

**MINUTES of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 12 December 2019 at
Stanton Community Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

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

Also Present: DCllr J Thorndyke, CCllr J Spicer

Cllr Gordon advised that he would be recording the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence accepted: All present

2. The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 November 2019 were approved

3. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present

4. Report from:

D Cllr J Thorndyke reported

- The revised planning application for the **Tripp Batt Site** has now been received with changes to the parking area and a rejig of the proposed dwellings.
- Any future development in the Village may have to consider an **Environmental Impact Assessment**, not just on this area but further afield. Currently Great Barton have an issue with Air Quality and any development here could also affect them as the traffic generated from this area will pass through Great Barton.
- The **Rural panel** has now finished its consultation and the recommendations will go to Cabinet in the New Year

S C Cllr J Spicer reported

- **Speed limit reduction:** this is ongoing but it looks as if the report should be submitted early in the New Year. The cost of changing the signage has not yet been established.
- GPs – **Dr Redman and partners.** Meeting arranged for December 17th
- **Dropped kerb Old Bury Road** – has now been completed. It is unfortunate that it has taken so much time.
- **Old Primary school site** – has had a meeting on site to discuss the way forward with this development. The first phase will be to demolish the 'newer' part of the school to save costs of maintenance and security. It is still hoped that the Village will get the playing field area as a 'Village Green'.

5. Clerk's Report: There were no queries with the report enclosed with agenda. At the end of the meeting on 28 November, Cllr Willcox tendered her resignation due to moving out of the area and therefore no longer being eligible to act as a Parish Councillor. This vacancy will be advertised locally on the notice board, through Social Media and the Steamer.

6. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Brown declared an interest in the Accounts

7. Planning Applications:

a. New Applications received

The correspondence from Adam Tuck was noted in respect of the following amended application –

DC/19/1714/FUL | Planning Application - (i) 6no. dwellings with off-street parking (ii) 1no. A1 (shop) with service yard, car park and associated works (following demolition of existing buildings) | Marlow's Home and Garden Hepworth Road Stanton Suffolk IP31 2BT

RESPONSE The Council are pleased to see that the developer has listened to feedback from residents and has made a number of amendments to the original plans.

That said, there was some confusion as to whether the residents of Foundry House have agreed to the amended access plans and it was suggested that barrier fencing at the edge of the parking bays may protect the access route further.

Whilst broadly receptive to the amendments and supportive of the provision of a retail outlet, Council still consider the plot to be overdeveloped for the plot size and ask that thought is given to reducing the number of houses by one to allow more outdoor space and also to reconsider providing a property which could be suitable for retirement living or for residents wishing to downsize to a good quality smaller home.

Plot 5 may be more suited to a single storey property to address some of the concerns from Lilac Cottage.

It is important that a site management plan is robust enough to address concerns in respect of demolition and construction to reduce inconvenience and disruption to adjoining properties

b. Previous applications decided

Reference	Address	Stanton PC response	West Suffolk DC decision	Decision date
DC-19-2175-TCA	Manor Farmhouse Old Bury Road	Support	No objections	03/12/19

8. Accounts

- The payments as below were approved and authorised for payment.
- The 2020-21 Budget and application for Precept was approved and signed
- Cllr Smithson reported that the Fireworks event had taken £4189 in ticket sales. This had been down on last year when the Bury St Edmunds display was cancelled so a lot more tickets were sold.

Total costs of Fireworks, including sundries and VAT payable on ticket sales was £3830.16. This has resulted in a profit of £358.84. The aim was to ensure that the event paid for itself which had been achieved.

Total held in bank account as at 30/11/19- £69083.

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR	EXP. POWER
Now TV	26.00		26.00	Phone and Broadband	LGA 1972, s111
Viking Office depot	51.83	8.64	43.19	Printer Inks	LGA 1972, s111
Anglian Water	5.00		5.00	Monthly water charges - Pumping Station	LGA 1972, s111
Ultimate One	96.00	16.00	80.00	Additional u pins - car park extension	RTRA 1984 ss 57 and 63
Mr K Brown	30.00	5.00	25.00	Safety boots - street cleaner	LGA 1972 S111
Mr B Brown	99.77	16.62	83.15	Christmas Event refreshments	LGA 1972 S144
Mrs J Hart	28.94	4.82	24.12	Replacement ansaphone	LGA 1972, s111
Stanton Preschool	500.00		500.00	S137 Grant	S137 LGA 1972
Royal British Legion	50.00		50.00	S137 Donation	S137 LGA 1972
East Anglian Air Amb	50.00		50.00	S137 Donation	S137 LGA 1972
Citizens Advice Bureau	100.00		100.00	S137 Donation	S137 LGA 1972
Staff Salaries	1134.95		1134.95	Litter Picker Street cleaner and Clerk	LGA 1972 S112
HMRC	374.80		374.80	PAYE Q3	LGA 1972 S112
RECEIPTS					
None					

9. Statutory Business/Governance – None

10. Matters for discussion:

- The purchase of a 240-litre wheelie bin locked to a frame at a cost of £295.99 + VAT was approved for the lay by at Hepworth Road in an attempt to reduce dog mess in the area.

Action – Clerk to arrange purchase and installation

- b. A report on a Housing needs survey cost was submitted by the Clerk. This survey would be a useful tool to inform any future plans for housing development in the Village. Bardwell has recently undertaken a similar exercise. However, the cost could be in the region of £7225 but there may be some financial help available from West Suffolk Council.

Action – Clerk to enquire about any funding available and report back to January meeting.

- c. A retrospective application for a Memorial in the Parish Council Cemetery submitted by Hanchetts Memorial Masons was approved. This has already been erected due to an error by the Diocese and the Memorial Mason. The memorial is in accordance with the Cemetery Rules. There were no objections.

Action – Clerk to deal with paperwork and advise family

11. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. **The Grundle Structure Maintenance Agreement** received from Suffolk County Council was presented to Council. After discussion it was proposed that the Clerk reports back to the County Council as follows –

In its present form, Council resolved that they were not yet in a position to accept the transfer of maintenance responsibility.

The response submitted to Steven Halls in October 2017 as below is still valid in relation to the concerns of Councillors –

- *Councillors discussed that a similar project some years ago had not stopped the problem and were concerned that the maintenance would be expensive to undertake*
- *The Parish Council does not have a work force to move debris from deep in the Grundle to the two brown bins at the bottom of the Grundle. It would therefore be down to Councillors and or volunteers to maintain this.*
- *As a site of Special Scientific interest, the restrictions on work within the Grundle are significant and need to be carefully considered before any work is carried out as being in breach of the SSSI could result in an unlimited fine for an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act if you carry out or permit someone else to carry out a controlled activity on an SSSI without Natural England's permission.*
- *The Council may also have to pay to repair any damage to the site.*
- *Councillors voted against the proposal on the grounds of the fact that the maintenance could be extremely costly, was an unknown quantity and difficult to estimate and budget for and did not have a workforce to carry out the necessary maintenance.*

More recently, heavy rain has tested the woody dam structure for the first time and on 29 November 2019, after a heavy downpour saw the water levels rise to the top of the dam, photographs were sent to Steven Halls who indicated that he would visit the area to check the integrity of the structure. Residents were advised not to interfere with the debris at that time. There is no indication as to whether the area has been visited.

The waters have since receded but this has left a very large amount of debris behind the woody structure that cannot be moved with a rake/fork. In fact, it has been suggested that a mini digger will be required and as the debris has been washed down from an SSSI site, will have to be moved to an alternative area within the Grundle yet to be identified.

Should this happen on a regular basis then the cost to the Parish Council of removing the debris and any subsequent maintenance to the structure could be significantly above its budget.

This morning (13 December 2019), after heavy rain overnight, the area has been inspected by Cllr Hart and as a result of the previous debris still being in situ, the Grundle has again 'backed up' with water and is not clearing.

As there are many unanswered questions, the Parish Council resolved that a working party be set up to meet with County Council engineers to examine the structure, discuss the concerns and agree on the way forward and has requested a site meeting. DCllr Thorndyke agreed to be part of the working party due to his extensive knowledge of the project over a number of years.

CCLr Spicer commented that the principle of ownership passing to the Parish Council had been agreed in 2014.

In response Councillors said that the agreement had been in respect of the metal grids and not the Woody Dam Structure which had been installed after the grids.

Action – Clerk to contact SCC and request a site meeting as soon as possible

- b. Play Area Inspection Reports – November 2019 – Noted – no remedial works required.

12. Other Correspondence

- a. An Acknowledgement and thank you letter from family of the late John Mann MBE for a donation of £150 to the Scout Association was noted

- b. DJ re **Field Court Parking problems**. The Clerk has responded to a complaint of inconsiderate parking by residents around Field Court to advise that this has been a problem for some time now. Originally Field Court was for older residents who in the main did not have cars so the problem started when the flats were redeveloped.
The Parish Council has no powers or funding to undertake white lining on private property. The management company who looks after the flats may be able to help with marking out the area and suggested that this issue be reported to them.
The rest of the estate area of Windmill Green is managed by Havebury Housing who should be contacted in respect of parking issues. That said, there are no designated parking areas outside residents' houses and although it may be inconvenient or not to their liking, anyone has as much right as residents do to park on the road.

- b. **Community Transport Update** A letter has been received from Gordon Lawrence, the Co-Ordinator, to report that –
The Community Transport continues to be successful in providing much needed door to door transport for residents. With regards to the Financial situation, fares continue to cover the running costs and with the support from Parish Councils (Currently Redgrave, Botesdale, Rickinghall, Wattisfield and Stanton, bus renewal in approximately two years' time at a cost of approximately £40,000 is achievable.
Sadly, some Parish Councils do not consider this service worthy of support.
Perhaps the only bad news is that research suggests renewal costs have increased from £30000/35000 to £40000 plus.
In summary, the coordinator is confident that with the current level of financial support and the considerable level of voluntary contributions, the future of the service is secure.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.15pm

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