

# 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> MARCH 2010 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE ATTIC ROOM AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

**Present:-** Cllr Arnold (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr J Ball, Cllr Y Ball, Cllr Best, Cllr Carter, Cllr Fletcher, Cllr Gillan, Cllr Huntley, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Thornton and Cllr Webber.

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

**Also Present:-** Katie Robertson, PCSO K Benawra, and Approx 20 members of public

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### MINUTES

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

To receive comments from any members of public present about items on the agenda. At 7.30pm Cllr Arnold welcomed Saera Carter to the Council and then asked if there were any members of public who would like to speak, two raised their hands. Mrs Wood referred to the correspondence to note item 293 (5) and asked who put in the complaint to the standards board against the named councillors? and what the complaints or allegations were against each one? Cllr Arnold said that the complaints were put in by both Cllrs J & Y Ball, Cllr Best, Cllr Arnold and Cllr Webber. Mrs Wood then asked what the allegations were and whether or not it was a personal vendetta? Cllr J Ball explained that it appeared that the councillors in question had been acting outside the rules of the code of conduct and therefore they felt it should go before the Standards Board. The paperwork was available to view in the clerk's office and was not up for discussion. Cllr Matthews asked to speak and said that he still was unsure what the allegations were against him as the letter he received was not clear and that SBDC had said that he could not refute the allegations until after the Standards Committee had met, Cllr Arnold disagreed with this and said that they could have refuted it, however Cllr's Fletcher, Aldridge, Matthews, Huntley and Robinson all agreed that SBDC had said that they could not refute the allegations until after the Sub Committee had met. Cllr Matthews said that he had only been in office for one meeting before the allegations were made and he felt that the better course of action would have been to ask him to sit down and discuss with the other councillors before taking it to the Standards Board. Cllr Arnold said that the code of conduct was mandatory and adopted by each individual councillor and she asked to close the discussion and moved onto the next member of public. Mr Duncombe then asked to speak and said that the whole thing was ludicrous and a complete waste of Parish Councillor's time. Cllr Robinson said that she took offence to the allegations and that she would never have reported other councillors to the Standards Board without trying to discuss with them first. Cllr Matthews then asked if he could say for the minutes that he would like to make it completely clear especially to Cllr

Webber that he has no interest in the Football Club and he resents the fact that he keeps being told that he does, and that the Standards Board had cleared him of such allegations. Cllr Arnold again closed this discussion and asked to move on. Mrs Wood asked if she could speak when the Council reached item 290 potholes.

Mr Finan referred to item 285 Village Pond and asked if the pond was public. Cllr Arnold said that she was unsure and would have to wait to see what was discussed at that point.

Mr Bagge said that villagers are unhappy with the lack of wheelchair/pushchair access between Bells Hill green and the chemist's shop. Persimmon states that it has built what was approved in the planning consent. This means that Planning at Capswood failed to notice any problem with provision on the plans. What are our District Councillors who sit on this council doing to get SBDC's error rectified and how? for all their involvement with the project, did they personally fail to notice the inadequate access shown on the developers plans? Cllr Arnold replied by saying that the plans were approved 6 years ago under a whole different era, and that Cllr Webber and herself do not sit on the planning committee at SBDC but Cllr Bowater does, but he is not here this evening to answer the question. Cllr Arnold said that the fault lies with SBDC and Persimmon and that the District Councillors are trying to do something to sort it out. Cllr Thornton asked if the decision was made under delegated authority to which Cllr Arnold said definitely not. Cllr Thornton asked how a planning officer and committee could overlook the disability access, Cllr Arnold replied that they have got access there even though it is not suitable there is still access available.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Egleton and Cllr Bowater.

Cllr Arnold wished to clarify at this point that it was customary at all Local Government levels to accept apologies without reasons, unless the absence was long term in which case reasons would be asked for i.e. illness.

Cllr Gillan informed the Council that an email had been sent to her and the clerk from David Wood demanding that Cllr Gillan apologise at this meeting for refuting Mr Woods outburst at the last meeting. Cllr Gillan said that Mr Wood had interrupted the February meeting when the Chair asked if there were any apologies. Mr Wood intimated that some Councillors had made excuses for not attending the meeting. Cllr Gillan stated that Mr Wood should not have been speaking during that part of the February meeting (the public session had ended) and that the words he attributed to her were neither what she actually said, nor convey the meaning of what she said. Since Cllr Gillan did not say what Mr Woods email alleges and Mr Wood should not have been speaking at that point in the meeting, she had nothing to apologise for. This was accepted by all.

#### **263/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.

#### **264/PC/10 - Minutes**

Cllr Webber had some comments about the minutes. Mr Bagge had spoken about the Declarations of interest under item 225 he should not have taken part in this discussion and the Chairman should not have allowed a public input. Cllr Webber said that the comments he made were wrong in any case, if a member had a prejudicial interest in a part 1 item then they cannot take part in it. Cllr Webber said that the item regarding East Lodge should not have been an agenda item at all, this is a matter between SBDC and Mr Anderson direct and the Parish Council could be seen as acting Ultra Vires. Cllr Fletcher said that he did make it clear that the Parish Council could not help Mr Anderson but that they would ask SBDC to help him further. At 8pm the meeting was adjourned to allow a member of public with Mr Anderson to say that The Eton Rural Act was part of

the Parish Council and therefore they were looking to the Parish Council to advise them. Cllr Webber said that she had thought that SBDC had overtaken the Eton Rural Act. Mr Anderson was asked to forward the documents to the clerk who would take the matter up with Cllr Bowater. Meeting re-convened at 8.05pm

Cllr Best asked if the declarations of interest could be re-discussed? He said that Mr Bagges comments did not agree with the Council's Code of Conduct item 9 (1), 2(a) and (b). Cllr Webber said that a prejudicial interest applies equally to part I or part II. Cllr Matthews said that there seems to be a complete split in the understanding of the code of conduct and the interests and that the Council needed to get it straight. Cllr Best also said that he noted that there was a letter of thanks from the brownies for storing their equipment in the hut, however there was no resolution to do so in the minutes. Cllr Matthews said that the agreement was to find out if there was enough space and for the clerk to decide once that information was known, that was why there was no definitive answer.

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010 which were signed by the Chairman.

**265/PC/10 - New Councillor**

**NOTED** the appointment of Saera Carter to the Council took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February a Saera has signed her declaration of acceptance of office before the clerk.

**266/PC/10 - Youth Worker**

To receive a report from Katie Robertson.

Katie reported that not much had happened since the last meeting. There were 30-35 kids attending the younger youth club. The older group has risen to 6 members and she is getting kids involved from the Stoke Poges Players group as well. She has done some outreach detachment work on her own and has met with NCO Louise Sharples to talk about setting up a kid's event in the summer. Katie has been to the underground car park numerous times and has never come across any youths hanging around there.

Katie was asked if she had met any kids at the bus stop in the mornings as suggested, she replied saying that she had caught a bus that morning and was at the stop at 7.30am and there were no kids around, Cllr Thornton said that the bus times had changed and they are there from 7.45am, 8am and 8.30am. Cllr Robinson asked what the older kids do at the Youth club, Katie said they have donuts, hot chocolate, chat, play games, play station etc. Katie was asked if they had bible teaching which Katie said was not done with the older group. Cllr Fletcher said he felt it be appropriate for Councillors

to meet with Katie's boss (Harry Latham) to see how things were going.  
**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Carter would attend a meeting and report back, clerk to arrange. Katie asked if it would be helpful to submit a written report for the clerk to append to the minutes, which was accepted.

**267/PC/10 - Police**

To receive a report from the police

PCSO Benawra read out the crime figures (appended) and gave dates of the next 'Have Your Say' meetings.

**268/PC/10 - County Councillors Report**

Councillor Egleton to report  
Apologies received but no report.

**269/PC/10 - District Councillors Report**

Cllr Webber said there was nothing to report, a Standards meeting was being held the next day followed by an Overview & Scrutiny meeting and will report back at the April meeting.

**270/PC/10 - St. Giles & St. Andrews Church**

**NOTED** letter received from Mark Wells and Pam Blewett

Cllr Carter said that she did not understand how Mr Wells and Ms Blewett could have

Clerk

written this letter as they were not privy to the original discussion with Mark Griffiths and the scouts.

#### **271/PC/10 - Football Club**

A discussion took place about setting aside the standing order 15a to allow an agenda item to be brought back to decide on the future of the Football Club at Bells Hill Recreation ground. Cllr Best asked Cllr Matthews if he had a financial interest in the football club because he had an email in front of him that stated that Cllr Matthews had invested £10k in to the club. Cllr Matthews replied that over a nine year period he had donated £1k per year to the club to the upkeep of the portacabins and that he had no financial gain whatsoever. Cllr Fletcher asked Cllr Matthews if he had made any gain or had shares of any kind and Cllr Matthews said no, this was purely a donation.

Cllr Robinson said that she joined the Council to help the villagers and she did not come here to argue about this. Cllr Matthews stated that he had stopped funding the club and had resigned from the club before he became a Parish Councillor. He also asked if this was one of the allegations about him which was put before the Standards Board and he was told by Cllr J Ball that this was not one of the allegations. Cllr Carter reminded the other councillors that Cllr Robinson was the only person who had mentioned villagers and the community, and that rules and regulations should be dropped to move this item forward. Cllr Arnold said that the Parish Council had received a statement from the Football Club resigning, and that they did not adhere to the terms of their lease. Cllr Webber said that new information was needed to allow a new agenda item to take place, and that it might be worth talking to our solicitors to simply outline the lease items which were disputed. Cllr Arnold asked for a motion. Cllr Fletcher proposed that the council moves on with a fresh mind and that the standing order 15a should be set aside to allow this. This was seconded by Cllr Aldridge. Cllr Best asked for it to be minuted that this could be proven to be prejudicial. A show of hands recorded Cllrs Fletcher, Aldridge, Matthews, Thornton, Huntley, Robinson and Carter in favour and Cllrs Gillan, J Ball, Webber, Best, Y. Ball and Arnold against. **RESOLVED** motion carried 7/6. Cllr Matthews asked for it to be minuted that he had helped with arrangements to move Stoke Poges Football Club out of the area for the next season and that he has no interest in the club but did so to benefit the villagers.

#### **272/PC/10 – RECEIVED AND ADOPTED previous minutes from previous meetings of sub committees and working parties:**

- (1) Planning minutes 18/01/10 - signed 15/02/10
- (2) R & E Minutes 30/06/09 & 27/10/09 – Signed 23/02/10

#### **273/PC/10 - Finance**

- (1) **RECEIVED AND NOTED** Statement of Accounts – February 10
- (2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature – (appended)
- (3) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank reconciliations February 10 which were signed by the Chairman - (appended)
- (4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring February 10 which was tabled (appended)

#### **274/PC/10 - East Lodge, Stoke Park**

**NOTED** email from Cllr Bowater.

#### **275/PC/10 - Firs Field/Duffield Lane**

**NOTED** Update Email from Cllr Webber.

#### **276/PC/10 - Bells Hill/Persimmon**

Update

The residents had a meeting last week. Once Persimmon hand over to the Management Company the green spaces will come back under the control of SBDC. Everyone is seriously concerned about the lack of security in the underground car park and the lack of

security into the flats; anyone can wander in at anytime. Cllr Arnold had suggested that the group write to all of the directors of Persimmon and suggest they attend the AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**277/PC/10 - Village Fete 2010**

Parish Council Participation

Cllr Fletcher asked how the Parish Council got involved with the Village Fete? Cllr Arnold said that Cllr Y Ball had been the representative for the fete committee for two years and have never heard anything from them or been invited to any meetings. Cllr Huntley said that the Parish Council need to be more involved. Cllr Fletcher said that the treasurer of the committee was resigning and that he would be taking over the role and is shadowing the treasurer at present. He will take the matter up with the committee.

Cllr  
Fletcher

**278/PC/10 - Church Youth Worker**

Item requested by Cllr Fletcher. Email on same subject from Mr Bagge under correspondence to note.

Cllr Fletcher said that he felt that it was important for the Parish Council to have a Meeting with the church regarding Katie and her not being secular. Cllr Carter said that feedback from mums at the groups were that there was at least ten minutes of bible teaching at each meeting and that some children were choosing to attend the youth club at the Evreham Centre instead because there was no religious content there. This to be taken up at the meeting with Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Carter and Rev Latham and brought back to the next meeting, already decided under item 266. Cllr Robinson asked for it to be noted that she was disappointed that Katie had only attended the bus stop today after it had been suggested to her a month ago at the last meeting.

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

Recommendation from R & E not to add further funds to the playbuilder grant but to get quote to move equipment from Bells Hill to Plough Lane and ask Full Council to cover the costs. Quote to be tabled hopefully.

**NOTED** quote not available bring back to next meeting.

April 10

**280/PC/10 - Village Centre**

Update from meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010. To agree any resolutions that may have been decided at that meeting.

Cllr Carter said that she had attended the meeting with Cllr Aldridge and Cllr Huntley observed. They met with Roland Bailey and Mike Dier. It was agreed to draw a line under what had happened in the past and to move forward. Everyone agreed more or less that things should stay the same. The photocopier was not needed and would not be used again by the Village Centre. It was agreed that the post in the post box should be seen first by the clerk. If the clerk is on holiday or sick then a nominated person from the council should come in and sort the post. The cupboard 'A' in the Lionel Rigby Room is full of cabling for the alarm and cctv etc and it would be a very expensive exercise to move it out. The booking arrangements for the LRR should stay as they are and as they have always been. The clerk was asked if she agreed with this and she did as taking on the bookings would increase the workload of the clerk again. At 9.15pm the meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Dier to say that the Perpetuity Rule and the Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1964 clearly show that clause 4 of the original Agreement is invalid as the use of 'in perpetuity' is not allowed. The Village Centre felt that it could be time to re-visit the agreement. Cllr Webber said that Kidd Rapinet had suggested that everyone sits around the table. Mr Dier objected as the Village Centre would need their solicitor present and they would charge and they already have a bill which they would like the Parish Council to pay as the Parish Council requested that the Village Centre took legal advice. Cllr Webber said that the Parish Council had not asked them to take legal advice, but had advised them that they might like to. She quoted from a letter she had sent to the Village Centre. Mr Dier said that an email from Cllr Webber just three days earlier had said she was not willing to enter into discussion about the matter and strongly recommended that the Village Hall take legal advice. Cllr Webber said that the Parish Council would be foolish not to take

their own solicitors advise to sit around the table to discuss further. Cllr Fletcher said that the Village Centre would then have to have their own solicitor present and that he felt it was a pointless unless we have written confirmation of the facts from the Council's solicitor on headed paper. Mr Dier said that the Village Hall was started in 1912 and ran until 1997 with four named trustees; the Parish Council then became custodian trustee to hold the title to the land for, and on behalf of, the Village Hall trustees. Meeting reconvened at 9.40 pm. Cllr Ball said that Lionel Rigby had mentioned to him some years ago that it was very important that the Parish Council did not change the agreement made and referred everyone to clause 4 of the agreement which had been tabled and is appended to the minutes. Cllr Arnold said that the ownership was vested in the Parish Council on behalf of the Village, and that the day to day running of the Hall was nothing to do with the Parish Council and was a different matter entirely. Cllr Carter said that the Village Centre have to have keys to the office in case of a fire or another emergency. The post box was also a fire proof box and therefore cannot be moved. Cllr Arnold recommended that a status quo was maintained and asked for a vote on whether or not the Parish Council should pay the Village Centre legal costs so far of £1150 which was seconded by Cllr Aldridge. A show of hands saw Cllrs Carter, Robinson, Huntley, Matthews, Aldridge, Fletcher, and Thornton in agreement to pay the invoice, and Cllrs Gillan, Best, J Ball, Y Ball, Arnold and Webber against. Motion carried 7/6. **RESOLVED** that the invoice be paid. Cllr Webber proposed that Kidd Rapinet's recommendation not to change or tinker with the original document be agreed. **RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that this could not be agreed until the recommendations of Kidd Rapinet were given in writing on headed paper. Bring back to next meeting.

April 10

#### **281/PC/10 - Sport & Youth Pavilion**

Update from working party set up at last months meeting. Cllrs Aldridge, Carter & Gillan.

Cllr Aldridge had located some drawings which had been done about 12 years ago, with regards to the football clubs including the youth teams and the Scouts and Brownies coming in on the project. Can the Council recommend that he moves forward with getting new plans drawn up and planning permission? Cllr Webber asked where the funding would be coming from? Cllr Aldridge said that there are lots of private funding available. Cllr Webber said that they would need to get the funding first. Cllr Best said that quotes were gained three years ago at a rough cost of £125K plus vat but all funders requested match funding and that vehicle access is also a major problem with the site. At that time the Football Club declined to be involved with match funding.

Cllr Webber suggested that the working party come back with costings and where the money will come from. **RESOLVED** to agree all in favour for them to do this.

Cllrs  
Aldridge/  
Carter/  
Gillan

#### **282/PC/10 - Royal Garden Party Nomination**

Clerk nominated Gerry Elderfield after he gratefully accepted the offer. Clerk still waiting to hear if successful?

**NOTED** that the clerk had received a call from Mr Elderfield to say that he did not think he would be able to manage the event if successful. Clerk to speak to the Lord Lieutenant's Office and explain.

Clerk

#### **283/PC/10 - Website**

Update from Councillor Robinson after liaising with Julian Irvine.

Cllr Robinson and Cllr Fletcher had met with Julian Irvine and discussed a new look with him. An interactive system is more complicated than they thought and all comes down to a contact management system. By next month's meeting Julian will have researched and picked some templates for the Council to look at to see if they like any of them. Costings will follow and the system allows the clerk to upload the documents. Cllr Arnold asked the clerk to go back to the In-Touch with Communities Company and get some examples of websites that they had set up. Cllr Webber said that the council should be looking to decrease the clerk's workload not increase it.

**RESOLVED** to agree to bring back to the next meeting and to see what Julian Irvine comes up with.

Clerk/Cllr  
Robinson

**284/PC/10 - Stoke Poges Reception/Cups**

**NOTED** Invitations have been sent. **NOTED** Gerry Elderfield and Gaby Battrick have both accepted the cup awards and will both be attending the reception. To decide who will hand out drinks on arrival and who will obtain and organise the soft drinks and nibbles.

Cllr Webber said that the Jubilee Cup was for groups and organisations and that it had been awarded to an individual, Cllr Aldridge explained that Gaby has done lots of good work for numerous organisations and groups and that was why it was awarded to her, and that this has happened in the past as well with the Jubilee Cup.

**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that Cllr Robinson and Cllr Huntley will organise the food and they will contact Mandy Harrod to see if the D of E youth can help with the handing out of drinks on arrival. Clerk to arrange the wine and bar staff with the social club.

Cllrs  
Huntley  
and  
Robinson  
Clerk

**285/PC/10 – Village Pond**

Request from Jennifer Tulloch to get trees around the pond pollarded, lopped and surveyed. Not been done for several years. To decide.

None of the current councillors could remember who owned what and who paid for what in the past. **RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that the clerk should contact Tony Levings (previous clerk) and ask him for some background and bring back to the next meeting.

Clerk

**286/PC/10 – Bollards at Bells Hill Recreation Ground**

Request from Cllr Robinson.

**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour to defer to the next meeting.

April 10

**287/PC/10 – Wexham Football Club and GX & Fulmer Football Club**

Recommendation from R & E to allow both teams to play at Bells Hill Recreation Ground on Sundays providing that parking is not an issue. To Recommend that each team may have a key to the gate. To Resolve to agree how much each team should pay to use the facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 10.05 to allow Mr Finan to ask why this item was not in a Part II Cllr Arnold replied that the Council were trying to be open and transparent. Meeting re-convened at 10.10. Cllr Matthews suggested that the parking could be a problem and that maybe we should consider having an agreement with the senior team as well so that the youngsters from these two teams could feed into the main team as they get older. Cllr Webber said that bringing in these teams conforms with our promise of youth provision and brings best value to the village.

**RESOLVED** to agree, all in favour to allow both teams to use the pitches on Sundays and to accept the offer of £500 from Wexham United and to ask GX & Fulmer if they can match that amount. This is subject to seeing how it goes with the parking and both teams must be aware that if problems arise then the Council would need to re-look at the decision.

Clerk

**288/PC/10 – Earthworks Conservation**

To agree that earthworks may carry on next year with their conservation work at Nettleship Wood at a small cost to the council.

**RESOLVED** to agree to further works next year all in favour.

Clerk

**289/PC/10 – Grasscutting Contract 10/11**

Recommendation from R & E to use Albert Huber Ltd subject to references to see if they make much of a difference to ISS if any. Mr Huber has reduced his quote from £6500 to £6200 per year at the request of R & E.

**RESOLVED** to agree to use Albert Huber Ltd for 10/11 at £6200 per year, all in favour.

Clerk

**290/PC/10 - Stoke Poges Roads/Potholes**

Cllr Arnold was concerned about the roads and the potholes and the lack of signage. Cllr Matthews said that he had already taken this up with Cllr Egleton and that the patch and seal remedy was not good for motorcyclists.

Meeting adjourned at 10.20 to allow Mrs Wood to speak, she said that the ditches were overflowing and that this is having an effect on the roads and could we get someone to clear them, this would help to alleviate the potholes. Meeting re-convened at 10.25. Cllr Arnold suggested that we as a Parish Council produce an inventory to present to Chris Schwier (Highways) and Trevor Egleton. Cllr Aldridge agreed to do the inventory, **RESOLVED** all in favour.

**291/PC/10 – Bucks County Council Draft Parking and Enforcement Policy – Consultation**  
**RESOLVED** to agree all in favour for Cllr Fletcher to comment.

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

- (1) Planning - None
- (2) R & E - None
- (3) Finance - None
- (4) Heritage - None

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

- (1) **NOTED** St.Giles and St. Andrews Church re:- Katie Robertson's Bursary
- (2) **NOTED** London Green Belt Council Agenda 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010
- (3) **NOTED** Email from Mr Bagge regarding Youth work and the Youth Worker
- (4) **NOTED** Girl guiding UK Thank You re:- loan of storage space in hut.
- (5) **NOTED** SBDC Standards Committee Notification of complaints against Cllr's Aldridge, Fletcher, Huntley, Matthews, Robinson and Thornton. Notices of no further action to be taken received from SBDC.
- (6) **NOTED** Post Office - Decision on branch relocation.

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

Planning Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
Reception - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
Full Parish Council - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**295/PC/10 - Exclusion of the Press & Public**

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

**To Resolve** 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.

Not needed no items for part II.

Meeting ended at 10.25pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated

