



STANTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: - Mrs Joy Hart, Sucrerie, Old Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk IP31 2BX
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Chair – Francis Hart

Vice Chair – Barbara Smithson

Minutes of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 10 September 2020 at 7pm at Stanton Community Village Hall.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call and Apologies for absence:

Present – Cllr Brown, Cllr Frizzell, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Kemp, Cllr Scowcroft, Cllr Shelton, Cllr Smith, Cllr Miller, Cllr Smithson (Vice Chair)

Apologies for absence accepted - Cllr Hart, Cllr Kemp, Cllr Cleland-Smith.

CCllr Spicer also gave her apologies and sent a written report.

Also present – DCllr Thorndyke

Cllr Gordon recorded the meeting and live streamed it to his Facebook page.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 13 August were discussed and wording at para 3 amended to read that the application for the Doctors surgery was 'not successful' rather than 'refused', With that amendment they were proposed for approval by Cllr Shelton and seconded by Cllr Smith. Cllr Gordon did not approve the minutes. All others present in favour.

3. Public Forum: The public were invited to notify the Clerk by email at Stantonparishcouncil@gmail.com if they wished to take part in this meeting and to outline the question they would like to put to the Council in advance if possible.
15 members of the public were present. Covid Secure precautions were taken and the names recorded of all attendees (to be retained for 21 days).

The Reverend Cathy Bladen was present to outline proposed changes to future proofing All Saints Church which include replacing the pews with chairs, (except for the side chapel), a glass panel in the porch to improve the heating loss from the church doors, a kitchen with a drop in coffee area and toilets. This work to be carried out as funds become available.

MJ raised the question of street lighting in The Chase. The lights are being turned off at night and the residents feel vulnerable as no other lights in the village are turned off. Cllr Scowcroft commented that the lights were owned by the County Council and the switching off was part of a wider economy to save money. Other lights in the village were maintained by West Suffolk Council. The lights had been off overnight for around 8 years and were only switched back on during a spate of burglary about three years ago when it was made clear that it would only be a temporary measure. The County Council would be unlikely to agree to turn them back on. It was suggested that residents should make use of the online reporting tool to raise any issues they have with SCC.

BJ asked about the road surface at Old Bury Road which was being narrowed by hedgerow incursion onto the road surface. This has been reported to Highways by the Clerk who will send a personal email to BJ to advise him of the response.

LM wanted to thank the Parish Council for their support offered at the recent Fun day. Despite the atrocious weather on the day £2,800 was raised with £1500 going to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, £650 to help a youngster in the village and £650 to Cancer research. The event will be held next year hopefully!

Cllr Miller wished it to be noted that the Village was very grateful to LM and CC for being the main organisers and the many people who supported it.

4. Report from:

- **B Cllr J Thorndyke** reported that the Council are looking at a £6.1million deficit next year. The use of reserves is being considered.
- The Community Chest funding applications need to be in by 30 October 2020
- Newmarket now has a new skate park
- The Bury St Edmunds citizens advice bureau can assist any resident who is struggling and residents are encouraged to use the service
- The markets are now fully open with some stalls having left due to parking issues.
- Planet Earth exhibition opens at the Apex from 3-18 October and will be very popular as it has been exhibited in Hong Kong, Australia, Taiwan and the Natural History museum.

The Doctors Surgery planning application is coming back to West Suffolk Planning Committee in October and the Parish Council should feed in their response as soon as possible.

Cllr Smithson asked whether the Community Enforcement Officers would visit Stanton to enforce yellow lines if they were present. DCllr Thorndyke said that it could be arranged by request.

Report from C Cllr J Spicer (Received by email and read out by the Clerk)

- The Grundle: I have been promised repair work will be done this week (noted fallen tree also). Meeting held with Steve Halls which others will report on about start of work on new dam
- Former Primary School: will be demolished in coming weeks and site is now for sale
- Working Group needed to join me making plans for “village green” on playing fields
- Rose and Crown: confidential legal discussions are ongoing to complete the work correctly
- Speed limit: no news
- Mill View Estate: concerns about parking and access – I will arrange a discussion with Cllr Brown and others. SCC still not adopted the roads and pavements.
- Bloor application – concerns from Ixworth and other villages emerging re their A143 at Ixworth proposed changes

5. Clerk’s Report: There were no queries.

6. Declarations of Interest: - no declarations of interest in the remaining items on the Agenda.

7. Planning Applications

- a. **New Applications** – No new applications received
- b. **Determined Applications** –

Table 1 Determined applications

PCM date	Reference	Address	PC decision	West Suffolk decision	Decision date	Minuted
11/06/20	DC-20-0792-FUL	71 Shepherds Grove Park	Support	Approved	13/07/20	10/09/20
16/07/20	DC-20-1080-HH	4 Shetlands	Support	Approved	19/08/20	10/09/20
16/07/20	DC-20-1061-FUL	Shelbourne Reynolds	Support	Approved	24/08/20	10/09/20
13/08/20	DC-20-1057-HH	Glen Cairn 1 Duke Street	Support	Approved	25/08/20	10/09/20

c. Other Planning matters –

To discuss a response to Social Media posts and the West Suffolk planning committee in respect of the Doctors Surgery planning application.

Cllr Shelton reported that since the last Parish Council meeting, he had met with Dr Redman, Dr Rattan Lunn and the Practise manager Sandra Butler together with Cllr Hart and Cllr Brown when they had discussed that parking was an issue and suggested possible options to overcome this. The Parish Council do want to support the Surgery and therefore as a result of that meeting the proposal is that a letter be sent to the planning committee fully supporting the application for an extension.

Cllrs commented during discussion that had they been in possession of the information from Dr Redman about the problems not having the extension would cause and the other information about the new medical centre proposed at Upthorpe Road then they would have been unlikely to have voted against the planned extension. Cllr Smith was still concerned about parking issues for local residents and urged the surgery to explore all options to improve this.

Proposal – Fully support the application for an extension. Seconded by Cllr Brown. 7 votes in favour and 1 against.

RESOLVED – Letter to be sent fully supporting the application for an extension at the Doctors Surgery

8. Statutory Business/Governance

- a. Progress against the Action Plan 2020-21 was noted and updated.
- b. The Annual Report 2019-20 (as amended) was approved for publication.

9. Report from the Cemetery Working Party (Cllr Frizzell)

- a. Cllr Frizzell reported that the Cemetery Working Party had met to reconsider the Cemetery rules as a result of an application by a local family for a photograph to be displayed on a Memorial stone. The proposal was to amend Rule 4n of the Cemetery Rules 2020-22 to read “Laser etched photographic images of the deceased may be permitted providing they fit within a 20cm square on the headstone (round or oval permitted) subject to the absolute and final discretion of the full council”

Seconded by Cllr Brown. All in favour

RESOLVED – that the Cemetery Rules be amended as above

- b. The application for a Memorial for Susan Dew was approved. Proposed by Cllr Frizzell. Seconded by Cllr Brown. All in favour.

Action – Clerk to advise Memorial Mason

- c. The application for a Memorial for Diane Stynes was approved. Proposed by Cllr Frizzell. Seconded by Cllr Miller. All in favour.

Action – Clerk to advise Memorial Mason

10. Matters for discussion:

- a. **Fireworks Event 2020.** Cllr Smithson outlined concerns from stewarding and firing volunteers around holding such an event under Covid restrictions. In light of cancellations from the Abbey Gardens it would be likely that Stanton would be extremely popular and the Recreation Ground would need a significant amount of stewarding and was not a secure venue. After further discussions Cllr Gordon said that it would be a huge morale boost for the village and he was not in favour of cancelling.

Proposal – the Event for 2020 be cancelled and the Fireworks stored until 6 November 2021.

Seconded by Cllr Smith. 7 in favour – 1 against.

RESOLVED – that the Fireworks Event 2020 be cancelled

- b. Cllr Brown outlined concerns about holding the **Christmas Tree Event** and the difficulties of stewarding lots of people in the Church and outside and suggested that the event be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. However, he would like to source a tree and will be responsible for putting up the lights. He asked Cllrs to approve a £300 budget for the purchase of a Christmas Tree.

Proposal – Purchase a Christmas Tree up to a value of £300. Seconded by Cllr Miller. All in favour

RESOLVED – to purchase a Christmas Tree up to a value of £300

- c. **Grant Application request** – Stanton FC submitted a Grant Application request for £3,500 towards a total of £7,333 which was required to install the floodlights on the Recreation Ground. Cllrs discussed that £3000 had been set aside in the Special Projects budget for this but there had been additional costs to the Council for an architect service and planning application of £450. Cllr Smith commented that the lights would be of use to the Parish Council for future events and therefore he wished to propose that the full amount of £3,500 be awarded to the Club.

Proposal – To approve the Grant Application for £3,500. Seconded by Cllr Gordon. All in favour

RESOLVED – to award Stanton FC a £3,500 grant towards the cost of floodlighting

- d. The **table tennis tables** have now been installed on the Recreation Ground and the Parish Council has been given 20 ‘paddles’ and two boxes of balls by the provider – Table Tennis England. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Gordon that the paddles be offered to the oldest year group at Stanton Primary School to encourage them to use the facility which has already been advertised on Facebook and the website. Cllr Scowcroft proposed an amendment to that proposal in that the Council purchase additional paddles to ensure that all year 6 pupils could have their own. This was seconded by Cllr Brown.
Proposal - to donate the purchased paddles and the free paddles to Stanton Primary School for distribution to all Yr. 6 pupils.
RESOLVED – to purchase additional paddles and to donate the equipment to Stanton Primary School for the use of Year 6 pupils
- e. Cllr Gordon proposed that in light of recent events all staff and Councillors from this day forward should be required to undertake Diversity and Equality training. After discussion the motion was not seconded and in accordance with Standing Orders 1b was not progressed. Cllr Miller proposed an amendment - that the Clerk investigates what training is available and report back to Council on the options. This was seconded by Cllr Shelton. All Councillors present in favour with one abstention.
Proposal – to investigate what Diversity and Equality training is available to Councillors
RESOLVED – Clerk to investigate what training is available under this subject and report back.
- f. Addressing residents’ concerns about the lack of transparency in how Stanton Parish Council is operated by Staff and Councillors (Cllr Gordon). Cllr Smithson asked Councillors to consider that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it was advisable that the public and press be temporarily excluded. Cllr Gordon objected to this on the grounds that the public needed to hear what he had to say and he would not be naming individual Councillors. Cllr Smithson’s proposal was not seconded and the matter remained in the public domain. Cllr Gordon proposed that every vote on every subject discussed by Council should show the names of Cllrs who voted for and against the proposals. (This is already allowed for in Standing Orders on request of a Councillor). The proposal was not seconded and in accordance with Standing Order 1b was not progressed.
Cllr Gordon also felt that all meetings should be recorded and that the video and audio should be available on the website for residents to view at any time. The Clerk advised that the current website did not allow audio and video recordings.
Cllr Gordon proposed that the website should be upgraded to allow recordings to be loaded. This was seconded by Cllr Scowcroft and all in favour.
Proposal – to upgrade website to allow audio and video recordings
RESOLVED – Clerk to investigate upgrade of web site and subsequent costs
- Cllr Gordon then started to name Cllrs and others in respect of previous events and was asked by the Chair to desist from doing so.
- g. To investigate the feasibility of an **independent review** of recent issues within Stanton PC. Cllr Scowcroft proposed that in view of the toxic atmosphere around the Parish Council at the current time, an independent review of the recent events may help to resolve some of the issues and suggested that this could be carried out by SALC or another Parish Council.
Proposal – to investigate the possibility of an independent review of the Council actions in light of recent events. Seconded by Cllr Brown.
RESOLVED - Clerk will make enquiries with SALC to see what could be made available for an independent review.

11. Accounts

- a. The accounts as below were approved (General Power of Competence applies). Cllr Gordon did not approve the Accounts and said that the Staff salaries should be broken down so that the public knew exactly how much they were paying out. The Clerk responded that this was a Data Protection issue and a break down was not required to be published.
- b. The Budget Meeting for financial year 2021-22 was set for 22 October 2020 at 7pm
- c. The Bank Account total as at 31 Aug 20 - £83675.75 – noted

Table 2 List of payments and receipts

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR
Anglian Water	5.00		5.00	Monthly water charges - Pumping station
EDF	15.00	.71	14.29	Monthly Electricity - Pumphouse
EDF	18.00	.86	17.14	Monthly Electricity - Floodlights
Now TV	26.38		26.38	Monthly Telephone and Broadband
Mrs J Hart	27.26	2.50	24.76	Postage and anti bac sprays
Viking Office Supplies	14.39	2.40	11.99	Memory sticks
Viking Office Supplies	27.77	4.63	23.14	Copier Paper and anti bac
Mrs G Miller	104.00		104.00	Toilet cleaning – Recreation ground
Staff Salaries	1173.60		1173.60	Litter picker, street cleaner and Clerk Salary
RECEIPTS				
Lloyds Bank Interest	3.27			Bank Interest
Scottish Power	60.20			End of contract refund
Allotments	25.00			Allotments rent minus purchase of barbed wire

12. Coronavirus Updates

- a. The most recent guidance from Government, County and District Councils relating to Covid 19 has been distributed by the Clerk.

13. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. West Suffolk Council – Community Chest Funding 2021/22 – noted for Budget Meeting on 22 October

14. Correspondence

- a. LK re Doctors Surgery – Noted – Clerk to respond as per discussion at 7c.
- b. BB re Doctors Surgery – Noted – Clerk to respond as per discussion at 7c.
- c. CB re Doctors Surgery – Noted – Clerk to respond as per discussion at 7c.
- d. The Churches Conservation Trust has reported tree works necessary in the Churchyard at St Johns. Fallen trees have affected the footpaths used by villagers to walk through the Churchyard and has asked the Parish Council to consider a donation to the total cost of works which is £950 plus VAT. After discussion Cllr Smith proposed that a local tree surgeon be invited to submit a quotation and that the tree works be funded by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Brown. 7 in favour – Cllr Gordon abstained due to insufficient information.
Proposal – Parish Council to cover cost of work to trees
RESOLVED – Clerk to ask Churches Conservation Trust to get second quote from local tree surgeon

Part two – Confidential Matters

- a. Application for Litter Picker vacancy.

Cllr Smithson proposed that in view of the confidential nature of the business, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded. Seconded and all in favour.

The public and DCllr Thorndyke then left the meeting

Councillors discussed an application from Charlie Smith aged 14 years for the vacancy of weekend litter picker. Salary of £4.55 per hour in accordance with Govt guidelines. After discussion the appointment was approved. Salary to be reviewed after completion of 3 month probationary period.

Clerk to complete necessary paperwork

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.15pm

Minutes signed as correct..... F J Hart