

STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE MAIN HALL AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

Present:- Cllr Webber (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Arnold, Cllr J Ball, Cllr Y Ball, Cllr Best, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Gillan, Cllr Huntley, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Thornton.
In Attendance:- Mrs J Simmonds (Clerk)
Also Present:- Cllr Egleton, Sgt George, two members of press, approx 30-40 members of public.

MINUTES

169/PC/09 - Public Question Time (7.30pm-7.45pm)

Cllr Webber opened the meeting by saying that it had become unclear whether the 9th November meeting had actually been opened. After discussion with others present at that meeting it was clear that the meeting had not been opened; no minutes should have been taken and therefore they are to be withdrawn. Cllr Webber then informed everyone that this evening's meeting had been lawfully convened and that one member of public had actually tried to get this meeting cancelled. Cllr Webber said that Part 1 of the meeting would be closed at 9.30pm to enable the councillors to take the items in Part II this evening. Therefore due to time constraints the public session would be strictly 15 minutes. Cllr Webber asked which members of public would like to speak, 3 people raised their hands and were allocated 5 minutes each. Mr Shepherd asked about the Firs Field area in Duffield Lane which has had some gas cylinders dumped on it which may be a danger to children. Clerk to take up the issue with SBDC. Mr Crocker asked what criteria are used for Part II items. Cllr Webber read out the four main criteria under the local government act 1972 as stated in the Charles Arnold Baker book, Mr Crocker said that most of the letter refers to other items not under these criteria and that he felt it was in the public interest to hear the discussions. Cllr Webber explained that you cannot cherry pick the letter and that Legal and Democratic Services at SBDC agreed that this should be taken in a Part II. Mrs Relfs asked why a letter which she had sent to the clerk was not appearing under item 191; the clerk explained that the agenda for this evening was huge and it was unlikely that the committee would even reach item 191 in the time available and that it would appear on the next agenda.

170/PC/09 - Apologies for Absence

There were none.

171/PC/09 - Acceptance of Office

RESOLVED TO NOTE AND ACCEPT that a new councillor Mr G Matthews is in office after the bye-election on 3rd December 2009. Cllr Webber welcomed Mr Matthews to the table.

RESOLVED to confirm that a declaration of acceptance of office form also agreeing to the Code of Conduct 2007 had been completed and signed by the new member in front of the clerk.

The register of interests forms are to be completed and returned to the clerk within the 28 day deadline so that she can forward them on to South Bucks District Council.

172/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.

Cllr Webber explained the rules of the Code of Conduct and the declarations of interest for the benefit of the new councillor in office. Cllr Matthews declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Part II item number 195. Cllr Robinson declared a personal interest in item 153 of the November agenda.

173/PC/09 - Minutes

To approve the minutes of the abandoned Council meeting held on 9th November 2009
These minutes were withdrawn as it had been agreed that no meeting took place.

174/PC/09 - Vote of No Confidence

Letter received from Cllrs Fletcher, Robinson, Thornton, Aldridge and Huntley
Cllr Webber read out the second paragraph of the letter received which gave no reason for the vote of no confidence and explained that there was no such legitimate a procedure in Local Government and the way to deal with this is through the ballot box. She would remain as Chairman until May as she was elected by the parish councillors unless she resigned or was disqualified. She explained that neither conditions applied. However the Chairman passed the discussion to the five councillors to pass a motion if they so wished. Cllr Fletcher said that they no longer had confidence in the Chairman and asked for a vote, this was seconded by Cllr Thornton. A show of hands recorded Cllr's Fletcher, Matthews, Robinson, Aldridge, Thornton and Huntley in favour of the vote and Cllr Arnold, Gillan, J Ball, Y Ball, Best and Webber against the vote. Thus there was no determination.

175/PC/09 Agenda Items from Adjourned 9th November meeting.

To take all agenda items from 9th November agenda. Please
could all Councillors bring along last months agenda and appended papers.

NOVEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

139/PC/09 - Apologies for Absence

Meeting did not take place no apologies recorded.

140/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.

Meeting did not take place no declarations recorded.

141/PC/09 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th September 2009 and 12th October 2009 which were signed by the Chairman.

142/PC/09 LAF presentation by Stephen Young from Bucks County Council

In attendance, Jim Stevens Head of Transport and Trevor Egleton County Councillor.

Meeting did not take place so no presentation given. Mr Young will be asked to re-attend sometime in the new year.

143/PC/09 Youth Worker

To receive a report from Katie Robertson, to include report back from funding evening.
This item will be taken under the December agenda item 176.

144/PC/09 Police

To receive a report from PC Louise Sharples

This item will be taken under the December agenda item 177.

145/PC/09 County Councillors Report

Councillor Egleton to report

This item will be taken under the December agenda item 178.

146/PC/09 District Councillors Report

This item will be taken under the December agenda item 179.

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

(1) Planning minutes 21/09/09 - signed 19/10/09

148/PC/09 Finance

(1) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts – October

(2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature – (appended)

(3) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank reconciliations October which were signed by the Chairman. (appended).

(4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring October

(5) Request from clerk for extra signatories to sign cheques. To be taken under December agenda item 181 (6).

149/PC/09 Resignation of Gerald Elderfield

RECEIVED & NOTED that Cllr Elderfield has resigned from his long established post as Parish Councillor.

Cllr Webber informed the committee that another election had been called which will cost the electorate another £4k. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2009 and the election will take place on 11th February 2009.

150/PC/09 Suspension of Standing Order 15(a)

Letter received from Stoke Poges Football Club

To consider setting aside standing orders 15(a) in order that the Clerk may make further enquiries for consideration by the Council at the December meeting.

Cllr Webber explained that this item was not necessary as the letter related to a licence and the decision was taken not to re-new a lease.

151/PC/09 Jupiter Fund

Cllr Webber explained that some of the reserves were held in this Jupiter fund and that both the internal and external auditors had advised that this was not a good investment as the capital sum of £25k was not guaranteed. As agreed by finance and full council the clerk has now sold the £25k investment for £32437.06.

152/PC/09 Website

Clerk has been in contact with a Company called 'In-Touch With Communities'.

Company specifically set up for building individual websites for Parish Councils. To decide if clerk should investigate further and get costs.

RESOLVED to agree that the clerk should make further enquiries and get costs and also ask Hedgerley if we can have access to their webmaster for advice.

153/PC/09 Parking at Stoke Green & Wexham Park Hospital

Cllr Robinson declined to give feedback despite being at the meeting because she had declared a prejudicial interest at an earlier meeting. Cllr Webber attended in cllr Arnold's absence and had notes with her. She said that Greg Scott the General Manager of Wexham Park Hospital was present at the meeting and he will continue to meet and continue to press for something to be done. Cllr Vigor-Hedderly told a tale of chaos when she had visited the hospital recently. SBDC are soon to be reviewing the Stoke Green conservation area. There are reports that the hospital parking revenue is £750k per annum and the spend is £760k per annum so making a loss. There was much criticism of the guards, but there are 37 barriers around the hospital to be guarded. Two successful meetings have taken place so far and Dominic Grieve has promised to be present at the third and final meeting in January. There is talk of making the first 20 minutes

parking free. A question was asked about parking in the cricket club which has been withdrawn. This is a matter of enforcement by SBDC.

154/PC/09 Carols on the Green

Update from Cllr Robinson about arrangements and grants.

Cllr Robinson's grant claim with SBDC had been successful and the council can have up to £310 match funded. The brass band costs are £200, £100 for banners, £60 for hostess trolley and £75 for Santa outfit. **RESOLVED** to agree to pay up to £250 towards costs, all in favour.

155/PC/09 Village Centre

Cllr Webber said that a meeting had been arranged for 16th December. All advice taken from our solicitor had been given to us free of charge. Cllr Huntley and others asked what this meeting was about and Cllr Webber explained that the use of the Lionel Rigby Room was being interpreted differently between the Village Centre committee and the Parish Councillors, and also there were discrepancies of some words and what they actually mean. Cllr Huntley and Robinson asked why the Parish Councillors had not been informed about the meeting or advised of the meeting date or invited to attend the meeting. Cllr Webber explained that she was informing them this evening before the event, and that this had been arranged at the request of the Village Centre, and that herself as Chairman and Cllr Arnold the Vice Chairman had agreed to attend, but any other councillor who so wished to attend would be more than welcome. Cllr Webber was asked to give a written report by Cllr Thornton. Cllr Webber said that she was more than happy to report back at the next meeting but not give a written report due to time constraints.

156/PC/09 Bucks County Council Delegated Budget Report

Deadline for bids is 30th November 2009, to discuss and decide which bids to put forward. Budget limit for the whole of the Beeches Area is £30.182.42. Brought back from October meeting to see if any additional ideas are to be put forward. The clerk has put in the three items already agreed by the deadline of 30th November.

157/PC/09 Allotment Tenancy Agreement/Water

New allotment tenancy agreement has been drafted by the Legal Advisory Sub Committee R & E recommend to Full Council to accept the new tenancy agreement to be used as from 1st January 2010, to agree. **RESOLVED TO AGREE**; a vote was taken by a show of hands to accept the new agreement, all in favour apart from Cllr Aldridge who abstained from the vote. R & E recommend to Full Council to fit two new water taps in 2010/2011 budget, to agree. **RESOLVED TO AGREE**; a vote was taken by a show of hands to install two new water taps in 2010/11, all in favour.

R & E recommend to Full Council to increase the allotment charges to £20 to incorporate the yearly water charges, to agree. **RESOLVED TO AGREE**; a vote was taken by a show of hands to accept the charges, all in favour.

R & E committee recommend to Full Council to pay the balance of the BM Construction invoice for ditch works, to agree. **RESOLVED TO AGREE**; a vote was taken by a show of hands to agree to pay this invoice in full, all in favour.

158/PC/09 Bells Hill Recreation Ground Working Party

Update from Cllr Aldridge and Cllr Huntley.

This item will be taken under December agenda item 185.

159/PC/09 Bells Hill Shopping Area

to discuss Security at the new shops/disquiet at lack of lights and lack of access/facilities for disabled people.

Cllr Webber said that complaints and comments had been made about numerous items on this development which she and Cllr Arnold would be discussing at a meeting with Chris Marchant at SBDC on 9th December. Sgt George said that he had heard that the residents of the new development had paid for security measures/electronic gates but so far nothing had materialised. SBDC can do nothing about the lighting; this is up to Persimmon and it might be that they ask the Parish Council to adopt any lighting which goes in there.

160/PC/09 Mobile Library

Updates were covered in the Stoke Poges News Christmas edition. Cllr Webber said that she had explored every building she could think of for a possible community library but to no avail. Cllr Matthews asked if it would be possible to use the existing porta-cabins used for shops as a library. Cllr Webber said that they were owned by SBDC along with the land and that she would suggest this at her meeting with Chris Marchant. Cllr Egleton will take up the issue of the parking of the mobile library, there is a new director in charge, and a new cabinet member both of whom are more proactive on community libraries.

161/PC/09 Litter Picking

Letter from SBDC offering litter pickers by Verdant in our own areas instead of employing private litter pickers.

Clerk to investigate further and bring back with costs.

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

Agreed to adopt in on this scheme last month however upon further investigation by the clerk we have to supply emergency contacts, to decide which contacts to supply or whether to agree not to adopt in.

RESOLVED to agree not to adopt in to this scheme knowing the facts and that we should refer this back to SBDC. This was proposed by Cllr Arnold and seconded by Cllr Webber, a vote was taken by a show of hands, all in favour.

163/PC/09 Meeting Start Times

The six month trial to start Full PC and Planning Meetings at 7.30pm instead of 8pm has now elapsed. To decide whether to stay with 7.30pm permanently or revert back to 8pm.

RESOLVED to agree to keep Full Parish Council and Planning meetings at 7.30pm permanently, a vote was taken by a show of hands, all in favour except Cllr Arnold, Cllr Webber and Cllr Matthews who all abstained.

164/PC/09 SBDC-Application for variation of a premises licence

Stoke Park Club

Objection deadline has passed, Cllr Gillan had objected to the many occasions which they had requested a 4am licence.

165/PC/09 Reports from Other Committees

- (1) Planning
- (2) R & E
- (3) Heritage

This item will be taken under December agenda item number 190.

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

- (1) **NOTED** SBDC Street Naming Procedure letter for Jasmine Lodge Home Farm Site
- (2) **NOTED** Bucks CC - Buckinghamshire Network Hierarchy - A Reference Document
- (3) **NOTED** BALC - 61st Annual General Meeting
- (4) **NOTED** The London Green Belt Council AGM Agenda 4/11/09
- (5) **NOTED** BCC Transport Symposium invite - 19th November 2009 3pm-5pm Beaconsfield

167/PC/09 NOTED Dates of Future Meetings

Planning Committee – 16th November 2009

Finance - 23rd November 2009

Full Parish Council - 7th December 2009

168/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.

CONTINUATION OF DECEMBER AGENDA ITEMS

176/PC/09 Youth Worker

To receive a report from Katie Robertson, to include report back from funding evening. Katie Robertson was not in attendance to give a report, no apologies were received.

177/PC/09 Police

Sgt George was in attendance this evening and read out the crime figures for November (appended). (October figures also appended). Speeding was still taking place in the area which they are working on along with thefts from motor vehicles. They are trying to educate people about leaving goods on show in cars. Two vehicles were stolen from the Wexham Street area. Beat surgeries for December were read out.

178/PC/09 County Councillors Report

Councillor Egleton to report

Cllr Egleton has been involved in setting up Overview & Scrutiny meetings which are open and transparent and open to the public. An open forum will take place once a month which is also open to public and councillors. BALC have agreed to publicise this. Three items on transport are being dealt with The Swan Rider, Civil Enforcement Areas and Car Parking. There will soon be a three day budget hearing. 32 people are on task and finish groups. The Locality Strategy Draft Report on Secondary School Admissions is on the website. They are still cutting down on staff and directors and all councillors had opted to take no increase this year. Cllr Egleton informed the clerk that Farnham Common had recently undergone a new website process and maybe she could speak with them for advice. A £20million loss had been reported at Wexham Park Hospital which they have been told to get back in the next three years, no announcement yet about how they will do this. Cllr Egleton questioned 'What will happen in the future' to the hospital.

179/PC/09 District Councillors Report

Cllr Webber reported that the LDF 1st draft is to be looked at and will then go to consultation. Farnham Royal conservation area is being looked at now.

180/PC/09 RESOLVED To Receive and Adopt previous minutes from previous meetings of sub committees and working parties:-

- (1) Planning minutes 19/10/09 - signed 16/11/09
- (2) Finance minutes 05/10/09 - signed 23/11/09

181/PC/09 Finance

- (1) Statement of Accounts – November. **Statements not received in time to be brought back to January 2010.**
- (2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature (appended)
- (3) Bank reconciliations November - . **Statements not received in time to be brought back to January 2010.**
- (4) Budget Monitoring November- **Statements not received in time to be brought back to January 2010.**
- (5) Budget/Precept figures as discussed at Finance meeting to be discussed and brought back to January 2010 meeting to decide Precept. Cllrs were asked by the Chairman to look at the figures before the January meeting. **To bring back to January 2010 to discuss and decide precept for 2010/2011.**
- (6) To discuss moving the bank account from National Westminster to Lloyds TSB. No documentation required from councillors to become signatories which would make changing the mandate much easier. They also have a saver account which can be linked to the current account for top ups. Also they have a number of treasury accounts in which money can be placed to provide a better interest than we are currently getting. **RESOLVED TO APPROVE** to move bank account to Lloyds TSB. A vote was taken by a show of hands, all in favour.
- (7) **RESOLVED to** authorise overtime for clerk to deal with an enforced backlog of work. To be agreed with Chairman monthly and reported monthly.

182/PC/09 Carols on the Green

Update from Cllr Robinson about arrangements and grants.
This was already dealt with under November item number 154.

183/PC/09 SBDC Playbuidier Grant

SBDC have requested that the Parish Council inform them which site they would prefer the new play equipment to be located, even though this will not be the final decision which will come from the consultation process with the village in conjunction with the Parish Council. There was mixed opinions about which area should receive the equipment, therefore it was **AGREED** that Cllr Robinson and Cllr Huntley would visit both sites and report back to the January 2010 meeting for a decision. **AGREED** also that any extra money to be given to the grant would be decided in the January 2010 meeting as well.

184/PC/09 SBDC Street Naming and Numbering School Lane

Request to consider name suggested for new development and suggest three of our own. Cllr Huntley suggested that the original land owners were called KEENS and therefore the name of the road should incorporate that. **RESOLVED to agree** Clerk to put forward any of the following, Keens Acre, Keens Crescent, Keens Lane, Keens Close, Keens Way. Cllr Webber took this opportunity to update everyone on Tabard Square. This is a marketing name for Persimmon and it will not stay. Giles House, Thomas House, and Grays House will stay but the development will still be known as Bells Hill. A suggestion was made that once the development was all sold and Persimmon had left that the Parish Council writes to all residents to explain that the area is known as Bells Hill not Tabard Square. Cllrs Webber and Arnold to take this up at their meeting with Chris Marchant from SBDC.

Cllr Y Ball left the meeting.

185/PC/09 Bells Hill Recreation Ground Working Party

Update from Cllr Aldridge and Cllr Huntley.

Letter received from Mr Finan

Cllr Huntley explained that their findings meant that the junction spacing provision would be totally inadequate and the provision would be dangerous. The footpath is a right of way and ramps would be required to surface the access. The cost would be huge. County Council did not like the idea and said that it would face huge opposition from residents and that it was not right to encroach on recreation land. Cllr Webber thanked Cllr Huntley and Cllr Aldridge for their hard work and said that she had come to the end of the road with investigations for a community library having investigated all available buildings including the hut in Bells Hill recreation ground except for the earlier suggestion of the portacabins behind Bolds Court. This was a final thought for a static library after investigating the Village Centre, St Andrews, the School and after writing to Persimmon for space and Tesco's for help all to no avail.

186/PC/09 Village Centre

Update/meeting to be held in 16th December 2009.

This item was taken under November agenda item 155.

Councillor Webber closed this part of the meeting at this point at 9.40pm to enable the council to move on to the Part II agenda this evening. The following items would be deferred if necessary to the January 2010 agenda.

187/PC/09 Voluntary Registrations

Letter from Kidd Rapinet suggesting that the Parish Council register interests in land owned on a voluntary registration basis. (appended)

188/PC/09 Flags

Flagmaster has said that both the Union and St. Georges flags are very tatty and will need replacing. To decide to replace or not.

189/PC/09 Office opening times for Christmas period.

Closed from 23rd December 2009 to 4th January 2009. However clerk may be in the office at some points between Christmas and New Year.

190/PC/09 Reports from Other Committees

- (1) Planning
- (2) R & E
- (3) Finance
- (4) Heritage

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

- (1) SBDC Community Development Grant - letter received following Cllr Robinsons application for a grant for the Carols on the Green. (appended).
- (2) Age Concern letter of thanks for donation (appended)

192/PC/09 Dates of Future Meetings

Planning Committee – 14th December
Full Parish Council - 4th January 2010
Planning Committee - 18th January 2010

193/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 because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllr Arnold proposed that both items below were taken under the Part II resolution and this was seconded by Cllr J Ball. A vote was just about to be taken when Cllr Fletcher asked if the items could be taken separately. Cllr Webber said that she would have to take this motion first and then would take Cllr Fletcher's motion. A show of hands was asked for and at that point Cllr Y Ball who had left the room a little earlier, returned to the room. The clerk pointed out to her what the vote was being taken for. A show of hands was asked for that both items be taken under Part II, Cllr Webber, Cllr J Ball, Cllr Gillan, Cllr Arnold, Cllr Best and Cllr Y Ball all agreed. A show of hands against was given by Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Thornton and Cllr Huntley. The vote was 6/6. Cllr Webber then asked for the motion to take the items separately this was proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Thornton.

Item 194 a vote was taken by a show of hands, all in favour.

Item 195 a vote was taken by a show of hands Cllrs Huntley, Thornton, Aldridge, Robinson, Matthews and Fletcher all vote against. Cllrs Arnold, Gillan, Best, J Ball, Y Ball and Webber voted for which meant this was 6/6 therefore Cllr Webber used her casting vote as Chairman so the motion to take item 195 under Part II was carried

Part II

194/PC/09 Clerks Salary/SLCC Membership

Full council agreed a pay rise package discussed by the chairman with the clerk and agreed by the clerk.

195/PC/09 Stoke Poges Football Club Letter

A long discussion took place and a vote taken on a motion to form a working party to discuss new key terms which if agreed the parish council would enshrine them in a new lease to occupy the portacabins on those terms. The motion was defeated.

Meeting ended at:- Part 1 9.40pm and Part II 10.35pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated

