

# Stonham Aspal Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at Stonham Aspal Village Hall, The Street, Stonham Aspal

Present: Cllr Peter Emberson (Chair), Cllr Ian Wright (Vice Chair), Cllr Jean Timms, Cllr Rae Betts (arrived 7:35), Cllr Josephine Mitson, Cllr Rob Stevenson, Cllr Charles Tydeman

Attendance: Alison Green (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Suzie Morley, County Cllr Matthew Hicks and 15 members of the public

### 19.89 Apologies and Approval of Absences

There were no absences.

### 19.90 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members

There were no declarations of interest.

### 19.91 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The members agreed that the minutes of the meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were an accurate record of the meetings and the Chair signed each page of the minutes.

### 19.92 Consideration of Reports by District Councillor and County Councillor

Cllr Hicks presented his report to the meeting covering the following

- Applications open for Museums trainee programme
- Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board has committed to tackling poor mental health in Suffolk
- Foster carers for Suffolk children, Cllr Hicks asked that information that is being sent out be passed on to local magazines.

a full copy of the report is available on the Stonham Aspal Parish Council Website <http://stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net/meetings/councillors-reports/>

Cllr Hicks also referred to the Northern Route Consultation advising the meeting that there was no funding beyond the consultation and the intention was to move fast with the decision making to avoid stress. And all councils are working together on the project.

Cllr Morley presented her report to the meeting covering the following

- Councils approve joint local plan for consultation
- New bin collection days
- Womens tour seek spectator feedback
- New PCSO's
- Locality award open for 2019 applications
- Council meetings being live streamed on YouTube

A full copy of the report is available at <http://stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net/meetings/councillors-reports/>

### 19.93 Contributions by Members of the Public

Contributions made by members of the public included concerns over: development, road safety,

destruction of green belt, changes to the village over time and preserving village life, parking on the roads, planning applications at Stonham Barns, the Joint Local Plan and village status within it, letter regarding the northern route from Dr Dan Poulter MP,

Some members of the public voiced their support for the Northern road stating it would reduce traffic in Stonham Aspal.

## **19.94 Planning**

### **Consideration of Planning Applications and Decision Notices**

#### **19.94.1 [DC/19/02869 | Application under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act. Planning Permission 3150/15 for the variation of Condition 2 to allow for changes to approved layout plan for the static lodges. | Stonham Barns Pettaugh Road Stonham Aspal](#)**

The members of the Parish Council unanimously objected to this application for the following reasons

They have concerns that the placing of the caravans, contrary to the plan, means that they are less than 5 meters apart. If this is the case, they are outside of legal requirements not compliant with fire regulations. The Parish Council request that this is checked.

The members have previously voiced concerns about access to water in the event of a fire and the close proximity of the caravans increases this concern in the event of a fire spreading.

The council members also agreed the closer group of the caravans has a bigger visual impact than the more spaced out caravans on the plan.

#### **19.94.2 [DC/19/02875 | Planning Application – Change of use of former livery to touring caravan site including stationing of warden’s lodge and reception/site office and 3no. toilet/shower blocks | Stonham Barns Pettaugh Road Stonham Aspal](#)**

Members of the Parish Council unanimously objected to this application for the following reasons

The site already has known issues with water electricity and sewage and the Parish Council are concerned that the site does not have the necessary access to amenities to support the shower block toilets and additional caravans on site.

They also question the need for a warden’s lodge / reception/ site office when there are already multiple offices and security lodges on site. The lodge described in the plan has two bedrooms and yet the application is not for a residential lodge and therefore seems incorrect for the purpose of a warden / reception / site office

#### **19.94.3 [DC/19/02954 | Full Planning Application – Erection of Art Gallery and Studio | Stonham Barns Pettaugh Road Stonham Aspal](#)**

The members of the Parish Council unanimously objected to this application for the following reasons

The application appears to have been made under the wrong classification, the councils understanding is that a gallery would fall under D1. D2 planning permission would give permission for the site to be used for other functions other than an art gallery.

The detail in the application is also minimal in terms of how the space would be converted or used.

The proposed gallery and studio would have a detrimental impact on a neighbouring residential property.

The original application (1189/05) contained a restriction on public access to this area of the site in particular because of the close proximity to Bramley Hedge.

A recent EADT article suggested the plan was to build a full metal working studio with a furnace which would raise safety concerns inside a green house and next to a 16c listed thatched cottage.

#### **19.94.4 Decision Notices**

There were no decision notices

#### **19.94.5 Stonham Barns Liaison Group Update**

There was a meeting of the Stonham Barns Liaison Group on 17<sup>th</sup> June at the Village Hall. There were no representatives from Stonham Barns present.

A joint statement between Mid Suffolk District Council and the Parishes was due for release but has been delayed by the resignation of the Chair of Pettaugh Parish Council

There is a proposal to reduce the speed limit between Stonham Aspal and Pettaugh to 50mph but this will take some time to go through the due process.

## **19.95 Consultations**

### **19.95.1 Joint Local Plan**

The Joint Local Plan will be going to public consultation on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The full plan will be online but a hard copy will be sent to each parish. It is the plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk for the next 25 years and includes plans for all of the villages in the district.

The plan identifies villages whose status could be changed to a Core Village. This is partly decided on a scoring system based on the facilities available in the village. In the draft JLP 8 settlements in Suffolk had high points, 2 of which have been elevated to Core Village Status. Stonham Aspal is one despite being significantly smaller than other villages and scoring lower points than others.

The members of the Parish Council strongly believe that the scoring of facilities for Stonham Aspal is incorrect. They believe facilities that do not exist, such as allotments, have been scored, and also facilities outside of the village boundary such as shops at the Stonham Barns Complex. For villagers to access these facilities without the use of a car they would need to walk down a road with 60mph speed limit and no path. Therefore, for most residents this would be a journey in a car to visit facilities outside of the village.

The Parish Council have unanimously decided to seek clarification on the basis of the decision to elevate Stonham Aspal to a core Village including the scoring process. The Members object to the elevation of Stonham Aspal to a Core Village as they believe the decision has been made on incorrect information. The Clerk will contact the District council for more details on the scoring hierarchy for settlements.

The consultation will be linked to the Stonham Aspal Parish Council web page with details on how to comment. Access to the hard copy of the Joint Local Plan will be via the Clerk.

### **19.95.2 Ipswich Northern Route**

Representatives from the Parish Council had been invited to attend a meeting opposing the Northern Route by Dr Dan Poulter MP, Cllr Emberson and Cllr Wright attended. The local MP had also written to all constituents outlining his perspective.

The Members of the Parish Council discussed the issues surrounding the Northern Route. Members of the public were also allowed to comment during the discussion

Amongst arguments against the route

- closures of the Orwell bridge are so infrequent it does not justify the expenditure on the road,
- it will not take traffic away from Ipswich
- will open up a requirement for 15000 additional houses on top of those already required
- It would damage the Suffolk countryside people want to keep Suffolk Rural
- That it would not reduce traffic in the long term

For the Route

- It would reduce traffic in Stonham Aspal and along A140
- A better road to take traffic out of the small villages was needed
- The small roads cannot cope with large lorries or volumes of traffic

The Parish Council urged people to comment as individuals on the consultation but did not take a formal position as a Parish Council. Links to public events, the consultation documents and consultation portal are available on the Parish Council Website.

## **19.96 Finance**

### **19.96.1 Authorisation of Payments**

Members approved the following payments and signed the authorisation sheet and cheque book  
Clerks salary £186.95

Clerks expenses £18.00

Renewal of ICO registration £40.00

Gladson UK Ltd - Dog waste bins, fixings and sticker £297.82 (£21.68 higher than original quote).

Roger Stannard – Recreation Ground Maintenance / Strimming £35.00 it was also agreed that the Parish Council would use Rogers services on an ongoing basis for maintenance at the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council also approved the cost of Cllr Betts councillor training at £120 + VAT

### **19.96.2 Information Commissioners Office registration Renewal**

The members noted the renewal.

### **19.96.3 Review of Income and Expenditure Vs budget**

The members of the parish council had reviewed the budget documents prior to the meeting and had no questions. It was requested that future reports include more specific titles, a projection for the year and difference between the projection and the budget

### **19.96.4 Review and approval of the Councils Bank Reconciliation from 31<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> June.**

Due to missing statements the Community account was reconciled to 7<sup>th</sup> June and Business premium to 27<sup>th</sup> June. Councillors, reviewed the documents and confirmed the reconciliation to be correct.

Cllr Mitson has requested copies of missing statements.

### **19.96.5 Consideration of online banking options**

The members agreed to go ahead with setting up online banking with a pin sentry or online pin. Cllr Mitson will take forward.

A business risk assessment for online banking will be undertaken.

### **19.96.6 Review of internal audit recommendations**

The following recommendations were made in the 2018/19 audit

1. review so and financial regs annually – this had been an oversight when new clerk took over. Standing orders and financial regulations were reviewed in APM
2. add GDPR to risk assessment – the Clerk will ensure this is done
3. To review fidelity cover in line with the recommended guidelines of year end balances +50% - The Clerk is awaiting quotes from the insurance provider
4. copy of P60 to be maintained in Audit file as part of year end process – The Clerk will

ensure this is done

5. When applicable the Council's response to the internal audit recommendations should be contained in the minutes of the meeting – councils review of internal audit recommendations will be minuted going forward.

**19.97 Recreation Ground update**

Update by recreation ground representative on repairs, monthly report and other issues – the report is available online. Some broken equipment had been replaced by the original supplier.

Update on fence – Cllr Tydeman is progressing

Safeguarding policy – The Clerk is progressing

Training for Recreation – The cost of the SALC training is £100 not the expected £25. The members agreed to the higher cost.

**19.98 Response to Village Hall email regarding community use**

The following response was agreed regarding community use of the Village Hall

The members of Stonham Aspal Parish Council agree that the village hall is used by many parishioners for parties, social and community events and parking is integral to these. The Parish Council use the village hall for meetings and as such most councillors, visiting speakers and members of the public park at the village hall.

The carpark is also in daily use by the school and church users and needs to be maintained so that it can provide the necessary safe parking to the community and users of the hall itself.

The resurfacing, drainage and fencing project will ensure that the carpark remains usable and safe. Uneven surfaces are of concern for users within the community who are less mobile.

**19.99 Tree Warden update**

The clerk is awaiting confirmation as to whether or not additional insurance is required.

**19.100 Highways**

**19.100.01 SIDS/TVAS**

Two sites have been identified for the TVAS outside of the Rectory on the North side of the Street, and on Scotts Hill outside of the Old Rectory on either side of the road.

It was also suggested the site used for the narrowing road sign on The Street could also be used.

Cllr Emberson will progress the signs on the basis of these sites but additional sites will be identified for Suffolk County Council consideration. Additional funding will be sought when exact costs are confirmed.

**19.100.02 Update on current issues**

Cost to place white lines alongside the pavement to clearly identify the edge of the road are being reviewed by Suffolk County Council Highways.

A 50mph limit has been proposed between Stonham Aspal and Pettaugh this will be going through due process and may take some time to implement.

Hedging infringing on the pathways in several areas. The clerk will approach the owners of the hedges.

**19.101 Dog Fouling and Waste Provision**

**It was agreed there had been a general improvement in incidents of dog fouling.**

The positions for the new dog waste bins were agreed as by the football ground and in Mill Green near the Mickfield turning.

**19.102 Monthly updates to the village magazine**

The Clerk had sent a list of meeting dates which should appear in the next addition.

It was agreed that the Clerk would send a summary of key points from the minutes by the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month deadline each month.

**19.103 Dates of the next meetings**

- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019 7:30pm
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 7:30pm (Urgent Matters Only)
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 7:30pm

**19.104** The Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00pm

Alison Green, Clerk to Stonham Aspal Parish Council,

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26<sup>th</sup> July 2019