

Stonham Aspal Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th July 2022 at the Village Hall,

Present: Cllr Emberson, Cllr Wright (Vice Chair), Cllr Mitson, Cllr Mullings, Cllr Betts, Cllr Stevenson

Attendance: Wendy Brame (locum Parish Clerk) Cllr Suzie Morley, 4 members of the public

(Due to issues raised after the meeting, although the intention had been for the clerk to summarise key points, they have been left in the format provided by the locum clerk.)

- 22.69 Apologies and Approval of Absences**
No apologies received – Alison not in attendance.
- 22.70 Declarations of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests by Members**
Cllr Betts pecuniary interest in Fir Tree Lodge planning application and a non-pecuniary interest in the Jubilee Committee.
- 22.71 Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 21st June 2022**
The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2022 were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the meeting by the members who were present. The minutes were signed by the Chair. (Proposed Betts, seconded Wright)
- 22.72 Consideration of Reports by the District Councillor & County Councillor**
Report provided previously by District Councillor.
Apologies Cllr Hicks

Copies of their reports can be found on the Parish Council Website
Stonhamaspal.onesuffolk.net
- 22.73 Contributions by Members of the Public**
None
- Filling of Parish Council vacancy by co-option**
Both applicants in attendance.
Rae – no questions.
Rob – happy with what he has read, however asked questions of Nan – new to village and want to get involved? Reply that she has lived in Suffolk at Capel St Mary for 40 years, lived here for nearly 2 years. Rob said that he felt she was possibly looking for something that the Community Council do which might be a better fit. She stated that she wasn't looking for a social life but feels strongly that she should be part of the village in this way. Rob stated that this vacancy to replace Charles and brought longevity to the table and Reg would do this so the balance in the Council would be better.

Ian – asked both candidates what do you think is involved in being a Parish Councillor? Reg replied that he has been on Crowfield Parish Council and knows what they do and he can offer experience rather than time which most people do. Nan is aware of what happens, thinks being a fresh person can bring fresh eyes to any issues.

Jo – nothing more

Teresa – when I joined 18mths ago the part of the reason of joining was that she felt she was different to other Councillors in terms of housing and political were very different and she could bring a different life experience to the parish council. Was hopeful a new candidate would be younger to bring a younger demographic. Nan does not own her house either but thinks she can bring something to the Parish Council.

Suzie Morley spoke about diversity in any councils and the predominance is white males over a certain age, local democracy project set up to get children in schools involved with councils to try and get them earlier to join local government.

Peter – is a younger member!! Looked at both applications and from his view both candidates come across equally way in their own way, at this point we are 6 meetings away from elections , due in May 2023, we can consider candidates we don't have to. Can run as a 6 instead of a 7 and then when elections come may be able to get younger diversity based on MSDC project. Should we elect when they would have to stand again in 6 meetings time. Good attributes and both would do an equally good job.

Reg had nothing further to say.

Nan – nothing more to say

Reg – vote II (Rae and Rob)

Nan – vote

None – vote IIII (everyone else)

Peter - Thanks were given to both candidates and making the application but this does not preclude them or anyone else from applying next year, likely to be March so look out for this. Should speak to MSDC about getting the ball rolling with trying to recruit Parish Councillors.

CLlr Morley said the project will start in early September and they will hold an open event about what does a Councillor do?

Nan said that similar sessions should be held in the village to try to get people.

Rae said she had spoken to friends and they are all too busy to join the Parish Council.

Nan said that a pamphlet should be put out to introduce Councillors. Rae said that she has mentioned this to Alison before and would be happy to do this.

Teresa said maybe the Parish Council needs to be more proactive in promoting themselves. Facebook/social media. Would then attract younger people.

Peter asked whether meetings have to be at 7.30pm. Clerk said meetings are stated in the standing orders and should be listed at a time unless otherwise stated in the summons.

Peter will speak to Ian and Alison about ideas to take this forward and bring this back to a meeting for discussion.

Suzie said she can get her local democracy officer to come and talk to the Parish Council in September.

22.74

i. Consideration of Planning Applications

- [DC/22/03164 | Householder Application - Erection of a single storey front extension. | Corner Cottage Mill Green Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6DA](#)

Members in favour 3 members neutral 3. Casting vote neutral

- [DC/22/02920 | Application for Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing cement render on front elevation with lime render and replacement of 9No](#)

[windows and 2No doors. | Broughton Hall Stowmarket Road Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AD](#)

Teresa – trying to make it better.

Peter – has to be done with advice from Heritage Department

Ian – taking off cement and EML and so more in keeping but having double glazing.

Object

Favour IIIII

- [DC/22/03057 | Householder Application - Erection of garden room / office outbuilding | Fir Tree Lodge The Street Stonham Aspal Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 6AL](#)

Cllr Betts left the room at 8.12pm

Rob – couple of the objections are from the same people. Peter stopped him talking about this. No issue with application.

Ian – slight concern that it may creep into residential (separate dwelling) or commercial and neither is in the application. Peter stopped this and said that it is for planning enforcement. Ian said could stipulate conditions in our response.

MOP tried to speak but this was not allowed but then he spoke anyway.

Jo – concerns that the measurements don't measure up, the statement says 14m² but is actually 84m². Space is 81m². Photo shows a tree in the photo but application says no trees in the vicinity.

Teresa – similar application and decided that the size of the building was not in keeping with the land available and although different building this is similar and we have set a precedence on saying something is too large and could we say the same. Not sure what her view is.

Peter has printed off the latest settlement boundary and it shows that the building is outside the southern boundary but the detail on the map isn't clear so could be debateable. No issue with size or use. Would be concerned if outside the settlement boundary.

MOP stated that the reason planning is needed is because it is less than 2m from the boundary.

Object

Favour I

Neutral IIII

Comment about conditions of use in future. (All agreed this)

Cllr Betts returned to the room at 8.24pm

- Decision Notices – deferred to next meeting
- Stonham Barns update – Peter met with Kathy Nixon and Tom Barker in respect of a 3yr strategy in relation to Stonham Barns but no reply, Chased yesterday, Tom is off sick and Kathy is on holiday. MSDC have commissioned a landscaping plan and Peter wanted to know whether this would become a reality. MSDC have assured Peter they are committed to ensuring planning conditions are adhered to in every respect. Static caravans cannot be used for living or primary residence and will put in additional measures but not clear what these measures are.
- Other Planning matters - None

Peter stated that a response will be sent to Emily but not clear yet who will respond. Personally was stunned by the criticism and thinks this was unjustified. Everyone has the final accounts, column D should say income and not profit. Looking at the numbers the Jubilee Committee are outstanding £299.52 to cover costs after income received. Concerned that the Committee expected the Parish Council to pay £2000. Teresa went back over minutes, mentioned in November and again in April and in May and none of those points did the Parish Council say they would spend £2000 on this but had set aside £2000 just in case. Miscommunication and perception was wrong. Peter asked why did the Jubilee Committee believe they had £2000 to spend, Rae confirmed that she told them this as she did not understand it wasn't to be committed but was available, she had missed some meetings so may have misunderstood. Thought that everything was offered at cost price because they thought the Parish Council were covering things otherwise would have charged more. Peter is disappointed that he would have expected the Jubilee Committee to come to us early on to have some dialogue and then this would not have happened, they did not engage with us. Ian said that Rae was our go between and there were communication issues. Also disappointed with the email. Did budget up to £2000 but did not agree to spend this. Already paid £1256.88 so £299.52 needed and the question is whether the Parish Council should pay this. Peter asked how we will audit the Jubilee Committee expenses. Peter will speak to Emily and then a letter will be sent and hopefully the Committee will be ok with this. Peter asked why the Parish Community Council get involved, Emily asked but couldn't get anyone to help her so she recruited her own committee. Jo said that the Community Council did not have the capacity to take this on as there were only 5 people. Should have been run under the Community Council umbrella as it would have made finances better. Rae said she asked whether the Community Council bank account could be used and was allowed to use the village hall bank account.

22.76

Finance

Jubilee celebration final accounts and agreement of any additional funding

Proposed – Ian Second – Rob to pay £299.52 to cover additional costs of the Jubilee Committee. This to be paid to Rae Betts as part of her expenses.

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS AGREED TO AUTHORISATION SHEET AND UPDATE TOTAL BOX INCLUDING JUBILEE PAYMENTS include payee name and items paid for

Review of internal Audit report – deferred to September meeting

Review of income and expenditure against budget to 30th June 2022 -deferred to September meeting

Reconciliation to 30th June 2022 – deferred to September Meeting

Authorisation of invoices for online payment

The following requests for payment were authorised.

- Clerk salary for July and August £371.78
- Clerks expenses for June and July £36.00

- Heelis and Lodge £120
 - Jubilee costs payee and item £299.52
- Total payments £826.80

Proposed by Peter, seconded by Teresa.

22.77 Recreation Ground

Update by recreation ground representative on repairs, monthly report and other issues
Rae advised the gate broke and as a result the grass could not be cut so went over 5 weeks before cut and grew too long.

Peter queried maintenance issues and permission given previously. Rae to chase.

22.78 Highways

Ian mentioned the road closure and that the signage was not clear on where it was and also put cones across the road causing traffic issues on the A140.

Teresa noticed that on social media in the last week complaining about sports day at the school and the parking as people had driveways blocked etc. Peter is talking to Emily about a school crossing between church and ten bells which might encourage parents to park elsewhere. Rae said that some walkers like parking on the road as the cars stop other vehicles going too fast. Jo would like the SID moved.

Peter mentioned at consultation stage with residents of East End Lane and Broughton Hall Road as them being nominated as Quiet Lanes. Advisory speed limits of 20mph. Run voluntarily and not by SCC. Will know in 1 month any update and any objections.

22.79 Other matters arising from previous meetings

Recycling bins – Alison investigated whether these can go to Stonham Barns but no reply. Once they leave the current site then we won't have any until the site has been developed and they can be returned. We cannot put them anywhere else as there is nowhere else for them to go. Alison will chase Stonham Barns.

22.80 Dates of the Next Meetings

20th September 2022

18th October 2022 (urgent matters only)

22.81 The Chair closed the meeting at 9pm

Sapc.clerk@yahoo.co.uk

[Wendy Brame 19th July 2022](#)