

# STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2010 AT 7.30 P.M. IN 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 Robinson, Cllr Thornton and Cllr Webber.

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

**Also Present:-** Katie Robertson, PCSO K Benawra, Cllr Egleton and Approx 11 members of public

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### MINUTES

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

The meeting is open to the public and press and the first 15 minutes will be reserved, if required, for public comment.

Cllr Arnold asked if any members of public would like to speak asking them to keep to the allotted time of 15 minutes as the agenda is so long.

Mr Finan thanked Mr Daniel Lennox, Cllr Gillan and Cllr Thornton for their input at the public meeting arranged by Mr Lennox regarding the Planning Application at Thames House.

Mrs Tulloch asked if she could speak during the discussion on item 316 Village Pond?

Cllr Arnold agreed to take that item first.

Mr Bagge asked if the retail space at the Bells Hill Development can be changed back to residential space after so many years, if the retail space is not filled? Cllr Arnold said she thought that would be the case but is not a Planning Councillor at SBDC so could not be sure. Cllr Arnold did say that Persimmon were presently in discussion with a major retailer for the space.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Matthews.

#### **298/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.

Cllr Huntley declared an interest in item 312 Village Centre and withdrew from any discussion or decision which took place on that item.

#### **316/PC/10 – Village Pond**

Email appended from Tony Levings regarding status of pond, also quote appended for works to be carried out.

To decide how to proceed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7.50pm to allow Mrs Tulloch to say that the part of the pond where the tree works is needed was definitely owned by the Parish Council and that the Parish Council have always maintained them in the past. Meeting re-convened at 7.55pm. The Clerk said that Tony Levings had confirmed that part of the pond was owned by the Parish Council. Cllr Carter asked why the villagers did not have access to the pond if it is a 'Village Pond'? Cllr Arnold explained that a fence had been put around the pond for safety reasons however you can see through the fence. Cllr Thornton asked if a better fence could be investigated? Cllr Arnold said that once the trees had been cut back there would be a better view of the pond. Cllr Fletcher proposed a motion to accept the quote from Greenwoods which was seconded by Cllr Huntley. **RESOLVED** to agree Motion carried all in favour. Cllr Thornton to investigate fencing.

### **299/PC/10 - Minutes/Recording of Minutes**

To discuss the current format of the Clerk's minutes and to decide whether or not to change the format.

Cllr Arnold handed this item over to the Clerk who explained to all councillors that over recent months many hours had been spent producing the minutes in their current format as discussions and debates on certain items had become so long. The Clerk explained that she could not do her job efficiently whilst having to spend so much time on the Minutes and then to be constantly told that they are not acceptable. The minutes are being challenged because too much information is being put into them. The Clerk explained that the minutes should contain the recording of decisions and noted items only and short brief outlines of discussions if requested. Cllr Webber agreed that unless there was an inaccuracy in the minutes then councillors should not start to unpick the Clerk's minutes. Cllr Arnold asked for all councillors to agree that this was how the minutes should be produced from now on. **RESOLVED** to agree a show of hands showed all in favour.

Cllr Arnold then asked if she could sign the minutes from the March meeting. Cllr Fletcher asked for it to be noted that he did not agree with the minute of item 264. Cllr J Ball asked for it to be noted that he did not agree with the minute of item 271. No other Councillors disagreed with the Minutes. **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 which were signed by the Chairman.

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

To receive a report from Katie Robertson.

A written report was appended to the agenda which Katie briefly summarised. Only 2 youths were attending the older youth club and it was discussed whether or not to close it down. For the time being it will keep running. The Jaffa club is running well. Katie has been working on becoming secular with the Youth Outreach Worker from Iver who offered to help her. She has also been working with Barbara Davis and NSO Louise Sharples trying to organise a 4 day event in the summer at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Webber suggested that they contact Joe Sammon at SBDC and tie in with the Chillin' In the Park event.

### **301/PC/10 - Police**

To receive a report from the police

The crime figures were read out and are appended to these minutes. Cllr Arnold asked if the police could be more visible at the Have Your Say meetings as they are often in a plain car and difficult to spot. Cllr Robinson said that she was very impressed with the three police officers which we have in the area and often sees them around the village.

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

Councillor Egleton to report

Cllr Egleton reported that the Overview & Scrutiny task and finish groups have 34 Councillors involved. The Pathfinder group are looking at the IT, HR, AC/s payroll and Property departments to decide on any future changes that may be needed. The Waste Incinerator Project has been delayed by one year. The Joint Crime and Disorder

Minister. The Task & Finish Group are working on next years Winter Road Maintenance already. The only real answer to repairing pot holes is Plaining and Patching. There is a Budget which Cllr Egleton has to spend and he is using it on pot holes. Rogers Lane will be a priority and will be done around May or June time. Cllr Egleton to send the Clerk a pot hole category notice to send to all councillors.  
Item 319 taken next whilst Cllr Egleton still present.

### **319/PC/10 - Stoke Poges Roads/Potholes**

Update from Cllr Aldridge on pot hole inventory

A Pot Hole Inventory was tabled to all Councillors. Cllr Aldridge went through and read out the list. Cllr Egleton confirmed that the Stoke Green area would be repaired using the maintenance budget especially around the mini roundabout. He also confirmed that Tubwell Road needed re-surfacing. Cllr Egleton to send this list to Zoe Ford the Highway Technician for this area. Always report pot holes as category 1, that way they get looked at immediately, however if they are not a category 1 pot hole then they will not be urgently repaired in the 24 hours thereafter. Report appended.

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

Cllr Webber reported that she sat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that a decision about District Council grants had been called in which members of that committee had to investigate. It was reported that the reason for the call in was that officers had advised money should not be given to organisations which hold reserves. The decision of the committee was said that most organisations were obliged to hold reserves and therefore the process for determining who should receive a grant was flawed and that this process should be overhauled and updated.

South Bucks carbon footprint is the worst in the country, this is however understandable given the lack of public transport but nevertheless a major initiative is underway to reduce the figures.

Land at Farthing Green Lane - the owner had been taken to court and fined and now has a criminal conviction.

A decision had been made by the Resources Committee members to cancel the shuttle bus in Stoke Poges now that the Post Office and Chemist have moved into the retail space at Bells Hill. It costs £1k per month to run the bus and the Parish Council had been asked if they could take over the costs. The figures show that at its best six people used the bus on one occasion, mostly the figures were much less. Cllr Arnold said that a taxi service had been discussed instead but the two local taxi firms were not interested. Cllr Best suggested that Persimmon were asked to pay for the bus as they had not rented the retail space to a supermarket yet. The local charities have been contacted to see if they can help.

The Standards Board had issued a report on the differences between Predetermination and Predisposition which is on the agenda for later. Cllr Webber advised all councillors to read this report.

The Conservation Area meeting was taking place at the same time as the Parish Council meeting so none of the District Councillors could attend. Marion Miller will attend the next Planning meeting to give an update.

All District Councillors are given £500 Community Grant per year to spend in their wards. This year it was thought that Cllrs Webber, Arnold and Bowater would purchase a bench each to go under the gazebo on Bells Hill Green.

Cllr Robinson asked Cllr Webber if any action had been taken regarding the field opposite Wexham Park Hospital which had illegally opened as a car park. Cllr Webber

said yes action was taken immediately. The area is Green Belt and SBDC officers are treating the breach of planning control seriously but it does take time to regularise a breach.

Cllr Thornton asked if Persimmon would be prepared to divide the retail space at Bells Hill and rent out to more than one person. Cllr Webber said that they would prefer to rent the one area and just have to deal with one rent rather than numerous.

Cllr Fletcher suggested that Persimmon and SBDC sit around a table to discuss all of the outstanding issues, Cllr Arnold said that they have tried to arrange but to no avail.

**304/PC/10 - Meeting with Harry Latham re: Youth Worker**

**NOTED** that the meeting is taking place with Cllr Carter and Cllr Fletcher on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010 report from them at the next meeting.

May 10

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

- (1) Planning minutes 15/02/10 - signed 15/02/10
- (2) Heritage minutes 18/3/10

**306/PC/10 - Finance**

- (1) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts – March 10
- (2) **RESOLVED** approve list of cheques for signature – (appended)
- (3) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank reconciliations March 10 - which were tabled (appended).
- (4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring March 10 - which were tabled (appended).

**307/PC/10 - Insurance**

Quote obtained from Came & Company who specialise in Parish Council Insurance. To discuss and decide whether or not to change companies.

The Clerk explained that Came & Company had been at a conference which she had attended last year. They had told her that they could save the council money but give more cover. The money saved by changing would be £800.

**RESOLVED** to agree that we should change to Came & Company provided that the Internal Auditor Mr Dancer was happy with the quote once he had seen it. All in favour.

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

Letter sent from clerk to Sara Cobain at SBDC as agreed.

**RESOLVED** to agree that the clerk should write to Cllr Bill Lidgate the Portfolio Holder at SBDC for Environment.

Clerk

**309/PC/10 - Bells Hill and Shops**

Update

It was reported that Persimmon had offered the residents of the flats £2k towards providing gates, this was turned down as it was not enough. The crime there has got worse. It was suggested that the residents buy a share in Persimmon to allow them to be able to attend Persimmon's AGM to enable them to have their say.

Cllr Aldridge reported that he had been on to L & Q Beacon regarding the steps and the disability access to the shops and that they were going to the DDA to fight the case.

**310/PC/10 - Bells Hill/SBDC Temporary Bus Service**

**NOTED** that the Bus service is to be stopped by SBDC two weeks after Post Office move into Bells Hill, unless SPPC take over the running of the Bus Services. **AGREED** that SPPC could not finance the bus.

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

To note that it is not possible to move the climbing frame from Bells Hill to Plough Lane

as it would not conform to safety policy EN1766.

The Clerk updated the council on her meeting with Monster Play. They had suggested that the existing play area is left alone and the new equipment be placed on the grass area outside of the existing play area. This will enable the younger children to still have equipment to play on whilst being fenced off. All Councillors agreed that this was a good idea. Play companies do not like removing equipment if there is nothing wrong with it. The fenced off area could always be added to at a later date. The Clerk has three more companies to meet along with Simon Gray from SBDC.

### **312/PC/10 - Village Centre**

To discuss letter received from Village Centre regarding Custodian Trustee.

Update from clerk about information requested from Kidd Rapinet.

Cllr Huntley took no part in the discussion or decision on this item.

Notification of resignations from Cllr J Ball and Cllr S Best as representatives of the Parish Council to the Village Centre Management Committee.

Cllr Ball said that when the vote was taken last month to pay the Village Centre fees, it was on the agreement that a status quo was maintained, so changing the Custodian Trustee was breaking that agreement.

Cllr Best said that because we have an outstanding loan we would have use of the office and the Lionel Rigby Room in perpetuity, he also said that as trustees of the Village Centre he and Cllr J Ball should not have taken part in the vote to pay the fees. He also said that 'In Perpetuity' would not be acceptable wording now and a long term agreement should be made.

Cllr Fletcher said that he was disappointed that given the vote to pay the Village Centre fees that they have now gone ahead to change the Custodian Trustee.

Cllr Ball asked for it to be minuted that the last vote was wrong because he and Cllr Best should not have been involved in the vote.

Cllr Arnold asked the Clerk about replies from Kidd Rapinett, the Clerk explained that she had contacted them numerous times without a reply. Finally after receiving a reply she was three times promised an answer to the questions but they did not materialise. Cllr Arnold said that as the Parish Council had been let down so badly by Kidd Rapinett on this matter that she could recommend a Slough firm of Solicitors Aston Bond to take over the case as they specialise in Charities.

At 9.40pm the meeting was adjourned and Mike Dier was asked if he would be happy to meet with the Parish Council again to agree some wording for a new agreement. He agreed that this would be a good idea. Meeting re-convened at 9.45pm.

Cllr Arnold proposed a motion to arrange a meeting with the Village Centre and Cllr Aldridge and Cllr Carter, to sit around a table to agree the wording of a new agreement. Once that wording was agreed it would be brought back to the Council for approval. Once everything was approved then the Parish Council would use Aston Bond solicitors rather than Kidd Rapinet to carry out the work. This was seconded by Cllr Webber. **RESOLVED** to agree by a show of hands recording all in favour.

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

Update from working party Cllrs Aldridge, Carter & Gillan.

Cllr Aldridge said that this was on hold at present waiting for the scouts to sort themselves out. The scouts are sending a planning consultant to the site at Duffield Lane and Bells Hill Rec. Their report will give the Parish Council an opinion on a pavilion at the recreation ground but at a cost to the scouts. Bring back to May.

### **314/PC/10 - Website**

Update from Councillor Robinson after liaising with Julian Irvine.

Cllr's  
Carter/  
Aldridge

May 10

Clerk has emailed everyone with 'In Touch with Communities' selection of websites to peruse, to discuss. Clerk has also been in touch with Daniel Lennox local resident who is willing to discuss further taking on the upgrade of the website.

To decide which route to take.

Cllr Robinson said that Julian Irving was hoping to attend this meeting but had got called away on business to Spain. Daniel Lennox was keen on helping with a new site and it was agreed all in favour that Cllr Robinson and the Clerk should get costs etc from Daniel. Bring back to May.

#### **315/PC/10 - Stoke Poges Reception**

Follow up on reception.

Cllr Arnold thanked everyone for a successful evening. The Clerk said that numbers were up on last year. It was agreed that the labels were very successful.

#### **317/PC/10 - Standards of England Guidance**

**NOTED** email correspondence from Greg O'Brien SBDC regarding "Predisposition". Predestination or Bias, and the Code from the Standards Board of England. Both Cllr Webber and Cllr Arnold said that each Cllr should study and read the article.

#### **318/PC/10 – Bollards at Bells Hill Recreation Ground**

A request had been received from a resident via Cllr Robinson to increase the hard standing at the recreation ground and put bollards along the edge of the grass area to prevent cars from driving on there. Cllr Best said that the hard standing could not be increased because this would encroach on to the green area which will next season need to accommodate another mini soccer pitch as well as the full size pitch. This would also mean that putting bollards along the edge would not be possible. **AGREED** all in favour to leave well alone.

#### **.320/PC/10 - Library**

Update on Community Library.

Cllr Webber explained that for two years she had been trying to get a Community Library project off the ground. She had asked for volunteers, spoken to Chalfont St Giles library, investigated every possible space in the area, including the Hut space, Persimmon site, Tesco site, St. Andrews, The School, The Village Centre and finally the shop portacabins. Unfortunately there have not been enough offers to get the project off of the ground and Cllr Webber is informing the Parish Council that after two years of work the project is a non-starter. There were no further comments apart from Cllr Carter who asked if the St. Andrew's coffee shop could be an option to have a Community Library in once it is re-opened. Cllr Webber said this would again come back down to a hands on project and help would still be needed. It was agreed by all that there was no help at present to get the project up and running and to take it no further. Clerk to inform Bob Smith at SBDC.

#### **321/PC/10 - GX & Fulmer Football Club**

Email from GX & Fulmer regarding the request of £500 per season for use of the Bells Hill pitch. To discuss and decide if an adhoc payment per use is possible.

**AGREED** that the Clerk should find out what adhoc payments they are willing to pay and bring back to the next meeting. Cllr Aldridge mentioned that the line marking at Plough Lane was burning the grass. Clerk to speak to Paul Bourne.

Clerk

#### **322/PC/10 - Plough Lane Recreation Ground**

Hedge Cutting to discuss.

The Clerk explained that the hedge along the recreation ground at Plough Lane had got so tall that it was almost touching the telephone wires, and advice was given that it should be cut down to about 2 metres high and then allowed to grow up to no more than 3 metres in height. One quote received was for £1500. **RESOLVED** to agree all in favour that the hedge should be cut down. Clerk to get another quote and to go with the cheapest.

Clerk

**323/PC/10 - Publication of the South Bucks Proposed Submission Core Strategy - Consultation**

Previously emailed to all councillors. Comments by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

**NOTED** all agreed that the Parish Council should support SBDC.

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

- (1) Planning - Cllr Gillan reminded everyone that Marion Miller would be attending the next planning meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm to update all on the Conservation Area. Cllr Fletcher gave his apologies for that meeting. Cllr Gillan said that the Thames House application would be discussed at that meeting.
- (2) R & E - Cllr Best said that the taps will be done in the allotments soon. There were only three outstanding tenancy agreements. He met with A & M Fencing and they agreed what work would be carried out with this year's budget. Cllr Best informed everyone that the ditches in the allotments were full and he asked Cllr Aldridge to look at them as he had said that they would not fill up again.
- (3) Finance - Not met.
- (4) Heritage - Cllr Arnold had been asked if another Coke Memorial Lecture could take place. After a recent family Hastings evening, it had occurred to Cllr Arnold that she could ask Sir Max Hastings if he would give a talk in 2011.

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

- (1) **NOTED** Slough Borough Council - Site Allocations Local Development Framework
- (2) **NOTED** SBDC Bill Lidgate Draft BCC Parking and Enforcement Policy
- (3) **NOTED** Chiltern and South Bucks Area Office, Change of Location

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

**NOTED** Planning Committee - 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**NOTED** Annual Parish Meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010

**NOTED** Full Parish Council - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**327/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.

There were none.

**Meeting ended at 10.20pm**

Signed

Chairman

Dated

