

# STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE LIONEL RIGBY ROOM AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

**Present:-** Cllr K Webber (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr J Ball, Cllr Y Ball, Cllr Gillan, Cllr H Huntley, Cllr Thornton.

**In Attendance:-** Mrs J Simmonds (Clerk)

**Also Present:-** Katie Robertson, PC L Sharples, PCSO S Beck, NSO C Woodcock and Approx 40-50 members of public

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### MINUTES

#### **106/PC/09 Public Question Time (7.30pm-7.45pm)**

To receive comments and questions from any members of public present.

The meeting was moved for the public session only upstairs to the attic room to accommodate approximately 40-50 members of public who had come again like last month to disagree with the decision made about not re-newing the football club lease. Before the meeting started PC Sharples issued a warning about abusive behaviour and said that this would not be tolerated on either side. Mr Matthews agreed to speak on behalf of everyone. He asked why the minutes of the July meeting said that the decision was unanimous when he had heard from at least two councillors who said that they did not agree with the decision? Cllr Webber said that the decision was unanimous. There were eleven out of thirteen councillors at that meeting and all agreed to the decision. Mr Matthews asked the clerk where he could complain to about the present council? the clerk replied that it is through the ballot box at elections where complaints about councillors are dealt with. Mr Matthews then suggested the Standards Board of England to which Cllr Webber said this would go through the Standards Board at South Bucks District Council. Mr Matthews asked who sat on that board and Cllr Webber said that she did along with Cllr Arnold but that they would be unable to take part if it went that far. Mr Matthews then asked why the Finance Committee was recommending to Full Council that the £4k costs for the election come from the Youth reserves? Cllr Webber replied that this was a recommendation as there was no where else for it to come from as another by-election had not been budgeted for, but this had not been decided and was on the agenda to discuss later on, to which Mr Matthews replied that the Parish Council were talking rubbish. Mr Matthews asked about £2.5k which he had personally spent on repairs to the porta-cabins and when he would be re-imbursed. Cllr Webber reminded him that no-where was it ever minuted that any money over and above the £3k budgeted for last year would be re-imbursed to the football club. Mr Matthews then asked the clerk why she had replied to a letter from a Mrs Bowden saying that she had not heard Cllr Ball calling a member of public an idiot. Cllr J Ball again

denied saying this and Matthews disagreed, Cllr Ball then asked him if he would like to take it outside to which PC Sharples asked Cllr Ball to keep quiet and not to get involved. The Clerk said that she had not heard it and neither had the Chairman, probably due to the noise and disruption that was going on around them, Mr Matthews called them both liars. Cllr Webber then suspended the meeting at 7.55 and returned downstairs to the Lionel Rigby Room, followed by the clerk and the other councillors present. The meeting re-convened at 8.05 to deal with the following business:-

**107/PC/09 - Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Arnold, Cllr Best, Cllr Elderfield, Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Robinson

**108/PC/09 - 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.

There were none.

**109/PC/09 Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Cllr Aldridge said that he had heard Cllr Ball make outbursts during the public session of the last meeting although he did not remember what was said. Cllr Huntley said that she had also heard Cllr Ball make outbursts and they asked for the minutes to be changed. The public session minutes to be changed to reflect this and signed at the November meeting.

Clerk

**110/PC/09 Youth Worker**

To receive a report from Katie Robertson

Katie reported that things were going well. She had been on a swimming trip with some youths and the youth groups themselves were working well. She would like to be doing more detached youth work but needs a volunteer to help and go with her on this. She was asked what detached work is? she explained that it is getting to know kids well and to meet them at certain times in certain places mostly outside and interact with them. It was suggested that she make contact with Barbara Davis and Mandy Harrod about help finding a volunteer.

**111/PC/09 Police**

To receive a report from PC Louise Sharples

PC Sharples read out the crime figures, no written copy this month. PCSO Beck and PCSO Benawra have been out this month with SID (speed indicator advice) on Park Road and Hollybush Hill to collect data, this is in addition to the NAG work being carried out with SID. The parking in Stoke Green is still a major problem. There will be four beat surgeries this month to be carried out on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**112/PC/09 County Councillors Report**

Councillor Egleton to report

Cllr Egleton not present.

**113/PC/09 District Councillors Report**

Cllr Webber reported that there had been a Standards Board meeting held and that the Code of Conduct is to be updated. Training on the Code of Conduct will be held at three Venues, Iver Parish Council, Beaconsfield Town Council and South Bucks District Council. All Councillors can and should attend at least one. Dates to be confirmed.

**114/PC/09 RECEIVED and ADOPTED previous minutes from previous meetings of sub committees and working parties:-**

(1) Planning minutes 10/08/09- signed 21/09/09

(2) Finance minutes 23/03/09 - signed 5/10/09

**115/PC/09 Finance**

- (1) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts – September 09
- (2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature which was signed by the Chairman
- (3) **RECEIVED** Bank reconciliations September - which were signed by the Chairman appended
- (4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring September

**116/PC/09 By-Election**

**NOTED** that a by-election has been called for by the parish for a replacement for Geoff Hardy at a cost of £4k which has not been budgeted for.

**117/PC/09 Jupiter Fund**

**RESOLVED** to Agree Recommendation from Finance Committee that on advice from our auditors we cash in the Jupiter Fund, because the amount invested is not guaranteed and the market is rising steadily at present. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** that it is left in the Clerk and the Chairman's hands to liquidate at a good time. Clerk to investigate an account to put it in along with money in Cater Allen account which at present is paying no interest. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** as recommended by Finance to take the by-election costs out of reserves for Youth. £25k in youth fund of which £18k is earmarked over next three years, agreed that when possible the £4k is returned to this fund in the future.

Clerk/Chairman

**118/PC/09 Website**

Clerk has requested details of who runs Wexham Parish Council website. Email from Cllr Robinson who is standing down from her involvement with the Website. Agreed lots more work needed by clerk before anything can be changed.

Clerk

**119/PC/09 Parking at Stoke Green & Wexham Park Hospital**

Update from Cllr Arnold about meeting held at Wexham Parish Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September regarding parking problems around Wexham Park Hospital. Notes taken by Cllr Arnold at the meeting tabled. No real way forward decided as yet. PC Sharples suggested that possibility of bollards, to which Cllr Webber said she had already mentioned to BCC Highways but without joy. Not necessarily the best option in a Conservation Area. It was suggested that perhaps Highways could issue fixed penalty notices rather than the police.

**120/PC/09 Carols on the Green**

Update from Cllr Robinson about arrangements and grants. Cllr Robinson was not present but had issued a report which was tabled. Agreed that Cllr Robinson should pursue a grant from SBDC to help towards costs.

Cllr Robinson

**121/PC/09 SBDC - South Bucks Partnership Cohesion and Inequalities Strategy Consultation Survey**

**NOTED** Cllr Fletcher read and completed consultation form as appended.

**122/PC/09 Village Centre**

To discuss correspondence from Village Centre as appended. **RECEIVED & NOTED** correspondence from Village Centre and replies to them from the clerk. It was noted and agreed that the Parish Council had seriously breached Health and Safety during the September meeting and that this would not happen again. **RESOLVED** to approve that Cllr Webber and the clerk attend a meeting with our solicitor Kidd Rapinett on 29<sup>th</sup> October and following that meeting will set up a meeting with Mr Bailey and the Village Centre solicitors as requested by them to find a way forward.

Clerk/Chairman

**123/PC/09 Invoice from B M Construction**

**RESOLVED TO AGREE** in Cllr Bests absence that we pay half of the invoice now and that upon Cllr Bests return from holiday a meeting be set up with him, Cllr Aldridge and Mr MacDougall to discuss problems. Cllr Aldridge maintains that the job he asked them to do they have done. The problem seems to be the soil piled on the edges of the ditch which could fall in and block the ditch. Cllr Aldridge said that with all of the rain we have had so far the ditches are working.

Cllr  
Best/Cllr  
Aldridge

**124/PC/09 Bucks County Council Delegated Budget Report**

Deadline for bids is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009, to discuss and decide which bids to put forward. Budget limit for the whole of the Beeches Area is £30,182.42 appended.

**RESOLVED to AGREE** to ask for a lay-by in Vine Road at the top end near Gerrards Cross Road. This is in place of the grass verge which is there at present, which cars are continuously parking on. Also to widen the pavement on the bend near the school on Rogers Lane to allow prams and wheelchairs to get round without having to go onto the road. To place a new footpath in Church Lane even down one side would be a help to pedestrians who at present have to walk on the road. To be brought back to November meeting for further suggestions.

Nov 09

**125/PC/09 Stoke Poges Charities**

Trustees required to be nominated by Parish Council

Stoke Poges Land's End Memorial - Two Trustees nominated by Parish Council for four year Terms. Ray Aldridge nominated in 2008, one vacancy now due to resignation of Trevor Egleton. Stoke Poges Relief in Need - Four Trustees nominated by Parish Council for four year terms. Ray Aldridge and Kathie Webber nomination in 2008, Dr Sue Lynch term ends November 2009, one vacancy due to resignation of Trevor Egleton.

To decide on one nomination for Lands End charity and two for Relief in Need.

Cllr Webber explained that Diana Le Clerq had volunteered to become a trustee on both charities if we would like to nominate her. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** to nominate Diana Le Clerq onto Stoke Poges Land's End Memorial and Stoke Poges Relief in Need. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** to re-nominate Dr. S Lynch onto Stoke Poges Relief in Need Charity once her term ends in November 09, both unanimous votes.

Clerk

**126/PC/09 To appoint Representatives to replace Cllr Hardy.**

Cllr Hardy was a representative on the Stoke Poges Village Centre committee and also on our Finance committee. He was also spokesperson for Finance and Grants and Constitutional matters. To appoint replacements for all. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** not to replace Cllr Hardy on anything until a new councillor is in place.

**Also** there is a vacancy on the Village Centre Management Committee - to elect a representative, **RESOLVED TO AGREE** to nominate Cllr Stan Best onto the Village Centre Management Committee, unanimous vote.

Clerk

**127/PC/09 Public Bridleway 44/2 in the Parish of Stoke Poges**

Bridleway as located on map appended is in serious need of improvements. **NOTED & AGREED** that there are no objections in improvements being carried out.

**128/PC/09 Donation Requests**

- (1) Sue Ryder Care
- (2) Age Concern
- (3) Vitalise

To decide if donations should be given and how much. Donation budget for 09/10 is £105.

**RESOLVED TO AGREE** to give £55 to Age Concern and to not donate to Sue Ryder or Vitalise this time. Balance in budget of £50 to be given to Thames Valley Air Ambulance if they ask again.

Clerk

**129/PC/09 Sub-Committee Reports request from Cllr Thornton**

Cllr Thornton is suggesting that a brief report is drafted by a councillor and circulated prior to the meeting; comprising background and history if applicable; a recommendation where necessary and the reasons for that recommendation. This provides structure to the discussion and enables those councillors who are not on the subcommittee to grasp the issues and raise any questions. The document would be public (Unless a Part II item). Cllr Webber explained that traditionally reports at Parish Council level have always been verbal, mainly due to the fact the Parish Councillors are volunteers and do not always have the time to write large reports. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** that this would be down to each individual Chairman and if they decided that a report should be made then it would be decided in the meeting who would produce the report. This would not be down to the clerk who would not have the time to do this under her current contracted hours. Unanimous decision.

**130/PC/09 Potential New Councillors**

To agree that we should prepare an advice note to say that elected members are also trustees of Bells Hill recreation ground and that prior information about the Code of Conduct will be included. Advice from SBDC.

**RESOLVED TO AGREE** that the Chairman would produce a document.

Chairman

**131/PC/09 Bells Hill Recreation Ground**

To agree to set up a working party to investigate another exit.

Cllr Webber explained that she had investigated every possibility in the Village to place a community library without success. The only option left is the hut in the Recreation Ground which at present is unused. The problem with this is the entry and exit into the recreation ground and she suggested that a working party be set up just to investigate if it would be possible to have another exit anywhere. **RESOLVED TO AGREE** Cllr Huntley and Cllr Aldridge to investigate and report back.

Cllr  
Huntley/  
Cllr  
Aldridge

**132/PC/09 Stoke Common**

Request from Marion Payne volunteer at Stoke Common for permission to erect a shed at the allotments to accommodate their tools.

**RESOLVED to AGREE** that a shed could be erected upon her own plot only and would be no larger than 8'x6'. Unanimous vote.

Clerk

**133/PC/09 Bucks County Council Community Resilience (formerly Emergency Planning)**

To decide whether to opt into BCC community resilience plan appended.

**RESOLVED TO AGREE** to elect into this scheme. Unanimous vote.

Clerk

**134/PC/09 SBDC Standard Committee**

Annual Bulletin and Member Training appended.

Notification of Personal Interest Forms appended.

**NOTED** already discussed under item 113.

**135/PC/09 Reports from Other Committees**

(1) Planning - Cllr Gillan reported that Cllr Thornton had agreed to try to get enforcement issues sorted out.

(2) Finance - Already covered under item 117.

(3) R & E - Notification from Paul Bourne that 9 boys/girls have been signed up to the Wexham football team from the Plough Lane area. Tenancy agreement for allotments will be ready for agreement at November meeting, to discuss water - Cllr J Ball reported that the allotment site was looking really good and tidy, however there is an area which appears to be being used as a rubbish area. This needs to stop. The tenancy agreement will be ready for the November meeting and it is possible that Water should be added to the charges for each plot. Making each plot charge around £20, to be discussed and agreed at November meeting.

(4) Heritage - No report as Cllr Arnold away.

**136/PC/09 Correspondence received by clerk but not on agenda.**

- (1) **NOTED** Letter received from Mrs S Bowden. Clerk replied to apologise but explained that she did not hear the quote in question. **AGREED** that the clerk should write again to Mrs Bowden in light of the fact the some councillors have claimed that they heard Cllr Ball make outbursts.
- (2) **NOTED** 'Chillin in the Park' results
- (3) **NOTED** Funding and Networking Evening 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 for Youth Groups  
Katie Robertson to attend and report back at next meeting.

Clerk

#### **137/PC/09 Dates of Future Meetings**

Planning Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

R & E Committee - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Heritage Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Full Parish Council - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009

#### **138/PC/09 Exclusion of the Press & Public**

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

**RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Public & Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they may involve the disclosure of items that are not in the public interest and may involve disclosure of confidential information about particular members of staff.

Meeting Ended at 9.30pm

After the meeting a gentleman called Keith explained that he had wanted to ask a question during the public session which was not related to the football club, and had now waited for two hours before being allowed his say. The Chairman apologised for not giving the opportunity during the public session but explained that due to the amount of people present it had seemed that everyone was present for the same reason including Keith who had spoken out a couple of times during the football discussion. Keith was concerned about the Bells Hill Recreation Ground play area to which his house backs onto and the hypodermic needles which were being thrown over the fence into his garden where his two young children play. Also the dog mess in the play area was a major concern. The Chairman automatically introduced Keith to PC Sharples who would deal with the needle issue. The clerk will contact Mrs Edmunds who clears the litter and dog mess from the play area to find out why it appears to be so bad. Keith was grateful for the extra time allowed to speak at the end of the meeting and again the Chairman apologised for making him sit through the whole meeting before he was allowed his say.

Signed

Chairman

Dated

