

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th February at the Village Hall, The Street, Stonham Aspal

Present: Cllr Jean Timms, Cllr Malcolm Leith (Acting Chair) Cllr Charles Tydeman Cllr Josephine Mitson

Attendance: Alison Green (Parish Clerk), Cllr Morley, Phil Cobbold (Planning agent for Stonham Barns), 4 members of the public,

19.16 Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Wright (Vice-Chair), Cllr Rob Stevenson, Cllr Peter Emberson (Chair) all absences were approved by the members

19.17 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

There were no interests declared by any of the Members.

19.18 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 15th January 2019

It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 2019 were a true and accurate record and each page of the minutes were signed by the Acting Chair

19.19 Consideration of Reports by the District Councillor & County Councillor

Cllr Morley presented her report to the meeting. Headlines from the report included

- Draft budgets to be considered - the proposal includes an increase District Council Precept by 2% a year which equates to increase 6p a week £3.26 a year.
- New Parking Plan for Mid Suffolk being drawn up. The plan does not include increases in parking charges. Under the plan responsibility for parking enforcement will pass to Mid Suffolk. There will be 2 PCSOs for whole of Mid Suffolk. Plan will be published for public consultation soon.
- New online portal for customers,
- Public Developers' Contribution Database Nominated for National award
- Councils Pay £549k to infrastructure projects in 2018
- Views sought on Communities Strategy

The acting chair delivered the county councillors report. Headlines included

- Green light to develop more specialist education placements in Suffolk
- Suffolk's road warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology
- 10,000 Suffolk homes say 'no' to cold callers on their doorsteps
- Places available for "live changing" Great East Swim Programme

The reports are available on the Stonham Aspal Parish Council Website

19.20 Contributions by Members of the Public

Members of the public sought update on the enforcement at Stonham Barns and commented on planning application DC/9/00684 and 00685. There were concerns that any

residential lodges would not be used for the purpose stated in the application as had happened with previous applications.

Update on the grit bins – although no update was due until the next full Parish Council meeting the Clerk advised the members of the public that Mid Suffolk District Council would not approve grit bins as the suggested locations are on a priority 2 gritting route which is gritted during hazardous weather. The Clerk is seeking further clarification on when gritting would be undertaken.

There were concerns raised about parking and traffic on the street Cllr Morley said that people were welcome to contact her with any concerns. Cllr Emberson can also be contacted as the member leading on road safety on the street.

Members of the public think that the dog posters are helping

Update on blocked gullies in village – Clerk to follow up with Suffolk County Council Highways

19.21

Planning

19.21.1 **Withdrawal of Planning Applications**

[DC/18/04943 Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal IP14 6AT](#) Full planning application – change of use of former livery to touring caravan site to include the erection of warden’s lodge and reception site/ office, three toilet/shower blocks and 31 lodges

The Council Members noted the withdrawal of this application. Phil Cobbold commented that the application would be discussed at the next liaison meeting.

Consideration of Planning Applications

19.21.2 [DC/19/00690 - Land Adj High Bank , Mill Green, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6DA](#) Full Planning Application - Erection of 1no. dwelling and cart lodge.

The members agreed that they had nothing further to add to comments made on the outline planning permission namely that the property would fall outside of the village boundary and that the access to the property would increase traffic on a dangerous bend

19.21.3 [DC/19/00684 Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AT](#) Full Planning Application - Use of land for the stationing of lodge for occupation by fishing warden/bailiff.

[DC/19/00685 - Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AT](#) Full Planning Application - Use of land for stationing of lodge for security guard.

The members of the council noted that the facility for residential accommodation for security staff, site manager and office space for the fishing lakes have been subject of previous applications and therefore any additional facilities should not be required. See applications 0655/02. 052/92 and 6717/99, 0456/99, 0977/03 and 0410/89.

Stonham Aspal Parish Council therefore object on the basis that previous planning approval should be rescinded as part of the application if there is a need to move the existing lodge for occupation by fishing warden / baliff & Security Guard

19.21.4 **Decision Notices**

DC/18/04982 - Permission Refused - Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, IP14 6AT. Variation of Condition 19 (Specific restriction upon use: break period for lodges/statics) of planning permission 3150/15 in order to enable 28 static caravans/lodges to be occupied for short term rental all year round.

DC/18/04191 – Outline Planning permission Granted- Land to the rear of The Leas, Quoits

Meadow, Stonham Aspal. Erection of up to 5 No Dwellings

DC/18/05463 – Discharge of Conditions - Longlands Hall, East End Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AR

DC/18/04136 – Discharge Conditions – Angel Hill Farm Norwich Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5DN

Members noted the above planning decisions and Cllr Morley provided an update on the planning committee meeting for application DC/18/04191

19.21.5 Update on any other urgent planning issues

Cllr Morley updated the meeting on planning enforcement activity at Stonham Barns. The enforcement officer visited the site on the 2nd January and found people in residence at the site in breach of planning conditions. The owner of Stonham Barns was served with an enforcement notice. The planning officer returned on 30th January and some caravans and lodges were still occupied (some by vulnerable people). MSDC legal team are currently preparing action and are in discussion with Cllr Morley, Trading Standards, Adult Social Care and CAB.

MSDC have advised vulnerable residents not to leave as they would be making themselves voluntarily homeless

Cllr Morley also confirmed that business rates were being paid by the owner of Stonham Barns and the separate businesses on site. Also, that nine people are paying council tax on the basis of Stonham Barns lodge being their residential address (which is contrary to planning consent). These residents have been asked to provide proof of a separate main residential address. This confirmation is supposed to be done at time of purchase. There are concerns that is not being asked for and this is being followed up

There have been seven complaints to Trading Standards regarding the mis-selling of lodges, and large increases in ground rent. The latter is not considered to be a Trading Standard matter. Trading Standards are looking to take a statement from anyone with regard to the mis-selling

There have been reports of threats and intimidation to residents and police have been notified. Residents have been advised to contact the Police.

MSDC have also been in conversation with environmental health re overflowing sewage.

Concerns were raised in the meeting at the costs being incurred by MSDC in dealing with the issues raised at Stonham Barns

The Stonham Barns Liaison meeting in March will be an opportunity to discuss planning issues and also to discuss how enforcement will be handled in January 2020.

A question was raised as to why Niall Dyer is no longer attending the Liaison meetings. The Clerk will find out why and if he still wishes to.

Phil Cobbold confirmed that details of landscaping, fire hydrants, flood lighting will be with MSDC by 31st March. Water for fire engines will be taken from the fishing lakes as water pressure on site is not good enough.

19.22**Finance****19.22.1 Authorisation of Payments**

It was confirmed that the necessary paperwork had been found for the payment to Julian Dean Property Renovation to be signed off between meetings and that the cheque had been signed.

Members approved the following payments and signed the authorisation and cheque book
Clerks Salary and expenses £497.47
SALC – Clerks Training course £123.60

19.22.2 Review and approval of the Councils Bank Reconciliation to 30th November 2018

CLRs Emberson and Wright had checked the reconciliation to 30th November outside of the meeting due to the number of transactions to be reviewed.

19.22.3 Approval of the Councils Bank Reconciliation to 9th January 2019

Bank account reconciliation from 1st December to 9th January was reviewed and approved by members. The reconciliation and statements were signed.

19.22.4 Appointment of an internal auditor for 2018/19 accounts

The members agreed subject to references (to be obtained by Cllr Timms) to appoint Heelis and Lodge as 2018/9 auditors.

19.23**Governance**

Election - the clerk brought to the attention of the members the election due to take place in May with the notice due / opening date for nominations being 12th March.

19.24**Highways**

Consideration of Any Current Highways Issues & Previous Highways Issues Update

19.24.1 It was agreed that the Clerk would chase Suffolk County Council Highways for an update on the report made in December re blocked gullies**19.24.2** It was noted that many signs around the village needed cleaning. It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm if this was still the responsibility of Suffolk County Council Highways.**19.25****Consultations**

The members had no comments to make on the Communities Strategy Consultation or Mid Suffolk draft Housing Supply Position Statement

19.26**Dates of the next meetings**

19th 7:30p March 2019

16th 7pm April 2019 followed by APM at 7:30pm

14th May 2019 APCM

19.27

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:15pm

Alison Green, Clerk to Stonham Aspal Parish Council, sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk