown an interest in Playground development to inform her that the repair work had been completed. **CLK**
MKC rubbish bins not being emptied frequently enough, Ward Cllr A Geary believed it to be an 8-week schedule.

7.4. **Dog Fouling** –

- 7.4.1. Following complaints from residents to councillors that the dog bins were overflowing the Clerk had contacted the contractor. The contractor explained that the main operative had been hospitalised suddenly. He had promised to catch-up with the rounds as soon as possible.
- 7.4.2. New signs had been prepared. Chair to mount. **CHR**
- 7.4.3. The possibility of a new dog bin was raised – Clerk asked to firm-up prices. **CLK**

7.5. **Village Hall** – no update.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE** – other than via email – Mark Lancaster MP flyers; MKYCAB Youth Manifesto.

10. **COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS**

10.1. **Councillors** –

- 10.1.1. Cllr Allen reported that the N.W. Area Forum may be revived under the new title of ‘Rural West Liaison Meetings’.
- 10.1.2. Facebook Friends – it was agreed that SGPC should take a more pro-active role on the village Friends Page. Clerk to trial input and monitoring and gauge extra time accordingly (initially 30mins per wk).

10.2. **Residents** – ‘Contents’ of Reading Rooms – the Clerk was asked to verify ‘contents’ insurance coverage. [post-meeting note: ‘consumable stock... including printed books and unused stationery... £6,735’]

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday **May 3rd 2018** (due to Bank Holiday Monday)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

signed

date