

# STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE ATTIC ROOM AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

**Present:-** Cllr Gillan (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr J Ball, Cllr Best, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Huntley, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Thornton, Cllr Webber  
**In Attendance:-** Mrs J Simmonds (Clerk)  
**Also Present:-** Approximately 25 members of public.

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### MINUTES

The meeting was moved from the Lionel Rigby room upstairs to the Attic Room to accommodate the approximate 25 members of public. Councillor Webber opened the meeting at 7.35pm. Before taking the public session item Cllr Webber announced her resignation as Chairman to the Parish Council due to personal reasons and handed the clerk a letter of confirmation. Due to the absence of the Vice Chairman Cllr Arnold this evening, Cllr Webber proposed a motion to elect Cllr Gillan as temporary Chairman for the evening and this was seconded by Cllr Best a vote was called for and a show of hands recorded all in favour. (At this point Cllr J Ball had not arrived) Mr Finan wished Cllr Webber well and so did Cllr Fletcher. Cllr Webber and Cllr Gillan swapped places and the meeting began.

#### 196/PC/10 - Public Session Time (7.30pm-7.45pm)

To receive comments from any members of public present about items on the agenda. Cllr Gillan asked if any members of public had any comments to make on items listed on tonight's agenda, 4 people raised their hands. Cllr Gillan asked that each person keeps to a few minutes each. Mr Bagge asked the clerk if her minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> December were correct with regards to saying in the public session item that Cllr Webber had said that Legal and Democratic Services at SBDC had agreed that item 195 should be taken under Part II. The clerk replied that she had minuted what Cllr Webber had said, and Cllr Webber agreed that this was what she said and was correct. Mr Bagge went on to say that it was difficult to justify a part II item for an annual rent of £10. Cllr Gillan said that this was not what was being discussed under item 195 and that a decision had now been made and we could not keep going over the same ground and called the discussion to an end. (Cllr Ball arrived at the meeting at 7.45pm). Mr Wright asked why his letter to the clerk was not on the agenda, the clerk explained that it was on the agenda under correspondence to note item number 219 (5). Mr Wright said that he wanted an agenda item separately; the clerk explained that all questions in Mr Wright's letter had been answered satisfactorily on more than one occasion and that Cllr Webber had covered one of the points during the December meeting. The third point was relating to items being removed from the hut by the clerk. The clerk explained that she and the Chairman had removed rubbish from the hut to make way for a delivery of books, and paperwork had been sorted to make way for current papers to be moved from the office to the hut. Some important financial papers and old minutes had been taken to Bucks County Council for archiving. The

clerk has every right to do this and does not need permission from the council. Cllr Gillan agreed and called this discussion to an end. Mr Relf asked Cllr Webber why he had been cited as part of the football club in her letter to the standards board when he had offered to pay to move to a bigger room at the November meeting. He said that he had nothing to do with the football club. Cllr Webber told Cllr Gillan that it was difficult to know who was representing the football club and who was not and no-one was named in her letter, and that she was sorry if she had mistakenly linked Mr Relf to the football club supporters. Another member of public claimed that they could not hear the councillors speaking amongst themselves and could they speak up please. Cllr Gillan called this discussion to an end. Mr Fox issued a statement that he had now been appointed an official of the Football Club; he said that he and Mr Bunby were the only members of the football club present at this meeting. He said that he was sorry to hear of Cllr Webbers circumstances but thinks that she had made the right decision to resign and that some people would be relieved to hear this.

**197/PC/10 - Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold, Cllr Y Ball, Cllr Robinson and the Police.

**198/PC/10 - 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.

**199/PC/10 - Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the adjourned Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010 which were signed by the Chairman.

**200/PC/10 Youth Worker**

To receive a report from Katie Robertson, to include report back from funding evening. Katie Robertson was not present and no apologies had been received the same as last month, the Clerk said that she had emailed Katie to ask why she had not attended last month but had not received a reply; the clerk had sent agendas to Katie on both occasions. The clerk was asked to speak with Katie to find out why she was not attending the meetings.

**201/PC/10 Police**

To receive a report from the police

Apologies had been received from the police prior to the meeting.

**202/PC/10 County Councillors Report**

Councillor Egleton to report

Cllr Egleton was not present no apologies had been received.

**203/PC/10 District Councillors Report**

Cllr Webber updated the council on her meeting with Chris Marchant from SBDC and she had suggested to him the possibility of using the current shop porta-cabins as a community library. He was very positive and thought that this could be a possible venture. A flyer had been delivered to approximately half of the village over the Christmas period asking for suggestions and help with the project, the remaining half it was hoped would receive the flyer shortly. However Cllr Webber had only received one offer of help so far, and said that the idea of a community library had run its course and it was unlikely to happen. The new Super Library had arrived and was reported to be very good. Chris Marchant agreed that Tabard Square was a marketing name only and once all properties had been sold and Persimmon had vacated the site, the area would be known as Bells Hill again.

**204/PC/10 RECEIVED & ADOPTED previous minutes from previous meetings of sub committees and working parties:-**

(1) Planning minutes 16/11/09 - signed 14/12/09

**205/PC/10 Finance/Precept**

- (1) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts – November
- (2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature – (appended)
- (3) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank reconciliations November which were signed by the Chairman - (appended)
- (4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring November
- (5) Budget/Precept figures as discussed at Finance meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November and December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to finalise and decide Precept. The figures were discussed. **RESOLVED to agree** reserves as per the Finance meeting resolutions on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. with regards to the £6k for the youth worker for year two it was agreed to leave in the budget but not agreed to pay, this to be discussed at a later date after an update from Rev Mark Griffiths and Katie Robertson. Cllr Webber put a motion forward that the precept should be set at £90k this was seconded by Cllr Aldridge a show of hands recorded all in favour except Cllr J Ball who abstained. **RESOLVED** to agree that Cllr. Gillan and the clerk sign the SBDC precept document for £90k.
- (6) **NOTED** Authorised overtime for clerk to deal with an enforced backlog of work totalled 4.25hrs.

#### **206/PC/10 LAF**

Cllr Webber updated the council on the LAF for the benefit of our newer councillors, she said that Chris Furness Chief Executive of South Bucks District Council had now taken up the issue with County and read out some extracts from a letter written by him. (appended). During discussion of this item Cllr Aldridge left the room at 8.15pm and returned at 8.20pm.

#### **207/PC/10 Carols on the Green**

Cllr Robinson was unable to attend the meeting this evening but her report on the event had been circulated previously. (copy appended). Cllr Huntley said that it went really well and that there were approximately 150 people in attendance. Cllr Gillan congratulated Cllr Robinson and Cllr Huntley on the success of the evening which was agreed by all other councillors.

#### **208/PC/10 SBDC Playbuidier Grant**

Report back from Cllr Huntley and Cllr Robinson on which site might be better to take the new equipment. To decide which site the Parish Council would say is their preference. Clerk should have some results of the consultation by this meeting to take into account. The results from the consultation were tabled. Cllr Huntley explained that it was difficult to determine because both areas were very tired. Bells Hill was used far more than Plough Lane probably because of the school being nearby. It was thought that Bells Hill was the more suitable site, the clerk asked for a show of hands which **RESOLVED** to choose Bells Hill with all in favour. The consultation results also favoured Bells Hill. It was suggested that perhaps a youth team could rub down and re-paint the equipment in Plough Lane, or even better would be to move the existing climbing frame in Bells Hill to Plough Lane. It was also said that some shelter was required in Bells Hill from the sun, and a possible kick wall. Cllr Huntley reported that under one swing area there was thick ice on the safety matting which was not a problem anywhere else. Clerk to investigate.

#### **209/PC/10 Village Centre**

**NOTED** that meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 did not take place.

The clerk was asked to set up another meeting as soon as possible. All councillors present apart from Cllr Thornton said that they would like to attend the meeting. The clerk pointed out to Cllr Gillan that this would be an unfair balance as the Village Centre were intending on having two members present. Cllr Gillan said that only two members of the council would be able to speak in the meeting the others would purely observe.

#### **210/PC/10 Voluntary Registrations**

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

The clerk was asked to find out the costs of registering land and to bring back to another meeting to discuss further.

#### **211/PC/10 Flags**

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

The clerk was asked to get costs to replace both flags and bring back to another meeting to discuss further.

#### **212/PC/10 Library**

Update from Ombudsman and Community Library Provision

Cllr Webber read some extracts from a letter received from the Ombudsman saying that the County Council had done nothing wrong and that the complaint had been closed. Nothing more can be done. Cllr Gillan thanked Cllr Webber and Jennifer Tulloch and their team for their hard work that they had carried out to try to overturn the decision. Cllr Fletcher asked that we encourage people to use the new Super Library, he said that the facilities were good. The clerk was asked to ask Cllr Arnold to put an item in the SPN about the Super Library.

#### **213/PC/10 The Lanes Medical Practice**

Letter received from Barclays Bank saying that the property was charged to them on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009. To agree clerk to give information required.

The clerk was asked to go back to Barclays and ask why they are asking for this information as the letter is unclear. Clerk to get a copy of the lease ready for when this is brought back.

#### **214/PC/10 South Bucks Partnership**

Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010, questions to be raised to be sent in by 6<sup>th</sup> January.

No questions were asked for.

#### **215/PC/10 BALC**

Letter from BALC asking us to participate in a Parish Liaison Project. Meeting requested **RESOLVED** to agree that this council is interested, a show of hands recorded all in favour.

#### **216/PC/10 SBDC Chillin' in the Park Easter 2010**

Request to run another event at Easter

**RESOLVED** to agree, a show of hands recorded all in favour. Clerk to get date and ask Cllr Arnold to advertise in SPN.

#### **217/PC/10 Coombe Hill Monument Appeal**

Request for donation

Donation budget has been reached. Clerk to ask Cllr Arnold to put article in SPN.

#### **218/PC/10 Request for Grazing Land**

Request from a Mrs Chamberlain for grazing land to house 10 shetland ponies.

Clerk to pursue further and to ask Mrs Kennedy if she would be prepared to give up one or two paddocks.

#### **218/PC/10 Reports from Other Committees**

(1) Planning – Cllr Gillan reported that Full Planning Permission was given to the site at Muddy Lane. The Lanes had been give permission to re-build and an enforcement notice had finally been issued on Benrath. Cllr Webber reported that the site at the end of Farthing Green Lane opposite the Stag pub was a complete mess. A Planning Officer from SBDC is attending the next planning meeting and questions will be asked although we cannot ask direct questions about specific sites.

(2) R & E – Nothing to report

(3) Finance – Not met.

(4) Heritage – Nothing to report other than Carols on Green already covered.

#### **219/PC/10 Correspondence received by clerk but not on agenda.**

(1) **NOTED** - Age Concern letter of thanks for donation

(2) **NOTED** - South East Plan - Partial Review- Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people

(3) **NOTED** - London Green Belt Council Minutes

(4) **NOTED** - Letter from Mrs Relf Clerk replied 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009

- (5) **NOTED** - Letter from Mr Wright Clerk replied and spoke with Mr Wright 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009
- (6) **NOTED** Letter received from Mrs Hogan Clerk replied and spoke with Mrs Hogan 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009
- (7) **NOTED** - SBDC Notice of receipt of allegations of breaches of the code of conduct
- (8) **NOTED** - SBDC Notices of 'No Further Action' from Standard Committee against item (7)
- (9) **NOTED** - SBDC Licences for house to house collections
- (10) **NOTED** - Letter from Stoke Poges Football Club and clerks response which was tabled.

**220/PC/10 NOTED - Dates of Future Meetings**

Planning Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Full Parish Council - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010

**221/PC/10 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.

There was none.

Meeting ended at 9.05pm.

**Signed**

**Chairman**

**Dated**

