

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Standon Parish Council held on Tuesday, 27 April 2010, at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

*Cllr M Acford	*Cllr A Lang
*Cllr Mrs R Arikans	*Cllr C W Marks
*Cllr G D Cowell	Cllr Ms E Painter
*Cllr Mrs J A Dearman	*Cllr R M Stacey (Chairman)
*Cllr K Goodsell	*Cllr Mrs M Wilkinson

* denotes present.

In attendance: 12 members of the public.
PCSO Stephen Whittaker
Cllr David Andrews (EHDC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Mark Acford	Personal	Wife is Chairman of the Management Committee
Cllr Mark Acford	Personal	Standon Charities
Cllr Mrs Arikans	Personal	Allotment holder

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded members of the East Herts Rural Parish Conference to be held on 10 June 2010 at Datchworth Village Hall.

Members wishing to attend were requested to contact the Clerk.

4. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Community Budget

Cllr David Andrews was pleased to hand over to the Parish Council a cheque for £1,500 from his Community Budget and he expressed the hope that the provision of the footpath to the Children's Play area could be accelerated.

(ii) Allotments

A resident reiterated the concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding the provision of new allotments and the resultant noise pollution. The problem had now become compounded with polytunnels being erected. The aforementioned were having a detrimental effect on the lives of the residents. A letter had been written to the Parish Council requesting certain information under the Freedom of Information Act to which the Clerk would respond. A further reference was made to the mitigation proposed by the Parish Council, but to date there had been no evidence of any progress with regard to this matter. The proposed buffer zone was felt to be insufficient in size. It was further stated that excessive parking was taking place on the High Street fronting the residents' houses.

An allotment holder expressed gratitude to the Parish Council for providing new allotments. However, as no decision had been taken on the provision of sheds, a request was made for the provision of a lockable container on the site for the general use of the new allotment holders. This was in view of recent thefts of equipment which had taken place. A further request was made for action to be taken to restrict unauthorised use of the site and to stop certain members of the public in allowing dog fouling to take place.

5. PSCO'S REPORT

Stephen referred members to a number of items as set out below:

- During this week, "speed week", concentrated efforts were being made in addressing speeding on the A 120 with both Stephen and P C Tony Morris being out with the speed gun. A number of motorists had been cautioned and over the past 3 weeks, 4 tickets had been issued and one summons.
- To note that the next meeting of the Locality Panel was scheduled for Wednesday, 28 April, which would review the next 3 months' objectives.
- Concerns raised regarding the allotments were noted and would be investigated.
- Following noise complaints regarding the use of the off road vehicles on the A10/A120 junction, Stephen had spoken to the bikers and he was currently working with local residents to ameliorate any problems. Stephen was reluctant to press for any cessation of the activity which provided a safe environment for the sport.
- An invoice had been received for the high viz jackets and this had been passed for payment.
- Stephen confirmed that he would be working at the May Day celebration.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2010

Page 5 – Agenda item 11 Playing Field – para (ii) – line 2
Delete “hardstanding” and insert “bark chip path”

Having given effect to the above amendment, the Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Community Centre – Malfunction of the entrance gate

Instructions had been given for a repair to be undertaken.

(ii) Community Centre – Installation of Ventilation Units

The Chairman confirmed that since the installation of the units, there had been a saving of £2,000 in electricity costs.

(iii) Community Centre – Fire Doors

The Chairman stated that no official letter had been forwarded to the Management Committee concerning the in-principle agreement for the work to be undertaken. This would be actioned by the Clerk.

(iv) Playing Field – Temporary Hire of Ground by Ware Cricket Club

Cllr Marks stated that it would appear that grass cuttings were being deposited near the rear gardens of the properties abutting the Playing Field. The Clerk was requested to check.

8. MINUTES OF EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 6 APRIL 2010

The Chairman stated that no reference had been made in the Minutes to the Purdah period.

Page 4 – Agenda item 6 – para 2

At the end of paragraph 2, insert “This to be discussed with members of 3-Veg before taking the matter further.

Having given effect to the above amendments, the Minutes were accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

9. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Acford referred to the general discussions which had taken place, including the agreement to provide a buffer zone, and he elaborated on the discrepancies between what had been discussed and what would physically be taking place. These matters would be revisited.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) No objections were raised on the following planning applications:

3/10/0239/LB Installation of 2 bathrooms at first floor level, replacement of corrugated asbestos roof with reclaimed Welsh slate. Repair and maintenance work at 26 High Street, Puckeridge.

3/10/0549/FP Rear first floor extension and new shoer room and pitched roof to 3/10/0550/LB existing garage at The Old Windmill, 53 High Street, Standon.

3/10/0609/FP Single storey rear extension at 4 Churchfields, Standon.

3/10/0642/FN Single storey rear extension at 22 Stortford Road, Standon.

(ii) Delegated Powers

Delegated powers were given to Cllr Cowell regarding the following application:

3/10/0662/FP Two storey side extension at 16 Fishers Mead, Puckeridge.

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Potholes

It was reported that there was a large pothole situated near the Rectory.

(ii) Salt Bin

The salt bin situated at the junction of South Road and Batchelors had not been replenished.

(iii) Highways meeting – 26 March 2010

To note that the Clerk tabled for members' information a copy of the Highways Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2010 which had been omitted from the Agenda. These would be referred to at the next meeting to be formally received.

12. COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Chairman referred to the Minutes of the Community Centre Management Committee meeting held on 21 April copies of which had not been made available to members, but were subsequently handed to the Clerk.

Cllr Acford drew attention to the difficulties at the moment with discussions taking place on the use of the field without the prior knowledge of the Management Committee. There was a need for cohesion between the Parish Council and the Management Committee in order to ensure the smooth running of the facilities and especially the avoidance of any double booking.

13. PLAYING FIELD

(i) Provision of footpath to Children's Play Area

Cllr Marks informed members that the Working Group had looked at the suggestion of providing an entrance from the southern side of the Playing Field. However, it would mean accessing land which was not in the ownership of the Parish Council and a question was raised as to the registered title holder. It was agreed that the Working Group, plus the Clerk, investigate this matter to establish whether the footpath could be provided at this location.

(ii) Zurich Inspection Report on Play Equipment

The Clerk tabled for members' information a copy of the Minutes of a meeting between him and Broadmead Leisure. It was agreed that this matter be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Parish Council. However, with reference in the report on item 8, the log bridge, and the points raised with regard to the repair to be undertaken, it was agreed to request J F Sallows to provide a copy of his Public Liability insurance.

(iii) Youth Football Club

Members had been circulated with a copy of an e-mail from Mr Mario Persico concerning the formation of a new youth football team. Concerns were expressed that despite reference to a general acceptance of the proposals by the Management Committee and the Football Club this was not the case. On the contrary both the Management Committee and the Football Club were unhappy with the proposals. Cllr Cowell expressed concern regarding the emergence of the new club and was disappointed that there was a problem. He felt that the Parish Council should give its full support to the Cricket Club. Cllr Mrs Dearman felt that there was a need to set up an agreement between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club on the future use of the field.

Cllr Acford requested that in future the Management Committee be notified of all events taking place on the Playing Field which might impact on the Community Centre.. He felt that there was a misunderstanding as to who was responsible for the field and the hall.

In conclusion, it was RESOLVED that no permission be granted to Mr Persico to use the Playing Field for the provision of a new youth football team.

14. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson referred to the last meeting of the Parish Paths Partnership held on Wednesday, 14 April 2010, on which she gave a verbal report

15. ALLOTMENTS

(i) Update on the acquisition of additional land

Members had been circulated with a draft lease in respect of the new allotment land.

RESOLVED that the content be accepted and the Chairman and one member be authorised to sign the agreement.

Note: Members noted from the plan attached to the lease that the entrance to the site at the western end did not form part of the allotments.

(ii) Tenancy Agreement

Members had already been circulated with a copy of the current tenancy agreement.

RESOLVED that delegated powers be given to the Working Party, Cllr Acford, Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, Mr Durrant and the Clerk, to conclude this matter.

(iii) Membership of the Working Party

RESOLVED that the following be appointed to the Working Party:

2 Parish Councillors, 2 residents abutting the new allotments, 2 allotment holders and the allotment representative, Mr Brian Durrant.

It was further agreed that between now and the AGM that a letter be forwarded to all the allotment holders and residents abutting the new allotments giving them an opportunity to submit their wish to sit on the Working Party.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A resident felt that the Parish Council was missing the point in that the existing allotment holders were never an issue. The issue was the new allotments imposing on the residents and the concerns regarding the visual outlook.

Cllr Mrs Dearman requested that the tenancy agreements be sent out fairly quickly.

REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

(iv) Consideration of annual increment for Brian Durrant

RESOLVED that this be referred to the next Parish Council meeting as a part II item.

16. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Lang reported that the web version was now operational, the Working Group was taking a stall at the May Day celebrations, an additional £1,300 had been attracted via the locality budget and County Cllr Mrs Jane Pitman had been approached in this regard.

17. TELEPHONE SERVICE TO SOUTHFIELDS

The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to BT and he had established that the cabling work was due to be laid between the verge and the edge of the carriageway. This land was not in the ownership of the Parish Council, but was highway land and, as such, did not form part of the wayleave agreement. BT had confirmed that they would not pay for any removal of the poles were the removal requested by the Parish Council in the future. The wayleave was therefore specific to the poles and a very short amount of cabling from the base of the poles to the main cabling in the verge. The total one-off payment to the Parish Council was confirmed at £677.90.

RESOLVED that the Chairman be given authority to sign the wayleave agreement.

18. INSURANCE POLICY RENEWAL

To note that the members of the Finance Committee had approved that the Parish Council' insurance be switched from Zurich to the NFU.

19. PARISH COUNCIL MAJOR INCIDENT PLAN

Cllr Cowell had circulated a copy of the above document to all members and he took them through the various components seeking information from members on a number of issues. Cllr Cowell thanked members for their indulgence.

RESOLVED that Cllr Cowell be given delegated powers to complete the document and lodge it with the District Council.

20. PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Members had been circulated with a copy of the current list of Committees and Working Parties on which members served. In order to avoid any unnecessary discussion at the Annual Meeting, members were asked to give consideration to their positions and to give an indication as to whether they wished to continue serving. Cllr Goodsell remarked that he appeared to be the only one not on any of the Committees and he was happy to offer himself for appointment should the need arise. The Chairman indicated that he wished to be removed from the Highways Committee and the A120 Working Party in view of him being ex-officio.

21. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUNDING

To note that this matter had been raised under 'Parishioners' Comments' by County Cllr David Andrews.

22. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out on the attached list be approved for payment. (See Appendix A).

(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached statement be received. (See Appendix B)

23. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Review Standon Orders (June meeting).
- Parish Travel Plan – Car Sharing – Presentation – awaiting confirmation of date.
- Renewal of Notice Boards (Report from the Chairman).
- Presentation – 3 Villages Eco Group – date to be considered.
- Prize draw for questionnaire winners (May AGM).
- Standon Village Hall constitution (to receive letter from Management Committee dated 26 April 2010).
- Allotments:
 - (i) Provision of water and container – new allotment site.
 - (ii) Consideration of annual increment for Brian Durrant (Part II item).
- New Play equipment.
- Highways meeting – 26 March 2010.
- Playground meeting with Broadmead Engineering regarding work to play equipment.

24. CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Standon Village Hall AGM – 10 May 2010.
- Planning Committee – 11 May 2010.
- Highways Meeting – 19 May 2010 – 10.00 am.
- Finance Committee – 20 May 2010.
- Annual Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish Meeting – 25 May 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.19 pm.