

# STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE ATTIC ROOM AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

**Present:-** Cllr Fletcher (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Gillan, Cllr Huntley, Cllr Matthews,  
Cllr Robinson (arrived at 7.50pm and apologised), Cllr Thornton,

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

**Also Present:-** Katie Robertson, PCSO S Beck, Cllr Egleton and Approx 25 members of public

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### MINUTES

#### **222/PC/10 - To elect a Chairman until May 2010/or for this meeting only.**

Nominations required to elect a Chairman.

Cllr Aldridge proposed Cllr Fletcher to chair this meeting this was seconded by

Cllr Thornton. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Fletcher chairs this meeting by a unanimous vote.

Cllr Fletcher made it clear that he would be Chairman for this meeting only and not until May 2010. No other nominations received for a Chairman until May 2010.

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

To receive comments from any members of public present about items on the agenda.

Cllr Fletcher asked the members of public present if any would like to speak.

Six members of public put up their hands, Cllr Fletcher asked each one who they were and what they would like to speak about. Mr Walker, Mrs Wood, Mr Bagge, Ms Southam, Mr Anderson and Ms Merrick were all given a few minutes to speak.

Mr Roger Walker from the Scouts gave a background history of the scouting group since 1909. 101 Years ago. The hut at the end of St Andrews was the site for the group and they had raised over £70k to run and upkeep the hut on the understanding that the lease would be renewed with the Church. The recent planning application for an extension to the church has meant that the hut will need to be removed. They have appealed to the church and had requested involvement with them when the plans were drawn up for the extension but were refused. When the first plans were turned down they had some involvement in the second plans but they were still not right for the group. They are appealing for thoughts, help and any support from the Parish Council. They have been given three weeks notice to clear the hut and find somewhere else to go. They have teamed up with GX and Fulmer scouts temporarily. They have asked the church for clarity that they will be able to return but they cannot tell them, unless they are prepared to be affiliated. The scouts will be leaving the village in three weeks time

and may not make it back???. Cllr Fletcher thanked Mr Walker for the background information and said that it would be discussed later on the agenda under item number 232/PC/10.

Mrs Wood asked the chairman why if items were not on the agenda or letters that they had sent in and were under correspondence received but not on the agenda, how could members of public ask about something else. Cllr Fletcher asked Mrs Wood to bear with the council whilst it was in a transition period and without a Chairman to resolve these matters. The clerk informed the Chairman that she had never received a letter from Mrs Wood asking for any items to be placed onto the agenda.

Mrs Wood also said that the agenda was not on the website. The clerk informed the Chairman that she had emailed the agenda to the Webmaster for display on the same day that it was placed on the boards. Cllr Aldridge said that there used to be copies of the agenda available at the meetings for members of public to use. Agreed to provide some copies for the public from the next meeting onwards.

Mr Bagge said that his son in year six was excited to have received a visit in school from a member of the council to talk to them about the new play equipment coming from the playbuilder grant, and he congratulated the clerk. The clerk explained that this would have been a member of South Bucks District Council carrying out the consultation process required by the grant. Mr Bagge also asked for it to be minuted that he was dissatisfied with the December 09 minutes, the clerk agenda's and the delay in the clerk replying to his letter, which he said had significant parts missed out. The clerk has 21 days under the freedom of information act to reply to any correspondence that arrives in the office. Mr Bagge's letter was replied to within 13 days. Cllr Fletcher again asked Mr Bagge to bear with the council who are trying to do things clearly and openly.

Mrs Southam from the brownies asked if they could store their camping equipment in the Parish Council hut. Cllr Fletcher said that this would be discussed later under agenda item 232/PC/10.

Mr Anderson who lives in East Lodge at Stoke Park asked if the Parish Council could help in any way to prevent the District Council from removing a licence which allows the use of their garden and parking facilities. He said that the residents of East Lodge currently hold a licence for the stretch of grass running along their property down to the main gate exit from the Manor House. This licence from South Bucks District Council has been in place with the residents of this building since 1976, possibly longer. They have lived there since 1999 and have held the lease all this time. To ensure the continuation of the use of this land and the car parking it affords them, they wish to renew the lease when it expires. They have been informed by the District Council that this will not happen at present as there could be another interest party and the Council may want to sell it to the highest bidder. Mr Anderson said this leaves us in a very difficult position should we want to sell our house or make any plans for the future. Cllr Fletcher said that this would be discussed under agenda item 237/PC/10.

Ms Merrick asked if anything could be done regarding the underground parking at the new Bells Hill flats. Cllr Fletcher explained that this had been discussed before and that the residents need to continue to lobby Persimmon as much as possible, the Parish Council can and will support the residents as much as possible but they themselves must continue the pressure onto Persimmon. Cllr Fletcher asked PCSO Beck to give Mrs Merrick his details to help where they can. Ms Merrick said that she was hoping to set up a meeting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February with the press and police and could a member of the council attend. Cllr Fletcher said that he could not attend and no other councillors were available for that evening. Cllr Gillan suggested that a petition go into the pharmacy regarding the underground parking issues, and Cllr Aldridge had spoken to John Regent (Persimmon) secretary to try to set up a meeting with them, and that he would add this to his list of questions to put to Mr Regent.

#### **224/PC/10 - Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Arnold, Cllr J Ball, Cllr Y Ball, Cllr Best and Cllr Webber. Cllr Fletcher asked if there were reasons for the apologies and the clerk informed the council that three councillors were away on holiday and two were unwell.

#### **225/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.

Cllr Fletcher read out extracts from the code of conduct on personal and prejudicial Interests for the benefit of all councillors to help them understand the interest's rules better. (Copy appended). At 8.10 the meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Bagge to speak, who said that even if a member had a prejudicial interest they can still take part if the item is in a Part 1, they only have to withdraw if the item is in a Part II. Meeting was re-started at 8.11.

#### **226/PC/10 - Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010 which were signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Fletcher asked Cllr Matthews if he would like to speak at this point about his disagreement with the December 09 minutes, the clerk pointed out to the Chairman that the agenda number 233/PC/10 was for this purpose as advised by SBDC. Cllr Matthews explained that he had not requested the item 233/PC/10 but had asked to speak about the minutes. Cllr Fletcher explained that the minutes could not be changed but Cllr Matthews could have his say. Cllr Matthews read out a statement giving his recollection of item 193/PC/09. This was noted by all councillors present and a copy is appended to these minutes.

#### **227/PC/10 - Uncontested Election Result**

**NOTED** that there was an uncontested election, resulting in the appointment of Saera Carter to the Council. Saera becomes a Parish Councillor on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Cllr Fletcher welcomed Saera.

#### **228/PC/10 - Youth Worker**

To receive a report from Katie Robertson.

Katie apologised for not attending the last two meetings. She has recently set up a lunchtime group called the Jaffa Club at the school. She has volunteered to help the Stoke Poges Players and helps backstage. The older youth group ages 13-16 which is held on a Friday night is slowly getting off the ground, one child attended the first week and then three the second week. More publicity has taken place and it is hoped that more and more will get to hear about it. Katie has also been to the Chalfont's Community College to publicise the group. Katie is in the middle of doing a Community Group Profile for her University course. Cllr Aldridge has kindly helped out at the youth groups and also attended a visit to the ice skating rink as a helper. It was suggested to Katie that she could catch the youths at the bus stop by the Six Bells from 7.30 in the mornings and may be an advert in the SPN would help as well.

#### **229/PC/10 - Police**

To receive a report from the police

PCSO Beck read out the crime figures (copy appended). There were two thefts from motor cars this month and both were from the underground car park at Bells Hill, PCSO Beck is to speak with Mrs Merrick and to try to help with lobbying Persimmon about gating off the area. The police beat surgeries have been re-named 'Have Your Say'. Cllr Matthews asked if CCTV at the underground car park at Bells Hill would prove better for the police than gates, PCSO Beck said that the problem with CCTV is that mostly faces are covered and any vehicles used have false plates and closing the access off would be the better answer.

### **230/PC/10 - County Councillors Report**

Councillor Egleton to report

Cllr Egleton apologised for not being at the last meeting. He informed the council that The Council tax rise from the County Council is 2%. There is a 0% increase for staff and councillors. Special needs costs have increased to £1.9m, and South directive care for the elderly has increased, and free residential care in homes is being talked about. The budget is the most risked ever and a review of the whole budget will be reviewed after the election. The Overview & Scrutiny meeting was chaired by Peter Hardy and the meetings are open to anyone to have their say on an open platform. This can be done by email if unable to attend the actual meeting.

Road surfacing is being re-instated and the winter maintenance plan being discussed. Pot hole repairs are being carried out and a plan has been asked for but not yet received. Depths of potholes are a worry so temporary repairs are carried out first, but there are concerns that this does not work and that planing and patching is a much better option. A photo is taken of the hole prior to being repaired and then another after it has been done Cllr Matthews asked if more could be done about the potholes believing that motorists, cyclists and motorcyclists are at serious risk of injury or possibly death due to the severity of the holes in this area. Cllr Egleton suggested that Highways on Call are notified of any dangerous holes along with Zoe Ford the Highways Technician for this area and Chris Schwier who is in charge of this area.

County are now beginning to encourage Community Libraries and are much more receptive when asked for help and advice.

### **231/PC/10 - District Councillors Report**

Cllr Fletcher asked if Cllr Bowater was invited to these meetings to speak as we knew that Cllr's Arnold and Webber were away on holiday, the clerk informed everyone that Cllr Bowater receives an agenda by email each month as requested by himself. Cllr Fletcher said that he attended the last District Council meeting out of interest and attended along with Mr Bagge a villager who has also expressed an interest in local politics. Not much came out of it except that the 2% increase on Council Tax was agreed. There is a pot of money available for Youth Services. The exercise on the Farnham's Conservation area is now complete and Stoke Poges will be the next area carried out.

### **232/PC/10 - Scouts/Brownies**

Cllr Fletcher asked what the Councillors felt about the earlier information given by Roger Walker from the Scouts. It was agreed that it was important to find a route where by the Scouts can come back to the village. Cllr Aldridge said that some years ago plans were drawn up for a single and a two level building to be built in the recreation ground to accommodate the Football club and could the Scouts/Brownies and associated groups perhaps see that as a way forward. Planning Permission has to be for recreational use only in the recreation ground, and was sought but has now expired. Cllr Matthews said that he felt a single storey building would be better as a two storey building could be an eyesore. At 9pm the meeting was adjourned to ask Roger Walker his thoughts, and he said that he was sure that the groups would be very happy with this idea. Cllr Gillan asked where the money would come from to pay for the building as the Parish Council could not afford it, Mr Walker replied that the various groups would be more than happy to fundraise for the building, along with any other groups such as Football who would be willing to share the facilities. Meeting re-opened at 9.10pm. Cllr Fletcher proposed that a working party be set up to investigate the idea and to look into it further, this was seconded by Cllr Aldridge and all **RESOLVED** to agree that Cllr Aldridge, Saera Carter and Cllr Gillan would form the working party and report back.

Mrs Southam from the brownies asked if there was anywhere that they could store their tents and camping equipment temporary. The clerk was asked about the hut which she explained at present has 1000 books stored in there amongst other things and that it might not be big enough, but they were welcome to take a look and see. Mrs

Cllr  
Aldridge/  
Gillan and  
Carter

Southam to contact the clerk to arrange a visit. Cllr Matthews said that there might be a small amount of storage space at the changing rooms.

**233/PC/10 - Football Club**

Cllr Fletcher proposed that the council should move on with a fresh mind and he proposed that Standing Order 15a be set aside if six members agreed to re-discuss the Football Club. The clerk explained to the chairman that if agreed by six or more members then it would need to be brought back to the next meeting as an agenda item. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Aldridge and a show of hands showed all in favour except Cllr Gillan who abstained from the vote.

**RESOLVED** by special resolution that six members namely Cllrs Fletcher, Thornton, Robinson, Aldridge, Matthews and Huntley agreed therefore an agenda item will be placed on next months agenda to discuss setting aside Standing Order 15a.

March  
agenda

**234/PC/10 - Licences**

Cllr Matthews asked what was meant when a licence was not allowed to be granted on the recreation Ground. The clerk said that it was thought that because the recreation ground is a charitable trust then a licence cannot be given, this was agreed by Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Gillan. Cllr Fletcher asked if the clerk could supply him with copies of the current leases for the recreation ground so that he can understand what exists and then move forward with this question.

Clerk/Cllr  
Fletcher

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

(1) Planning minutes 14/12/09 - signed 18/01/10

**236/PC/10 - Finance**

(1) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts – December 09 & January 10

(2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature which were signed by the Chairman – (appended)

(3) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank reconciliations December 09 & January 10 - which were signed by the Chairman (appended)

(4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring December 09 & January 10 which was tabled.

**237/PC/10 - East Lodge, Stoke Park**

The meeting was adjourned at 9.25-9.35 to allow the councillors to speak to the residents of East Lodge and Cllr Fletcher thanked them for being so patient. The residents explained again that their licence was not being re-newed by SBDC to use their garden and parking facilities which would mean them parking their cars on Park Road. Cllr Fletcher recommended that we lodge the information with Cllr Bowater and task him with sorting out the licence issue at SBDC, and that we as a Council would write to SBDC as well. Bring back to March.

Clerk

**238/PC/10 - Wexham Park Hospital Parking Meeting**

Cllr Robinson read out a report of the meeting which is appended

**239/PC/10 - Beacon**

Cllr Webber had informed the clerk prior to this meeting that SBDC has accepted that they have lost the Beacon and that they will replace it. It will probably need to be sited on the Bells Hill recreation ground as the Bell Hill area is unsafe.

**240/PC/10 - Firs Field/Duffield Lane**

Cllr Fletcher said that the response from Sara Cobain at SBDC was unsatisfactory as there are currently around 30 gas canisters on this site. Cllr Thornton said that a Local Authority can serve notice onto a site and then clear it up. Cllr Fletcher asked Cllr Thornton to draft a letter to SBDC for the clerk to send asking for them to serve notice.

Cllr  
Thornton/  
Clerk

**241/PC/10 - SBDC Playbuilder Grant**

Workshop to be held at Green Park/Aston Clinton 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Three spaces reserved for the clerk and two others. To decide who if any will attend.

**RESOLVED** to agree that the clerk should attend and report back at the next meeting.

Clerk

**242/PC/10 - Gerald Elderfield Recognition**

Cllr Matthews asked if there was anything that could be done in recognition of Mr Elderfield's service to the Parish which spans over 20 years. The clerk explained that in local government there is normally no provision for gifts in the budget and that this Parish Council's budget for 09/10 and 10/11 has no provision. A private collection could be asked for. Cllr Fletcher suggested that maybe this is re-discussed under items 247/PC/10 and 249/PC/10, all in favour.

Clerk

**243/PC/10 - Village Centre**

**NOTED** that the clerk was unable to arrange another meeting as yet? and **NOTED** letter from Village Centre and their dissatisfaction at not yet being able to hold a meeting. **NOTED** email received regarding charges of the recently hired rooms used to hold Parish Council meetings at short notice. The Village Centre are kindly not charging for these rooms up until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010. **NOTED** that future charges will be charged at the standard rate.

**RESOLVED** to agree that a meeting be set up with Cllr Aldridge and Cllr Carter.

Mr Bailey from the Village Centre is away for a couple of weeks.

Meeting to be set up for his return. Any other councillors who are available and wish to attend may do so but would need to be silent during the discussions. A report was tabled from Cllr Webber regarding the meeting held with Kidd-Rapinett. Once the meeting date is set Cllr's Fletcher, Aldridge and Carter will meet prior to the meeting to discuss the Parish Council's position, and any resolution reached with the Village Centre Management would be subject to ratification by Full Council.

Clerk/Cllr  
Aldridge/  
Carter/Flet  
cher

**244/PC/10 - Voluntary Registrations**

Letter from Kidd Rapinet appended to last months agenda suggesting that the Parish Council register interests in land owned on a voluntary registration basis. Clerk was requested to get costs.

**RESOLVED** to agree not to register interest and all agreed that it was unnecessary and costly. A show of hands showed all in favour.

Clerk

**245/PC/10 - BALC**

Letter from BALC asking us to participate in a Parish Liaison Project. (Jan agenda) Clerk informed BALC that SPPC are interested in the project, they would now like to meet with councillors to discuss further. Four March dates given as appended, to decide who will meet with them and when.

**RESOLVED** to agree that this meeting would normally fall under the remit of the Chairman which we do not have at present, and therefore would be unable to make the Dates in March. Clerk to write and explain and to ask what the Parish Council would benefit from the group.

Clerk

**246/PC/10 - Request for Grazing Land**

Request from a Mrs Chamberlain for grazing land to house 10 Shetland ponies. Clerk was asked to enquire with Mrs Kennedy about using one or two of her paddocks to decide whether or not to take any further.

**RESOLVED** to agree that this would be lots of work for little gain and to take Mrs Kennedy's advice and to not lease the land to Mrs Chamberlain. Clerk to write.

Clerk

**247/PC/10 - Royal Garden Party Nomination**

Request to nominate a worthy deserving member of the parish to attend the Royal Garden Party 2010. To decide who if anyone to nominate.

**RESOLVED** to agree that in recognition of his service to the community Mr Elderfield

Clerk

should be asked if he would like to be nominated to attend.

**248/PC/10 - Website**

Clerk was asked to contact Hedgerley and Farnham's to get information on their websites. Hedgerley do not have a website, and the Farnham's have just upgraded theirs using a Company called Zulogic at a cost of £2750 plus vat. In-Touch with Communities quote is £595 for initial set up plus other costs on top for training etc. To discuss and decide whether to go with them or not? also to discuss asking for a volunteer in the village to update the site for the Parish Council on a regular basis. It was agreed that the best solution would be to re-vamp the existing website rather than start completely from scratch. Cllr Robinson agreed to liaise with Julian Irvine to see what he can do to re-vamp the site and maybe add a forum etc. To also get costs from him on running the site under proper terms. Once discussed a meeting to be set up with Cllr Robinson, Cllr Fletcher, Julian Irvine and the clerk to take the matter forward.

Cllr's  
Robinson/  
Fletcher/  
Clerk

**249/PC/10 - Chairman's Reception/Cups**

To discuss and decide whether or not the event booked for 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010 will now take place in the absence of a Chairman. Also to decide who should receive the Caldecourt Cup and Jubilee Cup this year for their services to the village. The clerk pointed out that it could not hold a chairman's reception without a chairman, so it was agreed that a reception could be held and re-named for this year only as Stoke Poges Parish Council Reception. At 9.50pm the meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Finan to ask what the objective of the evening would be? Cllr Fletcher said that the main purpose would be to recognise people for the cups and the Duke of Edinburgh awards and to re-connect with the village. Meeting re-started at 9.55pm. Cllr Fletcher proposed that the reception goes ahead under the new name by invitation only, to be decided by the clerk in collaboration with the councillors who will attend, and to be on a very conservative scale, to award the cups and awards as normal. Cllr Aldridge seconded the proposal and **RESOLVED** to agree all in favour apart from Cllr Gillan who abstained as she is unable to attend the event. **RESOLVED** to agree that one glass of wine would be supplied on arrival to the event and any further drink would need to be purchased individually from the bar, and that only nibbles would be supplied to keep costs down. **RESOLVED** to agree that Gerald Elderfield should be the recipient of the Caldecourt Cup for his services to the parish, all in favour **RESOLVED** to agree that Gabby Battrick should be the recipient of the Jubilee Cup for her services to numerous different groups and organisations in the village, Heritage, Horticultural and the Parish Council to name a few, all in favour.

Clerk

**250/PC/10 - Meeting Dates May 2010 - April 2011**

List of meeting dates enclosed, to agree.  
**RESOLVED** to agree meeting dates for 2010/2011.

**251/PC/10 - SLCC Regional Conference**

To approve that the clerk may attend the annual regional conference on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at cost of £55.  
**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that the clerk should attend this conference.

**252/PC/10 - Bucks County Council Freight Strategy - Public Consultation**

Previously emailed to all councillors, comments by 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010.  
**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour No Comments.

**253/PC/10 - Bucks Community Action/Bucks Rural Affairs Group  
Consultation on Buckinghamshire response to Department for Business Innovation  
& Skills Post Office Services - A Questionnaire**

**RESOLVED** to agree that the clerk should complete questionnaire.

Clerk

**254/PC/10 - Post Office** Consultation on the relocation of Stoke Poges Branch of the Post Office Any comments.

**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour no objection. Cllr Aldridge said that they are due to move on the 8<sup>th</sup> April and could do with any physical assistance available.

Clerk

**255/PC/10 - Flags**

Quote received for two new flags, Union Jack £90, St. Georges £65, delivery £12.50.

**RESOLVED** to agree to provide new flags at these costs, all in favour. Cllr Aldridge said that the rope needs replacing as well. **RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that the rope should also be replaced. Clerk to order.

Clerk

**256/PC/10 - Potholes**

Item already covered under the County Councillors report.

**257/PC/10 - Reports from Other Committees**

- (1) Planning - Cllr Gillan said that a planning officer had attended the last meeting which was very successful.
- (2) **NOTED** R & E - meet on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010
- (3) **NOTED** Finance - not met.
- (4) Heritage - no update

**258/PC/10 - Correspondence received by clerk but not on agenda.**

- (1) **NOTED** SBDC Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens Upgraded to Grade 1 Listing
- (2) **NOTED** Stoke Poges Football Club - Correspondence received and clerks replies
- (3) **NOTED** SBDC Council Tax Consultation previously emailed to all councillors and no requests received for comments to be made.
- (4) **NOTED** Correspondence received from Mr Bagge and clerks reply.
- (5) **NOTED** JSPU Berkshire Authorities - Withdrawal of Berkshire Unitary Authorities Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
- (6) **NOTED** LAF, to note that the Meeting date has changed from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010
- (7) **NOTED** SBDC - to note that the new road off of School Lane has been names Keens Acre

**259/PC/10 - Dates of Future Meetings**

Planning Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010

R & E Committee - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010

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

**260/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 were no items.

Meeting ended at 10.15pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated

