

STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday SEPTEMBER 3rd 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs C. Letts (in the Chair), I. Allen, L Freeman, D. Warren. Ward Cllr Andrew Geary. Ashish Patel, Flood and Water Management Officer, Chris Londy, Emergency Planning Team MK Council; 12 members of the public. Clerk Mr J. Vischer.

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr N. Lovell.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS** on items on the agenda – None
3. **VILLAGE FLOODING** – this item was brought forward
 - 3.1. Mr Londy explained that the rain storm had arrived so suddenly on Monday 27th that he had not been called to go into the emergency centre until 9.30pm and that contacting other services at this time had proved difficult. The Fire Service, which leads the response in emergency situations had been inundated with so many calls that it had to have them diverted to West Midlands and London, call centres. He knew of Coffee Hall and the Hospital but it was only some days later that the full picture emerged.
 - 3.2. Ashish Patel announced that he was leading the investigation into flood prevention and was keen to identify all issues and record them.
 - 3.2.1. He requested that all comments, observations and experiences be sent to him by Friday week at the latest (14th September).
 - 3.2.2. Mr Patel agreed to the suggestion that MKC send around a note to local residents within 72 hours, to ensure that all residents were given the opportunity to contribute. There was some concern about the confidentiality of some of the personal video logs that had been collated together for SGPC's own record so residents were invited to send their own copies independently to him. Any residents' water gauge records for that time would also be welcomed.
 - 3.2.3. Mr Patel pointed out that his department needed to see all plans for individual households' flood prevention unless they were just for minor changes such as protecting the front or back door.
 - 3.2.4. It was pointed out that the culverts under the main road at half-a-metre diameter, were not large enough to contain such a sudden and large volume of water even if they had been regularly maintained, which they had not. Mr Patel rejoined that the large expenditure required to double the size of the culverts would need a full hydrological survey providing a detailed drainage model of the area to justify the expense.
 - 3.2.5. There was general agreement that the drainage 'upstream' of the village needed to be held back and restrained more effectively (e.g. to regularly remove silt from water-retaining ponds) whilst the downstream channels should be regularly cleared to allow quick run-off. This included the roadside gullies in the village itself.
 - 3.2.6. A list of local landowners was to be supplied by SGPC. **CL**
 - 3.3. Report of Flood Working Group – Cllr Allen reported that progress had been made on the details of the questionnaire. A list of affected properties had been drawn up. A 'buddy system' had been adopted to ensure that all affected residents would be contacted. Those not directly affected but who wished to express their views should contact the Clerk.
4. **MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – 24th July 2018
 - 4.1. The minutes were duly approved and signed.
 - 4.2. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - 4.2.1. Out-of-date highway signage - FS83177866. Cleared.
 - 4.2.2. Sign for the church at the top of Orchard Way - FS79772690. Remedied.
 - 4.2.3. Purse Lane potholes - FS58541788. Not yet done.
 - 4.2.4. Blocked gully on bend (B526) - FS69714898. Not known (lack of rain)

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4.2.5. Dove House Mews exit 'white-lines'. No update.

4.2.6. Flood-retaining bund damage repair (carry forward).

5. **VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS)** - (traffic speed monitor) – The 2 VAS had been ordered on 28th August. The officer in receipt of the order needed to “to clarify the correct process to follow for purchasing equipment for a Parish Council.” [*post meeting note*: the order was confirmed on 6th September] Both the Clerk and Ward Cllr Geary had pressured MKC to waive their fee, or at least reduce it, but MKC had declined, stating that such fees had always been included in contracts delivered through MKC but had not previously been made explicit.
6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** –
 - 6.1. The formal application to submit a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for the entire Parish had been submitted by the Clerk on 24th August.
 - 6.2. Cllr Allen reported that a new website had been decided upon for the circulation of the relevant NP stages and questionnaires. This was in process of development. A housing survey was being drawn up.
7. **DEVOLVED SERVICES** - maintaining verges/road gutters etc –
 - 7.1. Councillors agreed that taking over regular gully-emptying in the village was a real possibility to ensure better standards. This would be costly – were grants available? Ward Cllr Geary offered to take the matter up. **WD CLLR**
 - 7.2. Transfer of Undertaking and Protection of Employment (TUPE) information – to ascertain the full cost implications of taking over landscaping services a confidentiality agreement with MKC’s contractor was to be signed. This should reveal the fine detail of any TUPE obligations. [*post meeting note*: the Clerk signed the agreement on 5th September]
 - 7.3. It was noted that the transfer of any services would result in costs being transferred from MKC to SGPC. Although a grant is being offered by MKC on transfer, at least for the devolvement of landscaping services, this would ultimately lead to precept increases as the grant may not be guaranteed for future years.
8. **FINANCE**
 - 8.1. **Payments (gross) for September & balance** –
Payments: Clerk’s salary - £261.70; RR cleaning (July) - £45.00; Bins emptying (*inv10197*) - £90.38; Landscape maintenance (*inv1228*) - £294.00; Electricity (Reading Room) – £55.58; HMRC PAYE (2nd qtr.) £209.60; Water (Reading Room) – £55.47.
Available to spend at 16th August: £16,601.
The financial statements were approved. Proposer C Letts, seconder D Warren; unanimous.
9. **PLANNING**
 - 9.1. **Previous Planning Applications**
 - 18/01245/FUL 3 George Inn Place, Change of use of barn to provide 1no. residential dwelling and associated garage, parking and garden areas. *Refused*
 - 18/01579/TCA The Manse Cottage 32 High Street, Notification of intention to remove Goat Willow Tree. *No objections*
 - 18/01655/FUL & 18/01656/LBC The Manse 34 High Street Renovation of Manse/Chapel building to include new pitched roof and glazed link extension. *Permitted*
 - 18/01653/FUL Bulls Head Barn Eakley Lanes, Proposed two single storey extensions to accommodate sitting room/lounge and oak room (dining area). *Permitted*
 - 6.2. **New Planning Applications** –
 - 18/02023/TCA George Inn Farm 49 High Street, Notification of intention to alter four trees (a sycamore, a lime, a horse-chestnut and a yew). No objections.
10. **SUB COMMITTEES:**
 - 10.1. **Rural West Liaison Meeting** – meeting due in the autumn.

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10.2. Guntrip Trust – nothing to report.

10.3. Reading Room

10.3.1. Flood repairs –

10.3.1.1. Councillors had agreed, following the August meeting, to retain as much of the original chequered quarry tile floor surface as possible. Work commenced on mechanically removing the existing screed and paint, but to avoid damage to the tiles a manual method had had to be adopted which will take longer to complete. It was further agreed to take advantage of the delay to investigate whether some planned plaster repair work could be carried out during this period.

10.3.1.2. Cllr Allen reported that flood defence gates to protect the front door would cost approximately £400. It was agreed that he would circulate full details. **IA**

10.3.2. Exterior woodwork to be re-painted towards the end of this month.

10.3.3. The Room should be re-opened by 1st October.

10.3.4. Further Archiving of files – To be arranged. **DW/CLK**

10.4. Recreation Ground/Highways

10.4.1. Nothing to report.

10.5. Dog Fouling –

10.5.1. The new contractor Marcus Young Landscapes Ltd. had taken over the round without delay.

10.5.2. Installation of new dog bin – Clerk to re-start the process with the new contractor.

10.6. Village Hall – Nothing to report.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – other than via email – A letter to the Reading Room concerning MI slip road night closures and alternative routes.

12. COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS

12.1. Councillors –

12.1.1. Cllr Warren declared to residents that the War Memorial was now a Grade-2 listed building as confirmed to the Parish Council by Historic England since the last meeting.

12.1.2. Cllr Warren asked whether the occasional strimming of the stream banks around the Recreation Field had been carried out as they appeared to be overgrown. Clerk to contact contractor. [*post meeting note*: the contractor confirmed that the banks were timetabled for week beginning 17th September]

12.1.3. Ward Cllr Geary drew attention to the recently circulated offer of grants for ‘a village clean-up’. Details would be given out at the upcoming Parish Forum on 13th September.

12.2. Residents –

12.2.1. Janet Thomas asked whether the Emergency Plan had been consulted when the flooding occurred. The Chair replied that the Plan was in place for when a State of Emergency had been declared by MKC. The resident enquired after the protection of vulnerable residents. This List no longer appeared in the Plan for confidentiality reasons. Should SGPC nevertheless consider creating a confidential one? This to be an agenda item.

12.2.2. A resident enquired whether SGPC had considered creating a group of volunteers to undertake some of the work abandoned by MKC – such as ditch-clearing. It was noted that in the past such initiatives had resulted in a poor response. Nevertheless in the light of the flooding and the lack of maintenance more volunteers may be forthcoming. To be an agenda item.

12.2.3. Phil Haines asked permission to work on SGPC land behind the Reading Room to create a new surface drain. This was granted.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday **October 15th 2018** at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

signed

date