

STOWEY SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at

7.30pm on Wednesday 5th July 2017, The Link, Bishop Sutton

www.stoweysuttonpc.org

Present: Councillors K Betton (Chairman), H Clewett (Vice Chairman), L Balmforth, C Brookes, E Daly, P Gleaves, L Kingston and J Knibbs.

Also in attendance: District Councillor Vic Pritchard, J Howell (Clerk) and four members of the public.

53/17-18 Mendip AONB Presentation

The Parish Council welcomed Jim Hardcastle from the Mendip AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Jim Hardcastle gave a presentation on the Mendip Hills AONB Partnership to promote the AONB and raise awareness. For more information, the organisation has a Facebook Page – Mendip Hills AONB and a copy of the presentation will be published on the Parish Council website.

54/17-18 Apologies for absence

There were none.

55/17-18 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council dated 7th June 2017 were approved.

56/17-18 Declaration of interest

There were none.

57/17-18 Chairman's Report

Cllr Betton provided an update on the three current Parish Council vacancies. B&NES Council have confirmed that the Parish Council can now consider members for co-option. The Parish Council look for a level of commitment usually met by the applicant having attended three consecutive meetings previously. Interested parties are invited to submit a written application – for further information please contact the Clerk. Applications can be considered at the August Parish Council Meeting onwards until all positions on the Parish Council are filled.

Cllr Betton confirmed that the old EE Phone Mast and cabinet in Stowey will be removed as outlined in the approved Planning Application: 16/03631/TEL, Telecommunication Mast 79033, Wick Road.

Members were informed that a Senior Planning Policy Officer for B&NES Council has confirmed that B&NES still considers that there is a five-year housing land supply. The supply projections were last updated in September 2016 and will be updated again in September this year. B&NES Council are also currently updating the HELAA (housing and economic land availability assessment), which is due to be published alongside the options consultation for the local plan.

Peeling paint inside the bus shelter was discussed and a quotation to repaint it was considered. Correspondence regarding the Recreation Ground was noted. Members were informed that the grass on the recreation ground was cut between meetings due to the level of growth.

Cllr Betton summarised the modifications set out in the Inspectors Report on the Placemaking Plan and updated members on the Community Empowerment Fund. Access the money will require match funding and applications are now welcome.

RESOLVED

- i. That the Parish Council agreed to allocate an overall budget of £300 to repaint the bus shelter (including materials). Work is to include the ceiling.
- ii. The Clerk will determine the rate for volunteer hours for the Community Empowerment Fund.

58/17-18 Planning

A. The Parish Council considered the Planning Application: 17/02674/CLPU. Application Location: 2 Sutton Park Bishop Sutton. Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension to create dining room (Certificate of Lawfulness for a Proposed Development)

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council Support this application Planning Application: 17/02674/CLPU.

B. The following planning decision was noted - 17/02418/FUL Location: Hill Rise, Church Lane. Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear and side wrap-around extension – Permit.

59/17-18 Call for sites for Recreation

The Parish Council discussed the advertisement placed in the Chew Valley Gazette calling for sites for recreation within the Parish boundary and the letters sent to landowners by the Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk would draft a letter to explore the compulsory purchase of land turned down for development.

60/17-18 Community Engagement Working Party updates

A Cllr presented a proposal on behalf of the Community Engagement Working Party for development of children's play in the village which included consideration of the previous village consultation. The proposal is to relocate the children's play area to the south west area, include a separate section of adult gym apparatus and link the new play area to the carpark with an all-weather path. Natural screening and seating for parents and carers and will be included.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council support this proposal and the Clerk will obtain detailed quotations based on the plan put forward at the Parish Council Meeting.

Community Library Provision

Members discussed the draft consultation questionnaire.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council approved the format for the draft questionnaire and arrangements to distribute. Questionnaires can be completed on paper or online www.stowesuttonpc.org/survey

61/17-18 Parish Charter

RESOLVED

The Parish Council agreed a collective response to the draft Parish Charter consultation questionnaire.

62/17-18 District Councillor's Report

The District Councillor, Vic Pritchard provided an update on the improvements to the Football Field. Assurance has now been given by the Chief Executive of B&NES Council that the project will go ahead.

B&NES Council have supported a recommendation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to reduce their numbers in next administration from 65 to 59 (a reduction of 6 Cllrs). There will be ward boundary changes because of this reduction and it is envisaged a single ward will be responsible for 2,300 residents (200 more residents than previously). The District Councillor also reported on changes within the Cabinet following two resignations and two removals.

Members were reminded of the requirement for B&NES Council to find £49 million savings in life of the administration. It was reported that the Council were on schedule to meet this target but now have an

apparent £6 million budget deficit across all portfolios with £1.9 million from adult social care. The District Councillor emphasised problems in underfunding adult social care.

63/17-18 Hedgerows, roads, pavements, ditches and drains

B&NES Council had been contacted about the quality of repair to potholes. B&NES Highways accepted there was no excuse for missing the potholes marked for repair on Ham Lane and agreed to review the quality of repair.

Members discussed correspondence received in relation to flooding at Bonhill Road caused by the blocked culvert. B&NES Council Highways team attended and jetted the drains on Wednesday 28th June 2017 however the landowner reported that the problem had not been fully resolved. On Monday 3rd July, a meeting took place between B&NES Highways and the landowner where it was confirmed part of the culvert was still blocked. The Clerk will monitor.

Members considered complaints regarding overgrown hedges and a Cllr raised the deterioration of LEDs on the vehicle activated sign (VAS). A request was made to consider the speed limit into the village in line with the expanded residential boundary.

RESOLVED

- i. That the Clerk is delegated responsibility to respond directly to queries regarding hedges and overgrowth and permitted to contact landowners directly.
- ii. That the Clerk would make enquiries into the vehicle activated sign with B&NES Highways.
- iii. The Clerk will add the item 'speed limit boundary' to the August meeting agenda.

64/17-18 Footpaths

The Parish Council were informed that works to improve the footpath at The Batch works are due to commence on Monday 17th July 2017 by Springfield Surfacing. A leaflet informing residents of the improvements to the footpath has been drafted for residents of Summerleaze / Oak Court.

District Councillor Vic Pritchard advised that the Clerk has been provided with the paperwork to apply to divert the footpath at Little Hayes. The District Councillor will arrange for payment through his membership allowance.

RESOLVED

That the application paperwork will be completed and submitted to B&NES Council.

65/17-18 Finances

It was noted that the payment approved on 7th June 2017 for the Village Cleaner's wages was paid by Cllr Betton and cheque number 1902 cancelled after the cheque was lost in the post. Online banking options were discussed. Members noted that emergency spend agreed to cut the grass on the Recreation Ground which was undertaken by Primrose Garden Maintenance. A regular grass cutting contract of the Recreation Ground was considered. The application for a grant from Bishop Sutton Pre-School and Forest Club was discussed. The Parish Council policy is to grant money for a specific purpose as opposed to maintenance or running costs so the Clerk has asked the charity whether there is a specific item which the Parish Council could consider contributing towards.

RESOLVED

- i. That Cllrs Brookes and Daly were agreed as additional bank signatories and the bank mandate approved.
- ii. That enquiries into opening an online bank account were delegated to Cllr Kingston and the Clerk.

- iii. That the Parish Council accept the quote from Primrose Garden Maintenance for a regular grass cutting contract of the Recreation Ground at a cost of £65 per cut (inclusive of VAT) for a period of one year.
- iv. The Financial Statement was noted and the following cheques were authorised for signature.

July 2017 PCM	Gross £
Clerk Wages	£402.09
Cleaner Wages	£134.48
HMRC (Tax on salaries)	£20.20
Filers Coaches (June 17)	£100.00
New Leaf - Village Hall and Millenium Gdn	£450.00
Stowey House Farm - Cleaning Fluid	£17.30
Mendip Toilet Hire Ltd - Portable Toilet for Flower Festival	£96.00
Primrose Garden Maintenance Ltd - Emergency grass cutting	£200.00
Information Commissioner's Office Renewal	£35.00
ALCA Plain Guide on Planning x 3 Courses	£150.00
Monthly hire of Chapel September 2016 – August 2017.	£240.00
Total payments to approve at July PCM	£1,845.07

Additional cheque to approve (payment approved at June PCM)
Reimbursement of Cleaner Wages paid by Cllr Betton June 17 **£168.11**

The details of the current financial situation were reported. A transfer of £2,000 was approved from the Reserve Account to the Current Account. After transfer of monies from the Reserve Account to the Current Account and payment of authorised cheques:

Current Account: £1,853.56
Reserve Account: £35,585.61

66/17-18 **Meeting / Training updates**

Cllrs who attended 'A plain guide on Planning for Local Councillors' (arranged by ALCA) provided feedback on the course. The presentation has been circulated and a further course has been scheduled for September. Cllrs interested in attending are to contact the Clerk.

67/17-18 **Date of the next meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 2nd August 2017 at 7.30pm at The Link, Bishop Sutton.**

The meeting was concluded at 21:00 hours.

These minutes are in draft form and will not be approved until the next Parish Council Meeting. Minutes are available on the Parish Council website: www.stoweysuttonpc.org/