

MINUTES of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 11 August 2016 at Stanton Community Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: A Shelton (Chairman), I Engall (Vice-Chairman), B Smithson, J Mann, J Miller, J Frizzell, N Chapman, K McDonald, F J Hart

Also Present: County Cllr Joanna Spicer, Borough Cllr Jim Thorndyke,

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Scowcroft.
- 2. To read, consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting:**

14 July 2016. Approved by Cllr McDonald. Seconded by Cllr Chapman.

3. Public Forum:

A resident attended in response to a letter she had previously sent to the council outlining a number of issues around the Cemetery. Cllr Engall responded to the issues and said that as the cemetery was new, it would take time to get things right. A lot of the points raised will not be ignored and will be dealt with.

He has met with the funeral director responsible for the gravediggers for one of the plots and been reassured of their professionalism and integrity in the future. They were sorry for any distress caused by their actions. The turfing of the second grave had been affected by dry weather but will be rectified if necessary once the earth has settled.

Issues around the wooden cemetery gates, the overgrown hedges (in the old churchyard) and the cremation plots out of line were the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council and not issues that the Parish Council could deal with but they could still have influence on any necessary work being done by others.

As a village churchyard it must be accepted that there would be different standards to a town cemetery and he considered that the plots which had been there for many years were of an acceptable standard to the Parish Council.

There was already a rule in place and on display on the notice board asking that dogs be kept on leads and under control, but this would be difficult to enforce. Some notices had been put up (by the complainant) without permission. The Clerk would remind villagers through Facebook and the minutes about the rule.

The cemetery hedges will be cut in the Autumn as it was not permitted to cut hedges between May and September due to nesting birds and the contractor will be asked to ensure that the area around the gates is cut back. Cllr Mann has undertaken some trimming of the hedges on more than one occasion over the summer.

It is intended to meet with the grass cutting contractor in September to review the contract for the year and the issues of cuttings and strimmings will be discussed.

The Clerk has taken advice from St Edmundsbury BC in relation to moles and it has been suggested that they are left alone as even if caught by a professional, another animal is likely to move into the vacated area and the issue would not be resolved. It was not permitted for traps or poisons to be used in a public place.

Cllr Miller said that she has spent time in the Churchyard and no comments have been made to her (by anyone tending graves) in relation to the grass cutting. In fact, she had received a compliment about the way in which the new cemetery is being maintained.

Cllr Engall thanked the resident for taking the time to bring the issues to the attention of the Parish Council and reassured her that her comments would be monitored for the future. He also asked that the complainant had a look at the rules in relation to adornments on the graves and report back any concerns or comments she may have. Clerk to provide copy.

4. Report from:

a. S C Cllr J Spicer

Work on the new primary school is still in progress and although the contractors have been delayed and there is still some work to be completed in relation to signage and traffic calming, this was in hand. It is understood that the school crossing patrol will move from the village centre up to the new school site.

CCllr Spicer has met with Highways to discuss the issues around Upthorpe and Hepworth Road and the new traffic calming scheme and it was agreed that this will be monitored when the school opens to see what impact the calming scheme has.

CCllr Spicer appreciated that the residents and tenants of businesses on the industrial estate had some concerns but there was also still work ongoing on the Mill View Estate which was affecting parking and as the estate is completed the parking situation should improve significantly. It was agreed that this subject will be revisited once the school has had time to settle in. Clerk to write to the residents concerned to update on the decision to monitor.

Issues around the GP surgery are ongoing and the practise is still considering an alternative site for a new surgery.

CCllr Spicer has been reassured that work on overgrown hedges and bridleways is scheduled to be done in the Autumn. Cllr Engall showed CCllr Spicer some photographs of the current state of the footpath at George Hill and emphasised that the situation was 'appalling' and totally unacceptable that Highways have not done the work as promised especially in the George Hill area. The camber of the road meant that heavy lorries leaned towards the footpath making it even more dangerous especially when two heavy vehicles were passing each other. CCllr Spicer thanked Cllr Engall for the photographs and said that she will meet with Highways to discuss a programme of necessary works as soon as possible and will take the photographs with her.

b. B Cllr J Thorndyke

Informed the meeting that the next Parish Conference will be a joint one with Forest Heath at the Memorial Hall Newmarket on 14 November.

The brown bins have had a 45% take up within the village which was about middle level in comparison to the rest of the St Edmundsbury Council area.

Concrete lampposts are being replaced in the village due to their age.

Devolution response forms are being circulated.

The bus times are changing. New timetables circulated. In response to Cllr Miller's question last month, the Council has appointed a scrutiny committee to look at the facilities offered at the bus station in Bury St Edmunds.

BCllr Thorndyke thanked the Council for their constructive comments to planning matters which were influencing decisions.

c. Suffolk Constabulary Pc DeJongh

In attendance to update the Council on issues relating to criminal damage to the CCTV cameras at the village hall. The offenders have been identified and are in the process of being dealt with. No other crime was reported.

5. Clerk's Report:

Matters arising from minutes of meeting 14 July

Item 3 – Public Forum. Broken Shepherds Grove sign, dirty street signs and overhanging vegetation reported to Suffolk County Council. Ref 00147002-7004. Email sent to County Cllr Spicer to raise the issues about Upthorpe Road and Hepworth Road traffic calming scheme.

Item 8d – Overgrown vegetation – Sturgeon Way/Bury Lane. Reported to St Edmundsbury Landscapes ref 201619966. Awaits response.

Item 8e – Overgrown Areas – Reported to various agencies as appropriate.

Item 9a – Public toilets refurbishment. Reported on Facebook and responses collated – see separate report.

6. Statutory Business/Governance

- a. **New Councillor vacancy – two candidates.** The Council discussed the two candidates and after a ballot, Susan Wilcox was appointed to the position. Clerk to contact the two candidates
- b. **Councillor Engall resignation.** Cllr Engall indicated his intention to resign from the Parish Council for personal reasons at the end of the meeting. The Chairman accepted the resignation, and added that Cllr Engall had completed a significant amount of work for the Parish Council and his expertise and enthusiasm would be sorely missed.

7. Declarations of Interest: Cllr McDonald and Cllr Engall declared an interest in payments on the accounts.

8. Matters for discussion:

- a. **Speedwatch funding for new SID/VAS.** After a further presentation by speedwatch co-ordinator Peter Palmer, the Parish Council agreed in principle to assist with the funding for the purchase of a new VAS speed indicator device. CCllr Spicer indicated that she also may be able to assist with some of the cost out of her Highways budget. Cllr McDonald said that speedwatch was an important contribution to village safety. The Chairman confirmed that the proposal would be given very serious consideration in the October budget meeting. Mr Palmer will prepare the necessary paperwork for the County Council.
- b. **Weekend Litter picker** Cllr Engall reported that the street cleaner has been asked to litter pick for one hour on Sunday mornings which he has agreed to do. There will be no further cost at the present time as the toilets are closed and he no longer needs to open them. To be reviewed when necessary.
- c. **Dangerous overgrowth of hedgerows A143 and George Hill.** Response as per CCllr Spicer above at item 4a
- d. **Cemetery issues** Cllr Engall responded to the complainant as reported above at item 3. In addition, there was an issue with an ashes tablet which had not been granted permission. Clerk to contact Hanchets to discuss way forward. Clerk suggested a leaflet for new burials would be useful for the future and will prepare one. The Chairman asked that a vote of thanks be recorded for Cllr Engall's dealing with a very delicate situation which had been handled with great tact and diplomacy.
- e. **Cars for Sale on grassed area - Bury Road** Council has previously chosen not to take action against cars parked on the green for sale. Cllr McDonald agreed to monitor to see if this was private advertisers or trading.
- f. **Noxious chemical smells in village.** Cllr Frizzell reported an obnoxious smell of sulphurous/gaseous fumes in the area of Hilltop. Several people had reported to him of feeling unwell (at the end of July and early August). He will report the matter to environmental health and ask for the air to be monitored for toxicity. Clerk to put an item on Facebook with the link to reporting the smells when they happen.

9. Recreation Ground & Car Park:

- a. **Public Toilets and responses to closure.** The Clerk submitted a report outlining the public comments in relation to the closure of the toilets. In total 14 responses had been received. Of those, 11 wished the toilets to remain open and 3 wished them to remain closed. Cllr McDonald commented that the responses were not a good representation of 1300 houses. Cllr Frizzell said that they were representative of those who used the play area and not the rest of the village. Cllr Smithson felt that it was a backward step to provide a lovely new play area and then not have toilets available. Other options may be available rather than complete refurbishment.

After further debate it was put to a vote. Cllrs voted as follows - Keep open – 5, Close permanently 3 and one abstention. It was proposed by Cllr Chapman that in the short term the toilets are deep cleaned by Anglia surface care as soon as possible and a £250 budget be agreed for painting and any small works necessary. (Not to include deep

cleaning). They will then be reopened and a working party consisting of Cllrs Chapman, Smithson and Shelton will then revisit the whole project to move it forward. This was seconded by Cllr Frizell and the motion to keep the toilets open was approved.

- b. Grass cutting contract problems** The Chairman asked that a meeting with the grass cutting contractors be arranged to discuss issues especially the standard of cutting on the recreation ground and the bottom of Duke Street and to include the cemetery issues and instructions in respect of the play area. Clerk to arrange.
- c. Plaque for Play Area** Shelbourne Reynolds have offered to provide a second plaque acknowledging the contributions for the play area. The wording of the plaque was agreed. Clerk to contact Shelbourne Reynolds

10. Financial

- a. Authorisation of purchase of turf for play area.** The purchase of turf and sundries to a value of £670.50 for the play area was approved retrospectively as it had been purchased as an emergency measure and had been laid by Cllr Engall, Cllr and Mrs McDonald and Cllr Hart. Cllr McDonald wished to thank Cllr Engall for the amount of work he had put in to make the play area project a success.
- b. BACS payments for routine bills** Council approved the use of BACS for salary payments and invoices under £250 after authorisation at the Council meeting. This would result in a saving on Clerk's time, postage and stationery costs.

PAYMENTS	GROSS	VAT	NET	WHAT FOR	EXP.POWER
Anglian Water	5.00		5.00	Water charges pumping station	LGA 1972 S111
EON	9.00	1.50	7.50	Monthly electricity floodlights	LGA 1972 S111
EON	14.00	0.70	13.30	Monthly electricity pumphouse	LGA 1972 S111
Talk talk (July)	40.83	6.81	34.02	Monthly Internet/phone charges	LGA 1972 S111
SALC	300.00	50.00	250.00	Clerk training CILCA	LGA 1972 S111
Streetscape	5190.00	865.00	4325.00	Play Area fitness equipment	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976, s19
Tripp Batt	5.45	0.92	4.53	Sundry items	LGA 1972 S111
Mr I Engall	670.50	103.50	567.00	New play area turf/sundries	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976, s19
Mr K McDonald	21.08	3.51	17.57	Paint for teen seating	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976, s19
Glasdon UK Ltd	626.94	104.49	522.45	Bench for village centre	Parish Councils Act 1957, S1
Staff Salaries	810.40		810.40	Clerk and street cleaner	LGA 1972 S112
David Bracey	300.00	50.00	250.00	Post installation Insp. play area	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976, s19
RECEIPTS					
Lloyds Bank			18.75	Bank Interest	
Fulcher Funeral Directors			161.00	Burial charges	
HMRC VAT			8542.22	Repayment	

11. Items for noting - None

12. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. Highways Matters – Edition 8** – previously circulated by email
- b. Rural Vision 2031 documents** – Clerk to retain

13. Planning Applications:

- a. New Applications received**

DC/16/1487/TPO | TPO 248 (1997) 78 - Tree Preservation Order - 1no. Ash (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) remove lowest large lateral limb growing towards property back to the main trunk | 2 Shepherds Grove Park Stanton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2AY

RESPONSE The Parish Council considers that this work is necessary, will not affect the appearance of the main tree and has no objections

DC/16/1283/FUL Planning Application - (i) 4no. Class B1 (Light Industrial) units, (ii) upgrading and alteration of existing vehicular and pedestrian accesses (iii) car and lorry parking and turning (following demolition of existing lightweight buildings) Unit 30-31 Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate Stanton Suffolk IP31 2AR

RESPONSE The Parish Council fully supports the upgrading and alteration of existing units to provide more appropriate and modern surroundings in this industrial area and feels it will help to enhance the immediate area and encourage other businesses to improve and populate the area to the benefit of future employment opportunities for Stanton residents.

b. Previous applications decided

DC/16/1216/TCA Trees in a Conservation Area Notification - 4no. Elm (T1, T2, T3 and T4 on plan) fell. Beech Cottage The Street Stanton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2DQ

APPROVED

DC/16/0983/LB Application for Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to ground floor including removal of internal walls. Willow House Duke Street Stanton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2AA

APPROVED

14. Correspondence:

- a. **Application for use of Recreation Ground on 4/9/16.** The use of the Recreation Ground by the East Anglian Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club for an annual fun day on Sunday 4 September 2016 was approved.
- b. **Bird mess on the play equipment (Mr P Smith)** The Clerk has cleaned the swings and it would appear to be a one off incident. Area will be monitored and further action taken if necessary.
- c. **Cars driving over grassed area – Catchpole Way (Mr P Smith)** The Clerk will contact the RAF Honington station Commander to ask him to take action as the offending vehicles are serving personnel.
- d. **Cars advertised for sale on verge Old Bury Road (Mr and Mrs Coiley)** See item 8e above
- e. **Cemetery issues (Miss S Garnham)** – see agenda item 8d above
- f. **Thank you card – Play area (Anna-Lise Sharpe)** Noted

The meeting closed at 9.49pm

Minutes signed as correct..... (A Shelton – Chairman)