

# Stonham Aspal Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at Stonham Aspal Village Hall, The Street, Stonham Aspal

Present: Cllr Peter Emberson (Chair), Cllr Ian Wright (Vice Chair), Cllr Josephine Mitson, Cllr Rae Betts

Attendance: Alison Green (Parish Clerk), District Cllr Suzie Morley, 5 members of the public.

### 19.128 Apologies and Approval of Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Charles Tydeman, Cllr Jean Timms and Cllr Rob Stevenson and approved by the meeting.

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

Cllr Ian Wright declared a pecuniary interest in item 6.i planning application DC/19/04990, Cllr Josephine Mitson declared a non-pecuniary interest which does not impact on involvement in decision making.

### 19.130 Approval of the minutes of the previous meetings on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

The members agreed that the minutes of the meetings on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were an accurate record of the meetings and the Chair signed each page of the minutes.

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

Cllr Morley presented her report to the meeting. A full copy is on the Parish Council Website.

Cllr Hicks monthly report can also be found on the website.

<http://stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net/meetings/councillors-reports/>

### 19.132 Contributions by Members of the Public

Members of the public expressed interest in the Joint Local Plan, speed signs, white lining and siting of the village sign.

### 19.133 Planning

#### Consideration of Planning Applications and Decision Notices

- 19.133.1 [DC/19/04876 | Planning Application - Continued use of land and buildings as extension to Owl Sanctuary \(formerly used as petting zoo\) including retention of aviaries/enclosures | Stonham Barns Pettaugh Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AT](#)

The members unanimously objected to this planning application. This is on the basis of the noise from the birds and height of the structure and therefore the screening necessary to obscure it. The impact this would have on the neighbouring property, Bramley Hedge (not School Farm

House as stated in the application), which is a listed building, would be significant. Residential amenity would be impacted and as screening grows, they would suffer from loss of light. The proximity of the aviary would also mean that they would be impacted by the noise from the birds held there.

The structure is clearly visible from the road and the property.

The understanding of the Parish Council is that the residents of Bramley Hedge do not share the same enthusiasm as expressed in the planning application. The residents of Bramley Hedge were also not included in the consultation process and the Parish Council have contacted the planning department for an explanation as to why not.

**19.133.2** [DC/19/04990 | Application under Section 73 for removal or variation of a condition relating to DC/18/04191 dated 07/02/2019 \(Erection of up to 5 no. dwellings and construction of new access, following demolition of 1 no. existing dwelling\) Condition 1 \(Approved Plans and Documents\) - To enable amended means of access to the site following partial demolition of existing dwelling. | Land To The Rear Of The Leas Quoits Meadow Stonham Aspal Suffolk](#)

The members unanimously objected to this application on the basis that -

1. It is not a minor amendment to the plan and therefore not a valid use of section 73
2. The proposed access would have a detrimental effect on the residential amenity of no 4 and no 5 Quoits meadow. The noise from close traffic and reduction in light from the proposed fencing (which would do little to mitigate the noise) would be significant
3. The width of the access would make it difficult for large vehicles to use particularly with the bend part way down.
4. They also have concerns for pedestrian access with no footpaths on a narrow access road.
5. The impact on No 4 and 5 would be similar to that on 3 and 4 on the original application where the access was between these two properties and the application was rejected

**19.133.3** [DC/19/05249 | Application Under Section 73\(a\) of The Town and Country Planning Act following grant of planning permission 3150/15 previously varied by DC/19/02869 without Compliance with Conditions 13 \(3150/15 Carboot Sales Use\) and Condition 10 \(DC/19/02869\) - To remove limited restriction for Carboot Sales Use \(currently 8 months\) to all year round. | Stonham Barns Pettaugh Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AT](#)

The members unanimously objected to this application on the basis that

The impact on the highways safety and residential amenity has not changed since the original decision to restrict the car boot sales to 8 months of the year. The lack of hard standing means that stalls or parking at the car boot sale are on grass. This inevitably leads to mud and detritus being taken out onto the carriage way at the wetter times of year which has added risk during colder months.

There was some confusion over which clauses were being referred to in the application so for the avoidance of doubt the Parish Council believe

Condition 13 of planning permission 3150/15 Condition 10 of planning permission DC/19/02869 to be the relevant conditions

And NOT condition 13 of permission of application DC/19/02869 which is not relevant to car boot sales.

#### **19.133.4 Decision Notices**

The members were advised of the following decision notices

DC/19/03930 Grove Farm, Debenham Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket, IP14 6BX. Full Planning application – subdivision of dwelling to form 2no separate dwellings – GRANTED

DC/19/04462 Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket IP14 6AT. Planning application - Change of use of premises from dwelling (class C3) to boutique hotel (Class C1) - GRANTED

DC/19/04261 Stonham Barns, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket IP14 6AT. Planning application - Use of land for stationing of lodge for fishing warden - GRANTED

#### **19.133.5 Stonham Barns Liaison Group Update –**

##### **Cllr Peter Emberson attended the meeting and gave the following update**

Noise from entertainment – There are concerns that Stonham Barns are not complying with noise regulations at events. However, they believe they are compliant. It was requested that professional monitoring is put in place and for environmental health officer be on call. This action is being investigated. A formalised process would confirm (non)compliance and allow for action if the noise levels are shown to be non-compliant.

There were concerns over damage to a tree on A1120 which had been flailed badly. SCC Highways are looking into who authorised the work and will take appropriate action

Event signage- SCC Highways have confirmed that event signage, such as the ones at The Tap junction of A140 and A1120, could distract drivers and obscure road signs and should therefore be removed from all locations. .

There was concern that some parish residents had been banned from the site. Stonham Barns confirmed that this is not the case.

CCTV – The ICO have closed the case raised by SAPC regarding CCTV on the basis that they are satisfied that required signage is in place. Cllr Emberson expressed concern that the signs are actually not visible to the public and that the cameras are audio enabled which is not declared. The community police officer confirmed they are not concerned unless images are used unlawfully.

Notices for people living at Stonham Barns outside of permitted times will be served directly on these residents. Planning were informed of people being resident on the site of the new fishing lodge. They confirmed that this would be in breach of conditions if occupied full time..

Planning were also contacted about car boot sales taking place outside of restrictions. This cannot be enforced whilst there is an application to vary the restrictions in progress.

#### **19.134 Consultations**

The local Government Boundary Commission for England – Final Recommendations for Mid Suffolk was brought to the members attention.

**19.135 Neighbourhood watch**

The meeting questioned whether Neighbourhood watch schemes are still supported by the police. Or if modern social media replaces the need for schemes as they used to exist. Have initiatives like Police Direct replaced the schemes. Does Farm watch still exist?

The clerk will investigate further with Suffolk Police.

**19.136 Site for Village Sign**

Possible more prominent sites for the village sign include Quoits Meadow, Walnut Tree Meadow or nearer to the Village Hall. Cllr Emberson will investigate the options.

**19.137 Recreation Ground**

**19.137.1** Review recreation ground inspection report – It was agreed that the inspection report did not highlight any issues that needed to be addressed

**19.137.2** Update on fence – It was confirmed that the Parish Council will have to pay to replace the fence. It's condition is considered low risk and therefore repairs and funding will be review in the spring.

**19.137.3** It was unanimously agreed to add Cllr Betts to the Safeguarding policy as a Safeguarding Officer.

**19.137.4** Training for recreation ground rep, Cllr Betts is yet to be arranged.

**19.138 Tree warden update**

Edwin will start reviewing the parish trees in March.

**19.139 Highways**

**19.139.1 SIDS/TVAS** – delays on funding until January, contact has left but should be ready to go within 14 weeks.

**19.139.2 Edge of Carriageway lining** due to start in next 14 weeks from Pound to Walnut Tree Meadow on the school side

**19.139.3 Update on current issues –**

Drainage work on The Street has been completed

There is a continuous flow of water down Scotts Hill that needs to be reported to Highways

Water leak at the Pound that has been reported.

**19.140 Finance**

**19.140.1 Authorisation of payments**

Members approved the following payments and signed the authorisation sheet and cheque book

Clerks salary for November £ 160.32

Clerks expenses for November £18.00

Mid Suffolk District Council waste and dog bin emptying under charge £13.20

Mid Suffolk District Council grass cutting 2017 £572.40

Suffolk one CAS website hosting £60.00

Heelis and lodge internal audit £128.00

**19.140.2 Review and approval of the Councils Bank Reconciliation** from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 for Community Account and 27<sup>th</sup> August for Business Premium account. Councillors reviewed the documents and confirmed the reconciliation to be correct.

**19.140.3 Review of income and expenditure against budget**

The documents were reviewed by members and all differences considered and accepted.

**19.140.4 Online banking policy was unanimously agreed.**

**19.140.5 Budget 2020/1**

The draft budget was reviewed and agreed. The Council agreed to reduce the precept in line with the reduced expenditure. To be confirmed at January meeting.

**19.141 Dates for next meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> January 7:30pm

18<sup>th</sup> February 7:30pm Urgent Matters only.

**19.142** The Chairman closed the meeting at 22:20

Alison Green, Clerk to Stonham Aspal Parish Council,

[sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> December 2019