

Minutes of the Stockton Parish Council Monthly Meeting held in the Village Hall, Stockton, at 7.15pm on 20th July 2015

Those present: -

Parish Councillors: Cllrs. H.Collerson, J.Emberton, C.Millidge, J.Neal, and T.Warner.

District Councillor: Cllr.D.Riches

County Councillor:

Public: 13members of the public

Villager of the Year

This item was deferred until the next meeting

Open Forum

The Chairman introduced Mr. M & T Sharples who presented their revised plans for the scout field. Mr.M.Sharples noted that they had a meeting with the planning officers at Stratford On Avon District Council, and in the light of their comments they presented an amended set of plans which now had a total of 9 dwellings, and after discussions with the Stockton Scouts the building will be moved to another position on the same field. Messrs. Sharples also reiterated their plans for the future of the playing field in line with their grandmother's intention. There followed a discussion about the scout and playing field with M & T Sharples, Parish Cllrs. present, representatives of the scouts and the public. M & T Sharples indicated that that they will put an amended application to the planning authority hopefully by September. M & T Sharples also indicated that they would be willing to remove the road from the new development to the playing field. Councillors emphasised to M & T Shaples the need for a clear written commitment from the landowners of the playing field to sell the field to the Parish Council for a nominal sum, together with an explicit statement regarding the conditions under which the playing field would be operated before it could be expected to make a decision to support a planning application. This concluded the discussion, the Chairman thanked M & T Sharples for their attendance and they left the meeting.

Hilary Green asked that the original letter of support for Stockton Scouts from the Parish Council be sent to her, the Clerk will arrange this.

The Chairman introduced the concept of the memorial green to the meeting and outlined in an initial drawing how it may look, and how it may commemorate all those who served in all conflicts. The Chairman then introduced Mr.M.Thomas of Napton, who has experience of war memorials. Mr. Thomas then gave an explanation of how memorials may be funded and how that funding may be accessed. There followed a discussion with the public regarding the memorial green and what it might look like. The Chairman thanked Mr.Thomas for his attendance and comments to the meeting, then Mr.Thomas left the meeting whilst leaving some documentation regarding access to memorial funding options.

Mr.Legg, and Mr.Griffiths Roberts brought up the matter of the change to the original permissions for the Barley Mow change to flats. In the original permissions the entrances to all flats were at the rear of the building; however an estate agents advertisement showed that 2 flats had entrances onto the village green. The Clerk ascertained from the planning officer that this amendment had been received by the planning officer, and it was deemed to be so minor that the Parish Council was neither consulted nor informed that the change has been granted permission. There followed a discussion about this and it was noted that the Parish Council and indeed individual parishioner should write to the District Cllr.Riches complaining about this (given that there may be no automatic right of access across the

green), and ask that he contact the head of planning about the delegated powers of individual planners and notification and consultation with Parish Councils.

This concluded the Open Forum, and the Parish Council meeting began formally.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from:-

Parish Council: Cllr.P.Banham, Cllr.S.Bennett,

Acceptance of Apologies from Parish Councillors

It was proposed by Cllr.Millidge and seconded by Cllr.Neal that the apologies be accepted - This motion was unanimously agreed.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2015

These minutes being previously circulated, it was proposed by Cllr.Millidge and seconded by Cllr. Neal that they be accepted as a true record - This motion was unanimously agreed.

Matters arising from the minutes of the 15th June 2015 meeting

Playing Field: Cllr.Neal indicated that the goalpost from the FC-CC will be moved to the playing field soon.

Right to Buy: The Clerk read the letter from Jeremy Wright MP which suggested that the houses on the new Glebe Close extension will not be subject to the "Right to Buy" legislation.

Parish Paths: The Chairman got in touch with Cemex regarding the paths that will be affected by the new quarry site, and Cemex indicated that they are aware that these public paths will need to be lawfully diverted and that will happen nearer the time when quarrying will commence.

Playing Field Equipment: Cllr.Millidge noted that M.Childs has replaced the swings and weeded the play area, and that all swing shackles are safe. The softpour safe surface has shrunk in the play area and the Clerk will get in touch with Wicksteed to point this out and ask for an explanation of why there is shrinkage.

Cemetery reservations. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to make another exceptional circumstance decision to allow Mr. & Mrs Case to reserve 2 plots beside their son.

Planning Matters: -

a. New Planning Applications

15/02074/FUL, Unit 1A Blue Lias Industrial Estate: Construction of single storey portal frame building - No representation

15/02301/FUL, Brumel, Napton Road: Erection of new dwelling and detached garage, and associated works - No representation

15/01918/FUL, Sardis Village Stores, Napton Road: Change of use from a general store (A1) to a one bedroom flat (C3 dwellinghouse)

b. Planning Decisions by District Council or County Council

There were no new planning decisions.

It was noted that extensions to date for comments by the Parish Council on planning applications are no very difficult to obtain and after discussion it was agreed that the current system whereby power is delegated to the Clerk (in consultation with four Cllrs) to make the decision, will be continued.

Financial Matters

It was proposed by Cllr.Millidge and seconded by Cllr.Neal that all invoices shown in the July 2015 Agenda Appendix 1 be paid - This motion was unanimously agreed.

Correspondence and Reports

There were no items for consideration

Finance & Strategy Group

There were no issues for consideration

Amenity Group

There were no issues for consideration

Correspondence not passed to Action Groups

Memorial Field: The letter from Mrs.Stringer was considered at the open forum item on the memorial green.

Scout Support: It was agreed that the Parish Council will support the explorer scouts to the sum of £200. This support could take the form of the Parish Council purchasing individual item/s and making a gift to the scouts.

On Street parking: The Chairman read an email that he received from a resident of Post Office Lane regarding reserved parking in the private lay bye, the Barley Mow (reserved for occupants, or the front of the Barley Mow). The Chairman read his response and the Parish Council agreed that it would not interfere or identify designated parking areas.

Village Green Repair: After discussion it was unanimously agreed to award the contract to Cooper Surfacing Ltd.

Ongoing References

Parish Paths: The Chairman noted that he has walked most of the paths and the rest will be completed soon

Village Mowing: The Chairman will identify the mowing specification for the village, and it was unanimously agreed that a 1 year extension to D.Stanley's contract be awarded

Website: Cllr.Emberton noted that now the facebook page is up and running, the website would be better used for official Parish Council use only, with everything else carried on facebook – this was agreed

Housing development: The Chairman gave notice of a reply from D.Edmonds, Senior Planner at the District Council on affordable housing which stated:-

"Dear Mr Collerson.

When we discussed the issue of whether the planning obligation could, in respect of, the affordable housing provisions, have a 'local connections first' wording, a few weeks ago, my initial view was that this would amount to a variation of the committee resolution Thus I thought it would fall outside the discretion given to the Planning Manager, given that the committee report did not mention it, which reflected the fact that it was not raised by the Parish Council. This was also the steer of my line manager, Graeme Law.

However, upon further reflection and a discussion with Macer Nash – SDC Legal, today, it appears it is custom and practice to have a 'local connections first' provision, in those parts of planning obligations related to affordable housing. This starts with residents of Stockton and if there are not enough qualifying residents it would cascade outwards to adjacent parishes and then, if necessary, wider SDC residents. Moreover, this custom and practice falls within the scope of the generally worded committee resolution. Therefore it would apply to all of the affordable housing on both sites.

Kind regards

David Edmonds
Senior Planner – Development Control"

Playing Field: Cllr.Millidge noted that the steps to the large slide will need to be restored but that this can wait until after the school summer holiday. Cllr.Millidge also did a safety assessment of the play equipment and found all to be satisfactory

Cemetery: Clerk to obtain lease from Brindley Twist Tafft and James

Parish Office: The Chairman noted that the Village hall Committee will allow a storage filing cabinet to be placed in the side room of the hall - it was agreed that the Clerk may purchase a lockable filing cabinet.

Budget monitoring: It was agreed that the Clerk will send a monthly budget monitoring statement electronically to all Cllrs for perusal.

Additions and Removals to Ongoing References

There were no additions to or removals from ongoing references

Parish Council Calendar Actions

Audit of grass cutting: It was unanimously agreed that D.Stanley's village mowing is to a high standard.

Safety audit of cemetery and playing field; the Clerk carried out a safety audit of the cemetery and found nothing has altered from the last time. Cllr. Millidge carried out an audit of play equipment (see ongoing references)

Quarterly budget monitoring: It was agreed that the finances will be monitored monthly (see ongoing references)

Training and Meetings

There were no events for comment.

District Council issues

Core Strategy: District Cllr.Riches gave an overview of the Core Strategy process. He noted that the Examination In Public (EIP) was undertaken in January, and that Stockton remains a category 2 local service village (LSV). The Core strategy will now go for a public consultation lasting 6 weeks, with the hope that a final EIP will take place on around late December, with adoption in Spring 2016.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr.Riches also identified Matthew Neal as the Neighbourhood Plan officer at the District Council should the Parish Council wish to commence.

County Council issues

There were no issues for consideration.

Other Issues

There were no further issues for information

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35pm.