

MINUTES of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 11 July 2019 at Stanton Community Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: F J Hart (Chair), B Smithson (Vice-chair), J Miller, M Scowcroft, J Frizzell, B Brown, A Shelton, P Smith.

Also Present: BCllr Jim Thorndyke. CCllr Joanna Spicer

1. **Apologies for absence accepted:** Cllr S Willcox, Cllr Alan Kemp.

2. **The minutes of the previous meeting on 13 June 2019** were approved.

3. **Public Forum:**

Two members of the public were present relating to matters on the Agenda.

4. **Report from:**

a. **B Cllr J Thorndyke**

There is to be a review of car parking charges in West Suffolk which will include on street parking. Residents are encouraged to email West Suffolk Council in respect of problems they have encountered with the new system at St Andrews Street North.

The West Suffolk Council Community Chest has opened for applications. More than £350,000 is available for projects to improve the lives of local residents. The deadline is 30 September at 12 noon. A decision on the grants will be made later in the year with successful bids paid in April 2020.

Grass cutting is experiencing problems at the moment in the whole area. Any problems can be reported to mark.walsh@westsuffolk.gov.uk

5. **Clerks Report** – there were no queries with the report submitted by the Clerk.

6. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Hart declared an interest in items 7c and 10b (the accounts)

7. **Statutory Business/Governance**

a. The proposed **Areas of Responsibility/Councillor portfolios** was discussed and agreed.

b. **Applications for Co-option to the Parish Council** – Councillors heard from two members of the public present who wished to be considered for co-option to the vacant position of Councillor.

After their presentations, it was proposed by Cllr Hart and seconded by Cllr Frizzell that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded. Both candidates opted to leave the meeting for Councillors to discuss the applications.

Both candidates were proposed and seconded and after discussion, Councillors voted by a show of hands. The chosen candidate by a vote of 5/3 was Benjamin Gordon.

Both candidates were invited back into the meeting and informed of the result. The Chair thanked both for offering themselves to be Parish Councillors. He congratulated Benjamin Gordon and invited him to stay as an observer for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chairman then proposed that item 9b on the Agenda be brought forward for discussion as a representative of Stanton FC was present to assist in any questions that Councillors may have. This was seconded by Cllr Smithson. There were no objections.

A member of the Stanton FC Committee outlined a proposal for 3 standard lights to be erected along the tree line at the top end of the recreation ground. This was to be paid for by the football club and a separate meter installed to allow usage to be monitored. Councillors were advised that a lighting specialist was visiting the area on Thursday 18 July to provide a quotation. The installation would be carried out by a qualified electrician and the cables buried underground. Stanton Fc were looking for a decision in principle for the installation to go ahead.

After discussion Councillors commented that the full installation spec would be necessary but it was proposed by Cllr Shelton and seconded by Cllr Smithson that the project could be agreed in principle and the motion was carried.

CCllr Spicer arrived at the meeting, having been at another meeting first and was asked to give her report.

4b C Cllr J Spicer reported

she had received a very lengthy response from Suffolk County Council in respect of the proposals for a **speed reduction on the A143** and suggested that a way forward would be to have a separate meeting with Councillors who had the Highways portfolio to discuss the Parish Councils response. The meeting was proposed for Monday 15 July with Cllrs Hart, Smith and Frizzell who prepared the original report for consideration.

The original application for a **dropped kerb in Old Bury Road** had been delayed but it was now hoped that the work should be completed within 12 weeks.

There was good news in respect of the **changes to bus timetables** in that there is to be no change for Stanton at the present time.

CCllr Spicer advised Council that the planning issue relating to the **pit at Wyken Road Stanton was** in the Parish of Bardwell and the Council in Bardwell has no objections to the work being carried out.

In relation to the **disused primary school site in Bury Lane**, Suffolk County Council has recently appointed a cabinet member with a property portfolio, Nick Gurney. The Chair - Cllr Hart, Vice Chair - Cllr Smithson and the Clerk had been invited to meet with CCllr Gurney and CCllr Spicer on site at Bury Lane to look at the school playing field. This area would need to be incorporated into any planning application in order to maximise the potential for the site as its sale would be used to offset the cost of moving the primary school to its new site at Upthorpe Road.

In order to move forward with planning, CCllr Gurney had asked whether the Parish Council would 'in principle' adopt an area of the playing field as an asset for the Parish.

Cllr Miller commented that the site had been referred to as 'a green area' and as a 'playing field' and that the two were very different. What was the proposed area going to be?

CCllr Spicer suggested that the site would be a 'village green' with pedestrian access only, for use as the Parish Council wished, as an amenity and would stop any further development on the site. It was up to the Parish Council whether they wanted a recreation area, village orchard or just an area with seating for the use of residents.

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hart and seconded by Cllr Smithson that the Parish Council adopt an area for a 'Village Green' in principle. Councillors resolved to adopt the area in principle with two abstentions.

CCllr Spicer has spoken to the school headteacher in relation to complaints from the new owner of the **old caretaker's bungalow** in respect of children cutting through the car parking area and kicking her fence. The head teacher has been responsive and has been in the area at the relevant times. The Council may look at putting a low-level fence in to avoid children shortcutting the footpath. The new owner has suggested that she may ask for planning permission for a separate entrance in Potters Lane to assist in accessing the property.

Cllr Smith asked about the **relocation of the doctor's surgery** to the Upthorpe Road site from The Chase. This has 'gone quiet' recently but there has been a significant increase in patient use and poor car parking in the area with cars parking on pavements and against dropped kerbs. This is having an effect on residents living in the Cul de Sac. Cllr Scowcroft said that he understood that the lease on the porta cabin was due to run out soon.

CCllr Spicer responded that she was aware of the issues around the surgery and planned to go visit to see what could be done.

7c. Staff appraisals have been carried out on all staff. The Clerk was appraised by Cllr Smithson and Cllr Willcox. The Street Cleaner and weekend litter picker were appraised by the Clerk.

Cllr Smithson advised Councillors that the Clerk has provided evidence of working excessive hours on a regular basis and it was clear that due to new legislation such as GDPR and the introduction of Social Media that the hours need to be increased.

Cllr Smithson therefore proposed that the Clerk's hours be increased to 50 per month to be worked over a 12-month period (600 per year) as there were often times such as year-end when the hours needed to be increased significantly and quieter times where hours could be reduced. This was seconded by Cllr Frizzell and it was resolved that the hours be increased.

Councillors thanked the Clerk for her good work.

The Clerk reported satisfactory appraisals and renewed risk assessments on the street cleaner and litter picker. The street cleaner had received a raise in hourly pay in accordance with legislation in April 2019. Cllr Smithson proposed that that weekend litter picker salary be increased to £5 per hour in order to acknowledge the good work he was doing. This was seconded by Cllr Scowcroft and it was resolved that the rate be increased with immediate effect.

8. Report from Village Hall management Committee – Cllr Shelton reported having attended the meeting on 11 July 2019.

The Village Hall Air Conditioning Equipment was serviced on 5 July.

A discussion was held on planning an open event for existing hirers to showcase what they do in their classes/sessions.

Research is being carried out into additional activities to further utilise the Village Hall.

The AGM date to be set in August and advertised in the Steamer and on notice boards.

9. Matters for discussion:

- a. Cllr Shelton proposed the **transfer of the CCTV system to the VHMC**. The proposal was seconded. The Clerk confirmed that she had received advice that the transfer would be an 'asset transfer' and 'gifted' to the VHMC.

Councillors commented that they would like to see a condition in the 'gifting' that the Parish Council would be able to access the system to obtain images if necessary. After discussion it was resolved that the system be transferred if the VHMC would accept it. The Clerk and Cllr Shelton to draw up a relevant transfer document.

Cllr Shelton also reported that the camera at the rear of the Village Hall which monitors the Play Area and tennis courts is currently in the branches of the tree and is not monitoring the area. A quotation from Pentagon Security who installed the system for the resiting of the camera to a nearby pole had been received at a cost of £756.20 + VAT. Cllr Hart proposed that the camera be moved. This was seconded by Cllr Brown. It was resolved that the camera be moved.

Cllr Shelton also added that he had asked the Clerk to include signage on the Agenda for the gate and wall in respect of cars parking on the entrance road when the gate was closed and the incident with the motor cycle driving round the back of the hall. After discussion it was resolved that the Clerk would obtain quotations for the relevant signage and report back.

- b. Application from Stanton FC for **additional lighting on the Recreation Ground**. (As above)

- c. Cllr Hart reported that he was still in discussions with UK power networks about the **Electrical Charging points** and there was no real update this month.

- d. The Parish Council received the notice of the **retirement of the speed watch co-ordinator** - Peter Palmer. The Chairman proposed a letter of thanks to Peter Palmer for his work and instructed the Clerk to place an article in The Steamer and on Social Media for a replacement co-ordinator.

- e. Cllr Brown was concerned at the **increase in vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the Village** recently and asked Councillors for suggestions as to how the problem could be addressed. Cllr Smith reported that he considered that the group at the bus shelter had reduced recently. However, there was still a small group using the bus shelter as a meeting point which meant that people genuinely wishing to use it to wait for buses felt too intimidated and this was not acceptable.

After further discussion it was resolved that the Police would be asked to attend the next meeting in August to report on their activities in respect of the nuisance.

- f. Cllr Miller reported that she had received a complaint of **vehicles speeding in The Street**, and especially between 7.30 and 8.30am in the direction of Wyken Road. Councillors discussed the issues and were advised by the Clerk that the Police had refused to monitor speeding in The Street last year as they considered that parked cars were a factor in slowing speeds down and that the area was not suitable for speed enforcement.

Cllr Smith commented that he didn't consider The Street had a problem with speeding cars but it was apparent that 30mph in that area would be completely inappropriate and it was the perception of pedestrians that cars were going much faster than they should.

There is very little that the Parish Council can do except that Individuals driving in an inconsiderate manner could be reported directly to the Police.

- g. Cllr Smith reported that the Council had recently **undertaken weed treatment in the Chase** and had not covered the brickweave areas because of the wrong attachments on their quad bikes. After discussion it was resolved that this would be reported to the County Council by The Clerk.

10. Accounts

- a. The budget figures for Quarter 1 were presented by The Clerk. There were no queries.
b. The accounts as below were approved for payment.

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR	EXP. POWER
Anglian Water	683.65		683.65	Water Charges - Recreation Ground - Q1	LGA 1972 S111
Anglian Water	14.72		14.72	Water Charges - Cemetery - Q1	LGA 1972 S111
Scottish Power	119.42	5.69	113.73	Electricity - Pumphouse 251118-060619	LGA 1972 S111
D G Waterman	120.00		120.00	Repairs - Clock tower roof and guttering	LGA 1972, s133
Gidney Plumbing	223.20	37.20	186.00	Replacement toilet cistern	Public Health Act 1936, s87
Now TV	26.00		26.00	Phone and Broadband	LGA 1972 S111
Mr F J Hart	95.00	15.83	79.17	Chairmans expenses	LGA 1972, s15(5) and 35(5)
Browns Tree Service	540.00	90.00	450.00	Tree works George Hill	Public Health Act 1875, s164
Fantastic Fireworks	2935.55	489.27	2446.28	Fireworks Order	LGA 1972, s144
HMRC	1261.12		1261.12	VAT repayable after error	LGA 1972 S111
Cook Services	503.23		503.23	Repaint and refurbish bus shelter	Parish Council Act 1957
Elite fencing	2800.00		2800.00	Replacement fencing - Allotments	Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908
Anglia Surface Care	7200.00	1200.00	6000.00	MUGA and tennis court refurbishment	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976, s19
Mr S Blampied	600.00		600.00	MUGA weed killing and renovation	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976, s19
Cook Services	260.00		260.00	Repairs- Drop down barriers	Open spaces Act 1906, ss9 and 10
Staff Salaries	981.78		981.78	Street Cleaner, Litter picker, Clerk	LGA 1972 S112
RECEIPTS					
Recycling Credits	1033.89		1033.89		
Lloyds Bank Interest	5.02		5.02		

1 List of payments and receipts

11. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. The Play Area Inspection Reports for June 2019 were received. Cllr Hart will attend to the rust and bent bar on the gate. Pro-Scape has already reset the loose pole and will be replacing the gate spring. A design fault on the equipment meant that the pole may loosen again but it is buried very deeply and is a very low risk which will be monitored.
- b. The Passenger Transport – Changes to bus timetables information was considered. Councillor Miller proposed that the bus timetables be purchased for display. This was seconded by Cllr Frizzell and it was resolved that the Clerk will purchase the necessary timetables for display.

12. Planning Applications:

a. New Applications received

DC/19/1164/FUL | Planning Application - 1no. dwelling | Dwelling Grove Lane Stanton Suffolk (Stanton hatchery)

RESPONSE The plan has indicated that this property is for a key worker for the business to which the Council has no objections.

DC/19/1218/TPO | TPO 365(2003) Tree Preservation Order - 1 no. Oak (T2 on order) Overall crown reduction by 30% | Corner Of Bury Lane And Fordhams Close Stanton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2DF (1 Fordhams Close)

RESPONSE Having regard to the submitted evidence by the home owner there are no objections to a 30% reduction taking place to remove the lower branches of this tree back to an acceptable level.

DC/19/1208/OUT | Outline Planning Application - (Means of Access to be considered) - 1 no dwelling with new access | Dwelling Old Bury Road Stanton Suffolk (Mr A Bridges)

RESPONSE The access to this proposed development is already in place (i.e. a gate). Visibility is at an acceptable level to both the right and left of the plot which is on a 30mph road and there are no objections to this means of access.

DCON(B)/17/2518 | Application to Discharge Condition 4 (New Windows - detailed drawings) of DC/17/2518/LB | Plot 2 Rose and Crown Bury Road Stanton Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP31 2BZ

RESPONSE Insufficient detail received for a decision. (No comments have been invited by planning)

Application Number SCC/0049/19SE The Pit Wyken Road Stanton IP31 2DP Proposal Infilling of former chalk pit with inert waste, to be capped with soil and restored to wildlife conservation area. (This is in the Parish of Bardwell but on the border)

<http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0049%2F19SE>

RESPONSE No objections

b. Previous applications decided

Reference	Address	PC decision	St Eds decision	Decision date
DC19-0672-HH	43 Honeymeade Close	Support	Approved	10/06/19
DC19-0763-HH	27 Fordhams Close	Support	Approved	20/06/19
DC19-0958-HH	9 Michaelhouse Way	Support	Approved	27/06/19

2 List of approved planning applications

c. Other Planning Issues

- i. **Correspondence from Boyer Planning re Fordhams Farm site** The Chair reported that he had received correspondence from Boyer Planning who had agreed to a workshop to discuss the proposals for Fordhams Farm to help them to understand what the residents were looking for. In the first instance the workshop would be for key players and members of the Parish Council after hearing residents' concerns. This would then lead to a public consultation for the whole village once the initial plans had been proposed.
It was resolved that the Parish Council propose a date be set for a 'workshop' with key interested parties invited to liaise with the developer prior to any plans being prepared.
- ii. **Playing fields on the old School site** in Bury Lane (As reported above by C Cllr Spicer)

13. Correspondence

- a. LC reported examples of **poor parking in the Gilbert Road area**. Cllr Brown suggested that nothing further could be done until the estate is adopted and then parking restrictions may be put into place. Any obstructions or dangerous parking should be reported to the Police.
- b. AC reported concerns re **hooliganism in the Village**. Dealt with above at 9e
- c. SALC Suffolk Community Awards – noted that insufficient time has been given for a response to this and to that effect no nominations could be prepared.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.20pm

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