

**MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON**  
**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

**17/073/a PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Hugh Donovan (Vice-Chairman), Mr Neil Bloomfield (Parish Councillor & County Councillor), Mr Andy Dawe, Mr Brian Evans, Mrs Caroline Freeman, Mr Robert Manning, Mr Graham Middleton and Mr Malcolm Uhlhorn

**Others:** Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), and 1 member of the public

**17/073/b APOLOGIES:**

Mrs Rebecca Merrick

**17/074 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Cllrs Uhlhorn and Brooks declared an interest in matters relating to the Memorial Hall. Cllr Evans declared an interest in matters relating to the Hamdon Youth Group, Stoke Working Men's Club, Stoke Performing Arts Group and the Friends of Ham Hill.

**17/075 PUBLIC SESSION:**

Cllr Middleton announced that he would be recording the meeting. The Clerk said that he would not be able to because under the Parish Council policy for recording meetings it states that a written request must be sent 24 hours prior to a meeting to the parish clerk.

A resident said that they had come along as a voice for the concerned residents of Stonehill regarding a person who had been arrested for abusing children then released into the community pending a County Court hearing. The resident referred to 'Sarah's Law' and said that Stonehill resident were unable to get any information from the police and would like to get the parish council's views on the situation. Cllr Brooks said that unfortunately the parish council have no powers regarding matter such as these. Cllr Seal advised that SSDC can give residents advice and liaise with the police.

**17/076 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Donovan      Seconded: Cllr Uhlhorn      5 agreed; 1 abstained;  
1 against

**17/077 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

**17/077/a Councillors' Statement**

Cllr Donovan said that he would like to make a statement on behalf of himself and Cllrs Dawe, Evans, Freeman, Manning, Merrick and Uhlhorn to resolve the aggravation felt at the last meeting regarding the previous minutes.

*'Whilst the Parish Council accept the changes to the minutes through a quorum of 3/10 (with 7 abstainees); fellow councillors wish to make it clear that it is considered Cllr's Bloomfield and Middleton were in contravention of our code of conduct through the disruption of proceedings, the manipulation and intimidation of fellow councillors. This stems from the events of April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting where it had been suggested to Cllr Bloomfield that canvassing of support and opinion from a select number of residents around the proposed West Street development was seen as a political move on his part supporting his own political campaign.*

*With regard to the question posed by Cllr Evans on behalf of Hamdon Youth Group (HYG) Cllr Bloomfield's explanation was considered misleading as published in his electoral leaflet. His comments inferred he was solely responsible for obtaining grant monies for HYG whilst*

*in fact he was only a proposer of the resolution. This is a very subtle change but has a completely different meaning. For the purpose of clarity it is not considered that information such as this should be excluded from the minutes and the Chair has every right to edit the minutes to provide a clear record of what was said.*

*Following May's meeting, fellow Cllrs have been very upset over the preceedings. Cllrs Bloomfield and Middleton are reminded of the Parish Council's standard of conduct, notably Selflessness Objectivity & Respect for others. They are reminded not to bring the council into disrepute at any time.*

*It is noted that Cllrs Bloomfield & Middleton have made valuable contributions to the working of this Parish Council in the past. It is recognised that whilst there may be opposing views, this is in the Parish interest as it adds to the diversity of the Council. However, all views must be conducted adhering to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. It is hoped Cllrs Bloomfield and Middleton reflect on the consequences of their behaviour.*

*All of us have the community at heart, our primary objectives are to ensure productive meetings, to improve our thriving community, to bring all organisations together and focus on Parish Council business. Our aim now is to put this matter behind us and for all of us to work together as a team for the good of our community.'*

Cllr Bloomfield asked for a right to reply. Cllrs Brooks & Donovan refused to allow either Cllrs Bloomfield or Middleton to respond to the statement read out by Cllr Donovan. Cllr Bloomfield asked how the comments made at the last meeting brought the parish council into disrepute and contravened the code of conduct. Cllr Bloomfield said that if the parish council felt that the code of conduct had been contravened then the parish council should make a complaint to the Standards Board.

Cllr Bloomfield asked for the councillors' statement not to be minuted to which Cllr Brooks said no.

Cllr Donovan then asked about the Facebook page called 'Stoke Matters' and the comments of a third party which could bring the parish council into disrepute. Cllr Bloomfield denied any knowledge of such comments. Cllr Donovan stated that as Cllr Bloomfield was the owner of the Facebook page then he had a duty to remove and comment that brings the council into disrepute.

#### **17/077/b Review of Action List**

The Clerk reviewed the items on the Action List:

- i) Broken Brown Highway Sign – Cllr Bloomfield said that this would be fixed soon.
- ii) Broken Stile – The Clerk reported that Rights of Way had confirmed that this had been fixed.
- iii) Handrail for North Street Allotments – Ongoing. **Action Cllr Donovan**
- iv) Princes Close Turning Bay – The Clerk said that she has yet to receive a response to her email from Highways.
- v) Memorial Hall Wi-Fi – Cllr Brooks thanked Cllr Bloomfield for organising the installation of the Wi-Fi.
- vi) Memorial Hall Play Area tidy up and re-seeding of grass – Cllr Uhlhorn and the Clerk had met with the groundsman who had said that it would not be worthwhile re-seeding certain areas.
- vii) Various Highway issues – The Clerk said that some potholes had been fixed but there were still other items outstanding.
- viii) Railings on North Street – Ongoing
- ix) Contact PWLB to request an extension – Cllr Brooks said that this had been done and confirmation had been received.
- x) New Councillor Training – The Clerk said that there were no new dates available on the SALC website. **Action Clerk**

#### **17/078 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**17/078/a** Sylvia Seal – District Councillor

Cllr Seal gave her report

- SSDC's transformation is still ongoing and will pass on the CEO's brief summary if required.
- Ham Hill: i) £1,500 has been received along with other grants and donations for the CCTV project and confirmed that this will be going ahead within the next few weeks;  
 ii) Poachers had killed two deer. They seemed to have been disturbed as the carcasses had been left behind;  
 iii) The Space Protection Order is now in force. Notices are being erected and there is an £80 fine for those not adhering to the Order;  
 iv) The car parks are to be re-gravelled and;  
 v) Ham Hill honey will be on sale in the Ninespring's shop.
- The planning for West End Stores will be discussed at the Area North meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

**17/078/b Neil Bloomfield – County Councillor:**

Cllr Bloomfield gave his report.

- Brocks Mount – the residents may have to pay for the uncompleted work to be carried out under the Public Works Scheme but this would be for the residents to decide.
- As stated under *Minute ref: 17/077/b*, the repairs to the brown highways signs will be carried out shortly.

*(Cllr Bloomfield left the meeting)*

**17/079 SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST REPORT:**

**17/079/a Inspection Report:**

No report received.

**17/079/b SPAG Report & Financial Statement:**

Copies of the report and financial statement had been circulated to all members. Cllr Brooks said that the group were doing very well. Cllr Evans said that in early December the group will be performing a couple of ½ hour shows and there will be a meal laid on afterwards.

**17/080 SPORTS & LEISURE:**

**17/080/a Hamdon Youth Centre:**

Cllr Brooks said that the building had a good accessibility audit but the only issue was that the access ramp up to the entrance door needed to be changed. Cllr Brooks said that the Public Works Loan Board had reconfirmed the loan and that she was in the process of drafting the permitted use to cover for a youth and family centre.

Cllr Brooks confirmed that a draft contract and lease had been received and was being discussed between the parties but said that a 10% deposit was required on exchange of contract and asked members for a resolution to raise and sign a cheque as and when this was required in case this fell outside the council meeting times.

Proposed: Cllr Donovan      Seconded: Cllr Evans      5 agreed; 1 abstained

Cllr Middleton asked what the full survey details were and asked for a copy of the survey.

**17/080/b Hamdon Youth Group:**

The Clerk asked for a resolution to pay the annual grant for the Youth Worker. The grant had been increased to £3,250 in 2015 for the financial year 2017/18 (*see minute ref: 15/141*). Cllr Middleton asked whether Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council still contributed towards the youth worker and Cllr Evans confirmed that they did.

Proposed: Cllr Uhlhorn      Seconded: Cllr Dawe      5 agreed; 1 abstained

**17/080/c Memorial Hall and Grounds:**

Cllr Brooks said that a new committee has been formed since the AGM and that she was now the Chairman of the Village Hall committee and representatives from SPAG and the May Fayre had now joined.

**17/080/d** Play Areas:

Cllr Uhlhorn gave his inspection report. Cllr Uhlhorn enquired when SSDC would be carrying out their inspection. The Clerk said that this was usually in July but the parish council did not have any prior warning. Cllr Middleton asked Cllr Seal to ask the playground officer to contact Cllr Uhlhorn prior to carrying out the inspection. **Action Cllr Seal**

**17/080/e** Any Other Issues:

None declared.

**17/081** **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

**17/081/a** Allotments

The Clerk said that she had received no response to the advert for the vacant plots as yet. Cllr Donovan asked if a letter could be sent to all the allotment holders in North Street whose allotments were next to the Elder hedge asking them to keep it cut back and maintained. **Action Clerk**

**17/081/b** Community Emergency Plan:

No report given.

**17/081/c** Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

No report given.

**17/081/d** Footpaths:

No report given

**17/081/e** Ground Maintenance:

Cllr Uhlhorn said that the maintenance was kept up to date. However, the quotation for the weed spraying had not yet been received. It was agreed for the Clerk to chase this up. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Manning asked whose responsibility was it to cut the verges on the A303. These were very overgrown and the visibility splay was seriously affected. It was confirmed that this was the responsibility of Highways England.

**17/081/f** Highways and Transport:

The Clerk said North Street in Martock would be closed for resurfacing. The initial notice stated the road would be closed on the 9<sup>th</sup> June but this has now changed to the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Cllr Uhlhorn asked whether the steps outside a property along Ham Hill Road could be removed as the pavement narrows considerably and the steps jut out onto the pavement causing people with mobility issues or pushchairs to go out into the road and around the parked vehicles. It was stated that unfortunately the steps have been there for many years and is part of the historic nature of the area.

Cllr Middleton suggested writing to Highways about the parking and to the owner to make them aware of the issue.

**17/081/g** Street Lighting

No report given.

**17/081/h** Any Other Issues:

None declared.

**17/082** **FINANCE:**

**17/082/a** Matters for Report

i) Monthly Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave the monthly bank reconciliation report as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Current Account	£ 100.00
Business Reserve Account	£ 123,431.84
Sports & Recreation Trust Reserve Account	£ 14,417.47
Asset Management Reserve Account	<u>£ 27,237.02</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 165,186.33</b>

Outstanding Credits	(£ .60)
Outstanding Direct Debits	£ 442.55
Outstanding Cheques	(£ 4,731.93)
<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>£ 160,079.65</b>

The Clerk reported that there was a discrepancy on the bank statement; £165.00 was paid in and the statement shows £165.60

**17/082/b** Matters for Resolution

i) Cheques Payable:

Sarah Moore	Expenses for May	£ 20.70	Chq 2100
Stable Print & Design Ltd	June Newsletters	£ 190.00	Chq 2101
Countrywide Ground Maintenance	Ground Maintenance - April	£ 655.20	Chq 2102
Stoke sub Hamdon Sports & Recreation Trust	Grant – May Fayre Programme	£ 500.00	Chq 2103
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1,365.90</b>	

Proposed: Cllr Donovan                      Seconded: Cllr Manning                      agreed unanimously

ii) Other:

The Clerk said that a resolution was needed for the insurance renewal. She had received 3 quotations.

Inspire via Axa - £1,117.07

Hiscox - £1,177.73

Ecclesiastical - £1,354.17

The Clerk had provided the councillors with a comparison of cover report. A discussion was held and it was agreed to accept the quotation from Axa. The Clerk said that there was an option of a 3 year LTA which reduces the premium to £1,061.22. It was agreed to accept the LTA condition.

Proposed: Cllr Donovan                      Seconded: Cllr Manning                      agreed unanimously

The Clerk asked for a resolution to either issue a cheque for the premium at this meeting or to hold an extraordinary meeting as payment was required before the end of the month. It was agreed to issue a cheque for £1,061.22. This was on cheque no.2104

Proposed: Cllr Brooks                      Seconded: Cllr Manning                      agreed unanimously

A discussion was held regarding the buildings insurance on the new Youth Centre. The Clerk agreed to contact the new insurers to find out how much the additional premium would be. Cllr Brooks asked for a resolution to be passed to pay the additional premium as soon as this was required.

Proposed: Cllr Brooks                      Seconded: Cllr Donovan                      agreed unanimously

**17/083** PLANNING:

**17/083/a** Planning Information:

No report given

**17/083/b** Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

**17/01949/FUL** – Application for a conservatory – Bucklands, Windsor Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UE – No observations or objections

**17/02016/LBC** – Installation of wood burner and flue – 16 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP – No observations or objections

**17/02240/PDE** – Proposed rear extension (i) the projection of the extension beyond the rear wall is 4.4m (ii) the maximum height of the extension is 3.2m (iii) the height of the eaves of the extension is 2.1m – 25 Kings Road, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QY – Response is not required by the parish council

**17/0244/FUL** – The erection of a two storey rear extension (revised application) - 33 Castle Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6RF – no objections or observations

**17/083/c** Planning Decisions and Reports:

i. Reports

**17/01632/COL** – Certificate of Lawfulness for the existing use of site as a mixed use of residential and retail with ancillary storage – West End Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QL – The public enquiry on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 was postponed.

ii. Decisions

**17/01351/FUL** – garage extension to include art room, garden store and workshop – Woodcroft, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UF - Granted

**17/01775/FUL** – insertion of 4 windows – Working Men’s Club, 12-14 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PS - Granted

**16/04851/S73** – Variation of conditions of 13/03622/FUL to refer to amended plans and details of materials, levels, ecology works, lighting, access arrangements, drainage and construction management and variation of trigger point of landscaping – Land West of Stanchester Academy, Montacute Road , Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UG - Granted

**17/01096/OUT** – outline application for residential development of approximately 27 dwellings and formation of access onto West Street – Land OS 8000 South of West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon – Granted subject to conditions

It was agreed to ratify the planning working party’s recommendations.

Proposed: Cllr Manning      Seconded: Cllr Freeman      5 abstained; 1 agreed

**17/084** **GOVERNANCE:**

The draft Planning Working Group terms of reference policy had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. A discussion was held and it was agreed to amend page 4 under ‘The Parish Clerk to the Council will’ bullet point 3 - the emailed responses would be sent once planning applications had been formally ratified and if a response was required before a parish council meeting then all members must be emailed to seek their approval.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton      Seconded: Cllr Donovan      agreed unanimously

Cllr Brooks agreed to amend the policy wording and re-circulate it to all members.

**17/085** **CORRESPONDENCE:**

No correspondence.

**17/086** **MEMBERS’ & CLERK’S REPORTS:**

No reports given

**17/087** **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

Cllr Middleton asked for the date of the next meeting to go on the agenda.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.55pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.00pm.