

STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 8pm ON THURSDAY 22ND APRIL 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE

Present:- Cllr Arnold (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Best, Cllr Carter, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Gillan, Cllr Huntley, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Thornton and Cllr Webber.

In Attendance:- Mrs J Simmonds (Clerk)

Also Present:- Dominic Grieve QC (at 8.20pm), David Claydon, Sgt Clayton George, Mike Milne-Smith, Dr. Sue Lynch and approximately 60 members of public.

MINUTES

- 1 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Frank Bowater, Mac Gollifer and Jean Porter.
- 2 **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2009 which were signed by the Chairman.
- 3 **RECEIVED** the annual report of the parish council presented by the Vice Chairman, Councillor Naomi Arnold
The report is attached and forms part of these minutes.
- 5 **RECEIVED** report from South Bucks District Councillors presented by Cllr Kathie Webber.
The report is attached and forms part of these minutes.
- 4 **RECIEVED** a report from Dominic Grieve QC
Mr Grieve apologised for being late. His role as MP finished a week ago.

The last 12 months had not shown up much from his records on Stoke Poges. The ongoing problems with the Bells Hill Development were one item, which Mr Grieve if re-elected is happy to write to the developer and SBDC.

Enforcement was an issue with people trying their luck to build without permission. This resulted on one lady physically attacking Mr Grieve because he could not prevent the Council from making her pull down three quarters of her house as it had been built illegally, he said people must simply follow the rules or pay the consequences.

Mr Grieve attends quarterly police meetings and the statistics for this area are not too bad.

He has had more letters about pot holes in the last three months than any other subject. He forwards them all on with an official letter to Highways. He has been out with the pot hole gangs to see how they work, they can fix up to forty per day but there are literally thousands.

The HS2 Railway is a serious environmental problem. His personal view is that a business case would have to be something fantastical when the saving on a journey to Birmingham is only 20 minutes. He is working hard with Cheryl Gillan and David Liddleton and if re-elected they will do their best to represent local views. The third runway of off limits at present, the Iver depot is a serious environmental issue.

The Management of Wexham Park Hospital has taken the parking issue seriously for the first time in years. Mr Grieve is working hard on this with Fiona McTaggart, Labour MP for Slough, to deal with the issue. There are over three thousand staff passes and only one thousand parking spaces. A possibility is to only give a pass to staff that live outside of the catchment area.

Mr Grieve offered to take questions:-

Jane Wall asked about the problem with the disabled access at Bells Hill and if Mr Grieve could help? Mr Grieve said that he cannot make people do things but would speak with the disabled team at SBDC and do what he can.

Mr Green asked about Aircraft Noise and if anything could be done? Mr Grieve said that anyone who writes to BAA get back a very detailed and accurate response showing all information on aircraft routes for that particular time. The problem is all to do with turning circles, wind direction, and the directions of landing and taking off. He is able to write to BAA but not change their current system and routes. Cllr Webber mentioned the aircraft and noise from Northolt and Mr Grieve said that he would be happy to write to them too.

6 **RECEIVED** a report from Councillor Trevor Egleton, Bucks County Councillor
The report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

9 **RECEIVED** a report from the police, presented by Sergeant Clayton George PS2934
The report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

Mr Finan asked Sgt George what the police stance was on illegally parked cars in the Stoke Green area. Sgt George said that cars parked on grass verges are parked illegally and can be ticketed. He will ask the PCSO's to patrol the area and ticket cars.

Another resident asked about the illegal car park which is charging £3 per day to park. Cllr Webber answered saying that SBDC Enforcement were on the case as it is Green Belt Lane but this takes time but they are dealing with it.

Another resident asked about the Speed Camera at Bells Hill and why it never seems to work? Sgt George said that he would report this to Highways.

7 **RECEIVED** the annual report and accounts of the parochial charities (Stoke Poges Relief in Need, Stoke Poges United Charity, Education Charity) presented by Chairman Dr Sue Lynch.
Both reports are attached and form part of the minutes.

RECEIVED the annual report and accounts of the Stoke Poges Lands End Memorial presented by Cllr Ray Aldridge.

The report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

A resident asked if there were any restrictions on applying for funding, Cllr Aldridge replied that it had to be for education or equipment or tools for work. The Stoke Poges Relief in Need restrictions are much broader.

RECEIVED the annual report and accounts of the Lord Hastings Trust charity presented by Chairman Mike Milne-Smith
The report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

- 8** **RECEIVED** a written report from Mr David Claydon, Chairman of the NAG group presented by Mr Claydon.
The report is attached and forms part of the minutes.

- 10** Community Library
Cllr Webber reported as below:-

Cllr Webber explained that for two years she had been trying to get a Community Library project off the ground. She had asked for volunteers, spoken to Chalfont St Giles library, investigated every possible space in the area, including the Hut space, Persimmon site, Tesco site, St. Andrews, The School, The Village Centre and finally the shop portacabins. Unfortunately there have not been enough offers to get the project off the ground and Cllr Webber is informing the Village that after two years of work the project is a non-starter.

A resident asked if the Chalfont St Giles Community Library was on the existing site. Cllr Webber replies yes as the space was there to use, Stoke Poges need space and the space which was allocated has now been added to the retail space. The villager asked if that was what the Village wanted? Cllr Webber replied no but this is what Persimmon wanted a purely commercial retail unit.

- 11** To consider resolutions for which written notice has been given.

Cllr Arnold read out an email received from Chris Taylor regarding Post Codes in the Stoke Poges area.

The email is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Cllr Arnold said that this was a very valid question and something she had tried to investigate three years ago, and to bring Stoke Poges under the South Bucks area. Other areas with SL do not bring up Slough as part of their address only Stoke Poges. It was agreed that the Parish Council would look into this matter further.

Cllr Webber asked Cllr Egleton that when County are working on the Stoke Green Conservation Area could they please work on the borders. Cllr Egleton agreed to bring this up at the next Local Forum meeting, and will also ask Jim Stevens to take a trip around the area.

Barbara Davis asked why Bucks County Council can't put up more signs in the area saying that "Parking here is Illegal", Cllr Egleton to investigate.

Cllr Liz Robinson asked Cllr Egleton to ask Bucks County Council about improving signs on the roundabouts near the hospital, to make it clearer regarding the hospital car parks.

Cllr Mark Fletcher read out a prepared statement.
The statement is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Cllr Arnold replied by saying that she took personal offence to the contents of the report and the criticising of her report, she and Cllr Webber had worked hard over the numerous years that they had been in office and that all Councilors work hard. Cllr Fletcher replied that his statement was not a personal criticism, but his opinion on the relationship between SPPC and SBDC. Cllr Fletcher further said that it was he wanted both Cllr Arnold and Cllr Webber to continue as Parish Councillors and work with the newer councillors.

Cllr Best said that all newer Councillors were offered a meeting to give the full facts regarding the Football Club but they had all declined the offer. Cllr Fletcher replied that he had declined to attend that meeting was due to the refusal of Cllr Best to allow the football club to also be present in order that they could present their side and therefore allow the councilors to take a balance view.

Cllr Best also said that the Bells Hill Development was voted on by the Villagers and that the Parish Council at that time did not want it to go ahead. It was SBDC that made the final decision to sell. Cllr Egleton pointed out that Cllr Arnold had been party to the decision to sell as a SBDC councillor.

Mike Saunders thanked Arun and Rita at the Post Office and Bal at the Chemist for moving into the development to smoothly and making a permanent base for villagers to shop.

Martin Bragg reported on accident black spots in the village by the Church, he has seen recently 3 cars in ditches and 1 hit a tree in that area, and on the s bend by the golf course a 5 car pile up. Also many drains need attention of which he has picture and will send them to Highways. Cllr Egleton will put pressure on Highways to clear the drains.

A resident asked about the underground parking gates at Bells Hill and whether a main contact from the Parish Council was dealing with the issue with Persimmon. Cllr Arnold explained that Persimmon will only speak to SBDC and Bob Smith had tried his best to set up meetings with them and the Parish Council to had not yet happened. The only people who can explain about the gates are planning at SBDC. Cllr Thornton stated that SBDC can never seem to explain why the gates and disabled ramp were not built. Building control have some responsibility. Cllr Arnold said that she had discussed this with Bob Smith and Persimmon used their own Building Control Company.

Mr Finan said that there should be no grey areas and he directly asked what the South Bucks District Councillors were going to do about this problem? Cllr Webber replied that she would be very happy to go back over the original plans and will contact Cllr Bowater to help.

Gaby Battrick asked about the siting of the sub-station which originally should have been nearer to the chemist. Cllr Arnold said that she had checked and a

public utility can be moved without permission, Cllr Thornton agreed that this was correct.

Cllr Egleton said that the District Councillors should be asking for a report from Bob Smith. Cllr Egleton had sat on the committees as a Parish Councillor when the plans were going through, the gates and the ramps were on the original plans. They should be asking Building Control. Cllr Webber agreed to do so.

Barbara Davis said that better access to the Recreation Ground was needed for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Parish Council to look into?

Another resident asked if the Manor House was part of the Conservation Area as it is currently being renovated. Cllr Webber said yes it was and it was a Grade 1 listed building, Cllr Webber to check and make sure all is being done correctly.

Meeting ended at 10.35pm