

STOKE GOLDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday November 19th 2018 at 7.30pm in the Reading Room

Present: Cllrs C. Letts (in the Chair), I. Allen, L Freeman, D. Warren, N Lovell; Mr A Patel Flood and Water Management Officer, MKC; Ward Cllr Bill Green. 14 members of the public.
Clerk Mr J. Vischer.

1. **APOLOGIES** – None.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS** – None
3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – 15th October 2018
 - 3.1. The minutes were duly approved and signed. Proposer: I Allen, seconder D Warren; unanimous.
 - 3.2. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - 3.2.1. Dag Lane branches – Reported on portal (FS92487873). Clean-up group had cleared leaves and litter.
 - 3.2.2. B526 to Gayhurst road surface - Reported on portal (FS92849462). Ward Cllr Green had brought the matter to Highways attention and was awaiting response.
 - 3.2.3. Ditch behind tennis courts – the Chair had investigated and recommended that the ditch was clear enough for the most part. One ivy-covered tree branch did need attention behind the tennis court. Cllr Allen to investigate. **IA**
 - 3.2.4. Purse Lane potholes - FS58541788 – repaired.
 - 3.2.5. Drain on bend (B526) - FS69714898 – Awaiting action as rain was still collecting there. No response from Highways/MKC environment portal.
 - 3.2.6. Dove House Mews exit ‘white-lines’ – no update. To be chased. **CLK**
 - 3.2.7. Flood-retaining bund damage repair. Mr Patel reported that Highways had signaled they would carry out reinstatement work in April 2019.
4. **CLEAN UP GROUP** – Cathy Williscroft had circulated a report on the very successful clean-up day with 15 volunteers, and other residents in pockets around the village. She had put together a visual audit of ongoing issues drawn from the volunteers’ feedback. The Village Hall flowerbeds and the green area opposite the Reading Room are still a work in progress. It was agreed to write ‘Thank you’ letters to both John Newman, a visiting window cleaner who cleaned numerous signs, and Great Linford Parish Council for the loan of their litter-picking equipment. The Clerk had submitted a bid for litter-picking packs from the Clean Up Fund. **CLK/CHR**
5. **VILLAGE PLAYGROUND** – Ellie Sapwell had circulated a report to councillors on progress. A charity had been formed and officially registered. Terms of reference, various policies and a bank account have been set up. Research into types of equipment and quotations from several contractors are ongoing. Crowd-funding via the village Facebook page was proving successful with £1,250 raised to date. Other opportunities for grants were still being considered. The Clerk had submitted a bid to the new Community Infrastructure Fund for £5,000 match-funding for new play equipment. Children’s’ ideas for new equipment had also been gathered and councillors were invited to peruse their submissions after the meeting.
6. **VILLAGE FLOODING**
 - 6.1. Update from Mr A Patel, Flood and Water Management Officer, MKC – the Report was in final stages of preparation and would be published on the website in due course. It would cover general recommendations not mitigation methods. In tandem with Cambridgeshire County Council, who have established expertise, hydraulic models of the area would be developed. This would lead to applications for national funding grants from DEFRA and the Environment Agency to carry out flood prevention works. This would be a lengthy process. It was pointed out that as eligibility for these

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funds would be most likely judged on the basis of the number of properties affected Stoke Goldington might not feature very high on the national list. Mr Patel promised to send out the grant aid guidance, and the Flood Investigation Protocol. When questioned about regular annual maintenance work of ditch clearing and balancing ponds Mr Patel could not offer any guarantees that this would happen.

- 6.2. Report of Flood Working Group – Cllr Allen confirmed that the village questionnaire had been printed and distributed. As approximately 60% of those distributed had been returned the deadline for returns had been extended to the end of November. The Open Days of 17th and 24th October resulted in more valuable information coming forward.
- 6.3. The Group planned to have the Report finished before the Christmas break.
- 6.4. Gully clearance - Cllr Lovell reported that one contractor had quoted £750 to clear the gullies in the High St. The figure was the Day Rate but this number could easily be done within a day. Councillors agreed that this was within budget and asked Cllr Lovell to gain 2 further quotes and include all the gullies in the village.

NL

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) –

- 7.1. The NP questionnaire was almost ready for circulation.
- 7.2. The draft website was being tested.
- 7.3. Public meeting to be held on 26th January 2019.

8. FINANCE

8.1. Payments (gross) for September & balance –

Payments: Clerk's salary £258.1; RR cleaning (Oct) £45.00; Landscape maintenance (*inv1400* & revamping war memorial beds (*inv1411*)) £486.00; Electricity (Reading Room) £99.65; website domain renewal £23.98; admin/expenses £4.16; Reading Room fire extinguisher check £36.00; Anglian Water (Reading Room) £55.56; VASx2 (MK Council) £10,640.15; plastering repairs (Reading Room) £375.00; outdoor decorating (Reading Room) £1,055.00.

Available to spend at 31st October: £23,100.

The financial statements were approved. Proposer: N Lovell, seconder I Allen; unanimous.

9. PLANNING

- 9.1. **Previous** Planning Applications –18/02343/FUL 9 Town End Crescent Stoke Goldington, Erection of a detached two storey dwelling house and associated works. *Awaiting decision*
18/02370/FUL 3 George Inn Place Stoke Goldington, Change of use of barn to provide one residential dwelling and associated garage, parking and garden areas. *Awaiting decision*
- 9.2. **New** Planning Applications –
18/02526/LBC & 18/02525/FUL, 56 - 58 High Street Stoke Goldington. Erection of a dwarf stone wall (approximately 70cm in height) enclosing a small section of garden at the rear of the property to create a courtyard. No objections.
18/02757/FUL, 9 Town End Crescent Stoke Goldington. Erection of a detached 2 storey dwelling house and associated works (garage). No objections.

10. SUB COMMITTEES:

10.1. **Rural West Liaison Meeting** (meeting due in the autumn) – no information. Item to be deleted.

10.2. **Guntrip Trust** – Christmas pay-out to be ready by the end of the month

10.3. Reading Room

- 10.3.1. Door Flood-barrier – details had been circulated – it was agreed to move to a budget item as purchase of possible flood-proof door had become a new alternative.
- 10.3.2. The curtains linings still outstanding.
- 10.3.3. Loft insulation – still outstanding
- 10.3.4. Further Archiving of files – to be arranged.

IA

IA/NL

DW/CLK

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- 10.3.5. Back gate - not functioning properly – repair to be priced. Possibility of creating step to allow floodwater to pass by to be investigated. **IA**
- 10.4. Recreation Ground/Highways**
- 10.4.1. Grit bins have been refilled.
- 10.4.2. Entrance to Mount Pleasant – It was agreed to prune back the hedge to wall-height outside numbers 2 & 3 as it obscures the traffic sight-line. **DW**
- 10.5. Dog Fouling** - The Clerk had reminded the new contractor about the bin order. Installation was imminent but no date yet given.
- 10.6. Village Hall** – dilapidated grit bin, FS96010412. There was a suggestion that this had never been used, as the Village Hall committee presumed liability for any accidents would fall on them if they had been responsible for clearing the snow/ice. Cllr Letts to confer with the Village Hall committee. [post meeting note: Cathy Williscroft forwarded government advice for precisely this scenario that stated if the snow was cleared carefully you would be unlikely to be sued; and then clarified how to clear snow and ice. Local authorities followed this advice] **CL**
- 10.7.** Cllr Lovell reported that the Tennis Courts were due to be renovated as new floodlights had been ordered.
- 11. CORRESPONDENCE** – other than via email – MK Community Foundation newsletter; Two local MP’s poster on ‘Scam Mail’.
- 12. COUNCILLORS & RESIDENTS NEW ITEMS**
- 12.1. Councillors** – ‘Sharp bend’ bollards - Clerk to chase up complaint regarding roadside ‘sharp bend’ bollards. **CLK**
- 12.2.** Garages at Town End Crescent - Cllr Allen raised the issue of the dilapidated garages at Town End Crescent which had also come up under the Clean-Up Group’s audit. Ward Councillor Green agreed to take the matter up with MKC officers. **WD CLLR**
- 12.3.** MKPlan - Cllr Allen reminded councillors of the recently issued ‘final’ draft MKPlan. He would send round the draft which, as it assumed a much more dramatic increase in houses than previously planned, required a response from SGPC. **IA**
- 12.4.** Tree surgery quotes – as various pruning and tree work was accumulating (the Rectory tree, Maltings Close, Mt. Pleasant hedge etc.) it was agreed to pursue 3 quotes for the next meeting. **NL**
- 12.5. Residents** - Large tree branch needed cutting down as it was leaning very low. Cllr Warren to investigate. **DW**
- 12.6.** Request for some kind of public Log of environmental issues. Although useful councillors did not want such a Log to inhibit residents from reporting them.
- 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 17th December 2018** at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

signed

date