

STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE STOKE POGES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14TH JUNE 2010 AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE ATTIC ROOM AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE, ROGERS LANE, STOKE POGES

Present:- Cllr Fletcher (Chair), Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Carter, Cllr Gillan, Cllr Matthews, Cllr Robinson and Cllr Thornton.

In Attendance:- Mrs J Simmonds (Clerk)

Also Present:- NSO L Sharples, Katie Robertson, Chester King and Approx 22 members of public

MINUTES

The meeting started at 7.50pm due to more than the legal numbers allowed for the Lionel Rigby Room being present, the meeting moved to the Attic Room.

028/PC/10 - Public Session Time (7.30pm-7.45pm)

The meeting is open to the public and press and the first 15 minutes will be reserved, if required, for public comment.

Mr Chester King from Stoke Park Club summarised a five page document setting out the facts of events of the parking issue and removal of a hedge at Grays Park Field for the Golf Live Event.

The document is appended and forms part of these minutes.

A big discussion took place involving members of public and councillors, which ended with Councillor Thornton asking if the event takes place again next year will Stoke Park get proper Planning Permission to make a proper access to the field. Mr King replied that retrospective Planning Permission has been applied for and a decision has not yet been made. Cllr Fletcher asked Mr King if he would be prepared to give more notice to local residents of any future events which Mr King agreed to.

Mr Milne-Smith said that he was sorry that there was such a depleted Council at present and this is the first time ever that nearly half of the council had felt the need to go. He is very sad that in his opinion he felt that the Village is divided at present, but understands the problems, but over 200 people had taken the trouble to write to Naomi Arnold to thank her for her 20 years service to the village. It is now time to draw a line under past events and to remember that the Parish Council needs to get on well with the District Council. Mr Milne-Smith wished the new Council well and hoped that they will make good decisions for all of the village and to spend the villagers money well. Mr Milne-Smith said that he had really enjoyed his time on the Council and that he hoped others do too. He finished with three things that he had learnt in his business career.

1. 'Compromise is always better than confrontation'.

2. 'Do as you would be done by' or in current English 'Treat other people the way you would like they to treat you'.
3. 'Think kind thoughts'.

Separately, he was interested in the postcode issue and said 'I understand that we have to pay more for house and car insurance which is based on the postcode SL2. Although crime is lower in Stoke Poges, it is [I believe] higher in Manor Park [also SL2] a large estate near Burnham which was built as a council estate. Insurance companies take the whole of the postcode as one area so our village is taken as part of Slough which Manor Park is.

Mr Fox said that he had asked as many people as possible at the Village Fete if they knew who their District Councillors were? Everyone he asked knew Cllr Arnold, most knew Cllr Bowater but not one person knew Cllr Webber.

Ruth Rooley asked about the signage to the shops adding that the old one had been removed but a new one had not been put up. (Clerk to chase).

Clerk

029/PC/10 - Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Huntley, Cllr Arnold, Cllr Egleton and Cllr Webber and Cllr Bowater.

030/PC/10 - Declarations of interest

Members to declare any personal interest in any item of business as defined in the Code of Conduct 2007. If that interest is a prejudicial interest as defined in the Code, the member should withdraw from the meeting for that item.

There were none.

031/PC/10 - Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th May 2010 which were signed by the Chairman.

The next two items were taken first.

034/PC/10 - Police

To receive a report from the police

NSO Louise Sharples reported on the crime figures which are appended to the agenda. She also reported on a summer holiday programme being run with Katie Robertson for the young people of Stoke Poges and Wexham. Katie has obtained a small grant. It will be held on 19/20 & 23/24 August at the Stoke Poges School. Louise asked the Parish Council to consider the use of the L & Q Beacon garages wall which faces into Bells Hill recreation ground to be used as a Graffiti Art Wall and will be supervised by Professional graffiti artists. This will enable Katie to engage with some of the older kids and the art is less likely to be defaced if kids have done the art themselves. The NAG also has a big input into this event. Katie will run the event and be responsible for it and it will help her engage with kids from problem areas. Cllr Fletcher suggested that this be taken to the next R & E meeting and this was agreed by all. Cllr Aldridge asked for a copy of written permission from L & Q Beacon that the wall can be used. Mr Milne-Smith said that a lot of people do not like graffiti to look at?

R & E

035/PC/10 - Youth Worker

To receive a report from Katie Robertson

A report from Katie which was tabled was read out and is appended.

Katie also gave a talk on the Summer Event and showed some pictures of Graffiti Art. She explained that the kids would not be given a free reign to just graffiti what they liked but it would be a proper artist supervising the session.

032/PC/10 - Chairman's Update from last meeting.

To include updates on Village Notice Board, Post Code Issue, Bells Hill Disability Access, Sport & Youth Pavilion, Fete & Village Centre.

Cllr Fletcher reported that the Standing Orders were to be updated once NALC had issued the new model standing orders. This would be taken to the next Finance meeting.

The Village Board outside the shops has been researched and will cost approximately £1000 plus installation costs. There is a charge of a licence to Persimmon. A motion was proposed by Cllr Matthews to get all costs and bring back for decision, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, **RESOLVED** all in favour.

The issue with the Post Codes is taking time and all information will be gathered before a letter is sent to Mr Grieve.

Nothing to report on The Village Centre as Mike Dier has been unwell and then on holiday.

Nothing to report on the Sport and Youth Pavilion at present.

Bells Hill Disability Access is still ongoing and Stephen Kyle of SBDC is awaiting a reply from Persimmon. It has been reported that bike racks are needed as well.

The Fete was a huge success from the Village and the parish Council perspective, it was a very good afternoon.

It had been reported by Cllr Fletcher that the hedge was overgrown along the footpath by St. Andrews Church into the Recreation Ground. Cllr Aldridge said that this was the Schools responsibility and that he would ask them to arrange for it to be cut.

033/PC/10 - Stoke Park

Golf Live Event

This was already covered under the public session and the question asked by Cllr Fletcher to the council was what do they actually want to do about this issue? It was suggested that although Cllr Arnold from the District Council was unable to sit on the panel to decide about the parking as there would be a conflict of interest, could she not make written representations on behalf of the village? Cllr Thornton said that officers at District Council know what is going on but choose to ignore them. Cllr Gillan suggested that if the Stoke Poges District Councillors are unable to attend Parish Council meetings then they should give a written report for the meeting. Cllr Matthews said that he and Cllr Carter had attended the last Farnham Common Parish Council Meeting and the District Councillors there were very proactive. Cllr Aldridge asked if the Stoke Poges District Councillors were at that meeting and Cllr Matthew replied that they were there but did not take part.

No resolution was made on this item.

036/PC/10 - County Councillors Report

Councillor Egleton to report

Councillor Egleton had given apologies for this meeting.

037/PC/10 - District Councillors Report

All three District Councillors had given their apologies for this meeting.

038/PC/10 - Vehicle Activated Signs

To discuss.

Cllr Fletcher had asked for this item but in the meantime a written report had come from the NAG who are already pursuing this matter. **RESOLVED** all in favour to agree to leave them to continue their good work and to offer some funding at a later stage. Copy of report appended.

039/PC/10 - Website

Update with proposal from Mr Lennox for decision.

Cllr Fletcher confirmed that an offer to set up a new website by Mr Lennox had been received at a cost of £600 plus approximately £70 per month ongoing costs. Cllr Fletcher proposed a motion to agree to Daniel Lennox becoming the new Web Master for Stoke Poges Parish Council on those terms, this was seconded by Cllr Robinson.

RESOLVED all in favour.

040/PC/10 - SPN

Meeting adjourned at 9.20 pm to allow Mr Ralph Bagge to update the Council. He said that Cllr Arnold had declined to meet with him to give a handover, therefore he was working closely with the Clerk to put together a database of information from scratch. Mr Bagge had written a report which is appended to these minutes on his work so far. Mr Bagge had got quotes from other printers some on a better quality paper and in colour and also he felt that the advertiser rates were too low. Cllr Fletcher suggested that Mr Bagge put together a proposal of changes to be taken to the Finance meeting on 8th July for a decision. Mr Bagge also asked if anyone had any objections to putting the diary into the middle pages so that they could be removed and place on fridges or notice boards, and also to put the Parish Council details onto page 46 rather than the back page, this is because premium advertising can be gained on the back cover and inside the back and front covers. **RESOLVED** all in favour to the diary and Parish Council information being moved. Meeting re-convened at 9.32pm.

041/PC/10 - Fencing

Update from Cllr Aldridge on Nettleship Fencing and also request for repairs to fencing and trees in Bells Hill Recreation ground adjacent to school.

Cllr Aldridge reported that the fencing at Nettleship Wood was all completed. There is 14 meters over which they are keeping to use if we have any horse or vandalism problems. The Fence between the Bells Hill Recreation Ground and the School has been broken down because of our trees overhanging the fence and the school, allowing kids to climb the tree and jump onto and over the fence. Cllr Aldridge has spoken with Malcolm Bridges and they agreed to pay half to replace the fence. Meeting adjourned at 9.40 to allow Mr Finan to say that the Parish Council paying half of the costs for the School fence will set a precedent for the whole perimeter of the Recreation ground. Meeting re-convened at 9.42. Cllr Carter agreed and said that the next piece of school fence that gets broken will result in the school asking the Parish Council to pay half. **RESOLVED** all in favour not to pay half of the fencing costs, but to get a quote from Greenwoods to pollard and cut back to trees to prevent the problem.

042/PC/10 - Wexham Park Hospital Parking

Update to email from Cllr Matthews

Cllr Robinson reported that the Green initiative has been pushed back until Sept/Oct. They are going to be using a shuttle bus to transport workers from the bus and train Station to and from work and hope that the parking issue gets a bit better. Ken McLoughney at BCC Highways has said that no line, signs or gaps are being dealt with at present. Cllr Robinson has asked for a sign to be put up indicating for people to use the Maternity Car Park as an alternative. The illegal car park owners are applying for Planning Permission so therefore Enforcement can no longer do anything about it. Cllr Robinson is going to write to Dominic Grieve to get help.

Cllr Matthews had received an email from a resident which was appended to the agenda complaining about all of the above issues. Meeting adjourned at 9.45 to allow a member of public to say that night shift staff at the hospital feel safer using their cars rather than the shuttle bus during night hours, and that the bus route from the hospital has no stops on Park Road or at Stoke Green which is no help. Meeting re-convened at 9.55.

043/PC/10 - Playground Quotes

Quotes received to be looked at and discussed, and a decision made on which one to accept and to ask County to agree fits the criteria required.

Four designs and quotes were presented to the Councillors and they all took time to

study them. Cllr Gillan proposed that the SMP design was accepted this was seconded by Cllr Aldridge. **RESOLVED** all in favour to accept the SMP design and quote.

044/PC/10 - Youth Worker

To discuss and decide on funding for youth worker for the second year.

Cllr Fletcher said that a meeting had not yet taken place with Rev Harry Latham and therefore he had suggested to Harry that a discussion took place this evening, but any decision would be taken to the Finance Committee on 8th July. Cllr Fletcher said that he was in favour of continuing with the funding but a meeting must take place first with Katies Managers. Katie said that she needed volunteers to walk around with her in the evenings. Cllr Aldridge volunteered along with Ruth Rooley. Katie also requested a contact other than Harry from the Parish Council. Meeting adjourned at 10.10 and Mrs Rooley said that Katie needs time to get to know the area and the people of the village. Mr Milne-Smith said that one year is not long enough to establish that relationship. Meeting re-convened at 10.15pm

Cllr Matthews said that a conversation must take place with Katies Line Manager Harry Latham before anything can be decided. Cllr Aldridge proposed that The Parish Council continue funding for another year. Cllr Fletcher proposed that the Parish Council talk to Harry Latham first, this was seconded by Cllr Carter, **RESOLVED** all in favour to talk to Harry then to bring back to the Finance meeting.

Finance

045/PC/10 - Carols on the Green

To agree a date.

Cllr Robinson said that the proposed date would be 10th December 2010. This was Proposed by Cllr Fletcher and seconded by Cllr Robinson. **RESOLVED** all in favour the 10th December 2010.

046/PC/10 - Thames Valley Air Ambulance

Donation request.

Proposed by Cllr Fletcher to take this to the Finance meeting on 8th July, seconded by Cllr Carter. **RESOLVED** all in favour.

Finance

047/PC/10 - RECEIVED & ADOPTED previous minutes from previous meetings of sub committees and working parties:

- (1) Planning minutes 19/04/10 - signed 17/05/10

048/PC/10 - Finance

- (1) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Statement of Accounts – May 10 which were tabled.
- (2) **RESOLVED** to approve list of cheques for signature – (appended)
- (3) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank reconciliations May 10 which were tabled (appended)
- (4) **RECEIVED & NOTED** Budget Monitoring May 10 which were tabled (appended)

049/PC/10 - Accounts for Year Ended 31st March 2010

- (1) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** and the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet, Supporting Statement and Assets, auditor's matters arising, which were Signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO (appended). Internal Audit Review Checklist to be dealt with at the Finance meeting on 8th July 2010.
- (2) **RECEIVED & APPROVED** the Annual Return and **RECEIVED & APPROVED** Bank Reconciliation and Statement of Significant Variations, which were signed by the Chairman and the RFO (appended).

Finance

050/PC/10 - Reports from Other Committees

- (1) Planning - Cllr Thornton reported that the caravan park at Stoke Wood had not been validated by SBDC. The Netherwood application is retrospective, it is not a clear and not easy to access application but it will be unlikely to be approved and is on the planning agenda for 21st June 2010.
- (2) R & E - Cllr Aldridge reported that the water pipes and standpipes at the allotments were now installed and working.

051/PC/10 - Correspondence and Items received by clerk but not on agenda. To be Noted

- (1) **NOTED** 2009-2010 Winter Maintenance Feedback from Bucks County Council
- (2) **NOTED** Confirmation of Entry in the Register at Information Commissioner's Office
- (3) **NOTED** SBDC - Complaint Reference SBDC 07/10 Allegation against K Webber and Decision Notice - Cllr Fletcher said that in light of the Head of Legal Services informing the clerk after the agenda had been prepared that a review had been requested into this matter he proposed the following motion:- To demonstrate transparency, that we as SPPC are beyond reproach and that there is no suggestion of any kind of cover up or act of malfeasance; the parish council formally ask SBDC Standards Committee to investigate the circumstances regarding the withholding of the Tony Levings letter, which was addressed to "The Stoke Poges Parish Council", from full council and the reasons why it was not tabled for 3 months. This was seconded by Cllr Robinson. **RESOLVED** all in favour apart from Cllr Gillan who abstained. Clerk to write to Lynn Reardon.
- (4) **NOTED** Chiltern Railways
- (5) **NOTED** Bucks County Council Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic Orders 2010 various road and Parishes (clerk asked to ask BCC to re-consider the road closure dates for Rogers Lane and to ask them to move it into the School Holidays.
- (6) **NOTED** Invitation to an Overview and Scrutiny meeting 9th July 2010 - Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Robinson to attend.
- (7) **NOTED** Email from Chester King at Stoke Park regarding recent use of Grays Field.

052/PC/10 - NOTED Dates of Future Meetings

Planning Committee - 21st June 2010
R & E - 29th June 2010
Finance - 8th July 2010
Full PC - 12th July 2010

Meeting ended at 10.35pm.

