

STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2008 AT 8.00 P.M. IN THE MAIN HALL AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

Present:- Cllr K Webber (Chair), Cllr N Arnold, Cllr Y Ball, Cllr J Ball, Cllr S Best, Cllr G Elderfield, Cllr L Franke, Cllr M Fletcher, Cllr H Huntley, Cllr C Thornton

In Attendance: - Mrs J Simmonds (Clerk)

Also Present: - Cllr T Egleton, Cllr F Bowater, PCSO B Moat, Ms R Moulden (Press), Mr P Mussett (BCC), Mr P Stimpson (Slough Borough Council) and approximately 40 members of public.

MINUTES

120/PC/08 - Public Question Time 8.00pm-8.15pm

A small number of members of the public were at the meeting to ask the Parish Council about the kebab/food van which has recently opened outside the Dog & Pot public house. Cllr Arnold informed everyone that she had checked with SBDC and all licences for this outlet were in order, no planning permission was needed as the van was not a permanent structure or operation. Complaints were made about the noise and the smell coming from the van by local residents. There was mixed feelings about the presence of the van. Cllrs Webber suggested that residents complain individually to Environmental Health at SBDC each time a problem arises, and to copy these complaints to the Parish Council, she explained that it is more likely for a licence to be revoked if there were many complaints rather than just one from the Parish Council as a whole. PCSO Moat explained to everyone that there is a pubwatch group in the area and the next meeting would be held on the 20th January 2009. He will raise the issue there.

121/PC/08 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:- Cllr R Aldridge, Cllr L Gillan and Cllr G Hardy

122/PC/08 - Declarations of interest

Members to declare any personal interest in any item of business as defined in the Code of Conduct 2007. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code, the member should withdraw from the meeting for that item.

An explanation about Declarations of Interest was made by Cllr Webber for the benefit of the new Parish Councillor's. Cllr Franke declared prejudicial interest in items 140 & 141. Cllr Thornton declared a personal interest in item 128.

123/PC/08 - Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th October 2008 which were Signed by the Chairman.

124/PC/08 - Election 30th October 2008

NOTED the results of the recent election and welcome the three new councillors, Elizabeth Franke, Catherine Thornton and Mark Fletcher. **RESOLVED** to confirm that all papers had been signed by each new member. Cllr Webber welcomed all three councillor's who in turn introduced

themselves.

125/PC/08 - Library - Mr P Mussett - Senior Operations Manager, Culture & Learning Bucks County Council. Meeting adjourned at 8.30 to allow public to ask questions.

RECEIVED a presentation on library services to Stoke Poges from Mr Mussett who confirmed that the super mobile library will visit Stoke Poges on Saturday 6th December.

Mr Mussett started by saying that he preferred to talk about the new mobile library service, rather than recent decisions not to give Stoke Poges a new library at Bells Hill. A long discussion took place and many questions were asked by members of the public about the recent decision and Mr Mussett answered these to the best of his ability. There was anger that money given to County from Persimmon would be spent elsewhere and on other libraries in the District and not Stoke Poges. Mr Mussett went on to say that the new mobile library times have been increased to 10 hours per week, now coming on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The new service is better quality and more consistent than when it first started in 2005. We will have the largest vehicle that they have on the fleet which is 40ft long. He said that the mobile library can be as good as a static library and the 10 hours which Stoke Poges gets is more than any other area. When the super mobile comes on the 6th December, County would like feedback from the residents on the design and cards will be given out for comments and suggestions. Any payment received from Persimmon will be used to completely restock the vehicle. Mr Mussett said that he won't pretend that a mobile can compete with a static library but they will make it as good as possible. Mr Mussett was asked how long he could guarantee that we would get the library for 10 hours per week, and he replied saying that the schedules had just been done and will stay for at least two maybe three years before being reviewed again. He did point out however that if the library was boycotted this would not help the guarantee that it would remain for 10 hours per week. He did however guarantee that the hours would not be reduced if the library was well used. A question was asked about the Community Libraries which have been started in other areas and what input the County Council had with them, Mr Mussett replied that 5 community libraries had been started, all put in a business case, all books were donated and they were staffed by volunteers so there were no net costs to the County Council. Since opening one has folded, two are struggling, and one is independent. In Chalfont St. Giles and Little Chalfont the usage has declined. Mr Mussett said that they have no capacity to put a mobile library into any other areas if their static library closes, and that all levels of users were low in areas where libraries have closed. He was asked what percentage from Stoke Poges used the library but was unable to answer this not having the figures with him. Mr Mussett was asked why the library at Micklefield was now being re-opened by County. He explained that this was an area of deprivation which was one of the criteria for a lottery grant which Micklefield was awarded. With the lottery award and about £40k from section 106 money they were able to re-open with a small funding from the County. Mr Mussett was asked what the space at Bells Hill would be used for. Cllr Webber answered this question by saying that there were no takers at Persimmon at present and 5000 square feet is unallocated. Mr Mussett was asked if there was a level of high activity at the mobile library would this trigger County to re-open a static library, Mr Mussett said this was highly unlikely mostly due to the County Council not having any capital. This angered many people who felt that the payment from Persimmon should be put back into Stoke Poges. Cllr Webber asked why if the lease for the static library in Stoke Poges would cost County only £600 pa and £35k of the £45k fit out for the library was to be paid by SBDC, County could not find the £35k pa needed to fund the static library. Mr Mussett pointed out that if facilities were reduced at Beaconsfield and Burnham by County the Stoke Poges Library could be kept open. Mr Mussett had no more to say and the discussion ended at 9.25pm.

Meeting re-convened at 9.25pm.

126/PC/08 - Mr Paul Stimpson (Slough Borough Council)

RECEIVED short presentation from Mr Stimpson regarding the consultation for 'Draft Site Allocations Development Plan Document' as requested at last month's meeting.

Mr Stimpson gave a document which outlined 88 sites across Slough. One or two might be of interest to Stoke Poges, those being Wexham Park Hospital which is not closing now but will be expanding and redeveloping with a 92 million pound development scheme.

Arbourvale School - possible Slough Town Football site.

The Canal Basin at Stoke Road to be redeveloped.

A new hub in the centre of the Trading Estate.

Mr Stimpson confirmed that they will not be releasing any more Green Belt land for development.

Mr Stimpson said that Slough had built on most of its Green Belt land. He also confirmed that Slough had nowhere to expand but north.

127/PC/08 - Aircraft Noise

Deferred until next meeting

128/PC/08 - The Dog & Pot

Already discussed at public session and established that all licences were in order. Parish Council unable to complain for no reason therefore Cllr Webber asked residents to complain to SBDC Environmental Health and to copy the Parish Council in so that we can look at the complaints individually and act upon the accordingly.

129/PC/08 - Police

PCSO Moat sent Sgt Dave Bryan's apologies. He was meant to be at the meeting this evening but got called away to a job. PCSO Moat explained that he did not have any crime figures this month but remembered that the figures were low- approximately 4 burglaries. He confirmed that Louise Sharples will be replacing PC Mike Hillyard on 24th November 2008 and that a new PCSO will start work on 22nd December 2008. He asked if plastic A4 signs could be erected to say that body mounted video cameras are now being worn by officers.

130/PC/08 - County Councillor's Report

Cllr Egleton gave a short report about County's investments saying that 75% of them were now safely in UK and Irish banks, 5% was still in Icelandic banks but they were hopeful to get all of the money back. The Overview & Scrutiny 3 year plan on property has had all recommendations accepted, and a report will be made back in March on the progress.

131/PC/08 - District Councillor's Report

Cllr Bowater reported that there were new changes to the permitted development rules and that they were not simple and easy to understand. SBDC are debating the changes as a matter of urgency and will send out bullet points to the Parish Council and public as soon as possible.

132/PC/08 - Finance

- (a) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts Income & Expenditure October 08 which was tabled.
- (b) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature which were signed.
- (c) **RECEIVED** bank reconciliations October 08 which were signed by the chairman.
- (d) **NOTED** Budget Monitoring - which was tabled
- (e) **NOTED** that the Annual Return has been signed off and returned to the Parish Council by the external auditors.

133/PC/08 - Communities and Local Government - Consultation on the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws.

Comment by Cllr J Ball emailed to each councillor on 21/10/08. Cllr Webber thanked Cllr Ball for his comments which were **NOTED**. Agreed no response.

134/PC/08 - Communities and Local Government - Consultation. Real People, real power: Codes of conduct for local authority members and employees.

Comments needed by 24th December 2008.
Cllr J Ball taken to read and report back at next meeting.

135/PC/08 - Ragwort at Magnolia Farm

NOTED outcome of visit made by Rural Payments Agency and to note that an Enforcement Notice was not issued during the inspection because the ragwort did not pose 'a significant risk to agricultural land or land used for grazing horses or other livestock'.
Clerk to go back to Rural Agency to ask what is significant? And to check they have looked at the correct piece of land, and to ask them to check again.

136/PC/08 - Liberty Lecture Proceeds.

Clerk has established that the charity neediest of the funds is the Lands End Educational Trust.
RESOLVED to agree that half of the proceeds should go to this charity.

137/PC/08 - Committees and Representatives

To agree which committees the new Parish Councillors should sit on. **Deferred until December**
To appoint members to the following organisations as representative, due to the death of Lionel Rigby and the resignations of Alan Day and Frank Bowater.
Lord Hastings Trust - RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Webber
South Bucks District Association of Local Councils - Deferred until December
Joint Local Committee - RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Huntley
Heritage Walk - RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Huntley

Cllr J Ball

Clerk

Dec

Dec

138/PC/08 - Delegated Budget 2009/2010

To decide what projects we would like to submit for delegated budget.

RESOLVED to include footpath 20 & 21 for upgrading. Cllrs asked to think about this and bring suggestions to the December meeting to which it was deferred..

Dec

139/PC/08 - Rogers Lane Field

Complaints have been made regarding the dog mess in the Rogers Lane field owned by Mr Iona-Smith. Clerk has written and spoken to Mr Iona-Smith who has no objections to signs and dog bins being erected on the entrances only to the field. To decide whether we want to request environmental health to erect these items at our expense.

Deferred until December meeting.

Dec

140/PC/08 - Pinewood Nurseries Licence Application - Wine for Friends Ltd

To Note comments sent to South Buck District Council on 4th November 2008, previously emailed to all Councillors.

NOTED application has been Withdrawn.

141/PC/08 - Pinewood Nurseries Licence Application - Sale/Supply of Alcohol (off Sales)

To decide response to above application

Cllr Franke left the room for this discussion.

There were mixed feelings about this application and Cllr J Ball was asked to do a response which would be emailed to all councillors for the approval before being sent to SBDC.

142/PC/08 - Reports from Other Committees

(1) Planning - Cllr Gillan was not present.

(2) R & E - Cllr Best reported that vandalism was quite high at present.

(3) Heritage - Cllr Arnold reminded everyone that there would not be carols not on the green this year, but it will be back next year with a resited beacon. Cllr Arnold reported that since last year's carols 3 of the 4 sets of lights had been vandalised, and asked if she could purchase 3 more sets after Christmas. **RESOLVED** to agree that 3 sets of exterior lights could be purchased.

143/PC/08 - Correspondence received by clerk but not on agenda.

Letter received from Junior School in response to our letter to them regarding the car park situation which was read out by Cllr Webber and is appended to the minutes.

Email from Ken McLoughney at Highways to say that the Village Signs should be erected by the end of the year.

144PC/08 - Dates of Future Meetings

NOTED Planning Committee – 17th November

NOTED Finance - 24th November

NOTED Parish Council - 1st December

145/PC/08 - Exclusion of the Press & Public

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the following business because publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

No items for Part 11.

Meeting ended at 10.35pm