

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Standon Parish Council held on Tuesday, 26 January 2010, at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre.

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| *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: 2 members of the public
Plus Cllr Mrs Jane Pitman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lang and Cllr Ms Painter.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------|
| Cllr Acford | Community Centre (wife is Chairman of the Management Committee) | Personal |
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CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. East Herts Council – Civic Dinner and Dance 2010

To note invitation sent to all members.

2. Herts Wheelie Bus Visit (Children's Play Project)

To note that the Herts Youth Connexions would be visiting the Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre in February 2010.

3. Nominations for Neighbourhood Awards

To receive details of the above Police promotion correspondence.

4. East Herts Quiz – 19 March 2010

To note the above event. Cllr Acford suggested that the Parish Council should enter a team. The Clerk to circulate members with the details of the event.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

PCSO'S REPORT

The following matters were reported:

- Locality meeting was held on 13 January 2010.
- Priority given to speeding traffic on the A120 – weekly checks were now being carried out.
- Hare coarsing continued to be a problem mainly around Levens Green and the Braughing area.
- Fly tipping was also a problem.
- The problem of motorists parking on the double yellow lines near the video shop continued to be a problem. Stephen would endeavour to get the Traffic Warden to attend the site with a view to issuing tickets.
- Dog fouling had been reported in the Community Centre grounds. It was difficult for Stephen to tackle the problem, but he requested that anyone observed allowing their dog to foul the area be notified to him.
- New Rural Ward Constable, PC D C Morris, had been appointed for the area and he would be based at Buntingford.
- Stephen had been offered a pool table free and he asked if anyone was interested, they should contact him.
- The Chairman referred to the matters raised regarding St Thomas of Canterbury School. Stephen stated that he would investigate.
- A resident referred to the advertising hoarding situated on the footway junction of Standon High Street and the A120 which obscured the sight lines. Stephen agreed to speak to the landlord of the Pub.

There were no further issues and Stephen was thanked for his report.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2009

Amend page 8 – Standon Village Hall – Insurance related matter, line 7:
Delete 'Chairman' and insert 'Secretary'.

Amend page 7 – Litter Agency:
Delete 'Mr J Stacey' and insert 'Mr M Stacey'.

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

MATTERS ARISING

1. Highways Matters

(i) South Road Junction/A120

Cllr Acford questioned whether the rationale had been established in respect of the decision taken to resurface the footway west of the South Road/A120 junction. The Chairman stated that no response had been received, but the question would be taken up again with Hertfordshire Highways.

(ii) Traffic Regulation Order 2009 – (Prohibition of Stopping and Waiting on School Keep Clear Markings)

The Chairman referred to a letter received from the school seeking the Parish Council's support for the school's objection to the proposal.

However, the Chairman reminded members that the Parish Council had raised no objections to the County Council's proposals.

2. Community Centre - Trade Waste Bin

The Chairman informed members that keys had been obtained for the locked bin and had been handed to Mrs Denise Sallows and a number of the litter pickers. Additional keys needed to be obtained.

3. Standon Village Hall - Insurance Related Matters

The Clerk informed members that he had been in discussion with Mrs Yvonne Richer and he had clarified the position regarding the Parish Council's insurance in respect of the Village Hall.

Regarding the insurance claim in respect of the tables, the matter had now been referred to the Council's Insurance Company for consideration.

ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS – STANDING ORDER NUMBER 16 - AGENDA ITEM - 17 HIGH VISIBILITY JACKETS

The Chairman stated that there had been a lack of response from Inspector Kennedy with regard to acquiring the promised high vis-jackets and this had precipitated a proposal by one of the parents on behalf of the Roger de Clare School to purchase the jackets. Stephen stated that the money to pay for the jackets might be forthcoming from the Police.

PLANNING MATTERS

1. Current Applications

(i) No objections were raised on the following:

3/10/0001/FP Ground floor front extensions and extension of first floor front dormer, alterations to window and doors to side and rear elevations at 14 South Road, Puckeridge.

(ii) Deferred application:

RESOLVED that the following application be referred to the Planning Committee for consideration:

3/09/2067/FP Construction of 2-bed agricultural worker's dwelling and integral farm office at Dowsetts Farm, Dowsetts Lane, Colliers End.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 8 December 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2009 be received.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2010 be received.

4. Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter received from East Herts Council seeking comments on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy undertaken for East Herts by Scott William Consultants. The Sustainability Appraisal was a statutory requirement under the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson had compiled a response for consideration which had been circulated to all members.

A number of suggested amendments were made and the Clerk was asked to compile a formal response on behalf of the Parish Council.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the above meeting be received.

2. Other Highways Issues

(i) Salt Bins

The Chairman reported that the bins were not being filled. Cllr Mrs Arikans stated that residents were removing salt from the bin situated on the corner of Station Road/South Road.

(ii) Indiscriminate Parking

Cllr Cowell referred to the presence of a parked AA vehicle on South Road and to the hazard caused to passing motorists. Cllr Cowell stated that it was an accident waiting to happen and he asked whether there was anyway that this problem could be alleviated. The Chairman stated that he would raise the matter at the next Highways meeting. Cllr Acford suggested contacting the AA although members felt that if the AA vehicle was removed another vehicle would take its place.

(iii) Traffic Survey A120

The Chairman referred to a letter received from Oliver Heald, MP, enclosing a copy of a letter he had received from Mr John Wood, Director of Environment and Community Services (HCC). The letter referred to a traffic survey to be undertaken in Spring 2010, reluctance on behalf of the County Council to instal safety (speed) cameras and the lowering of speed by motorists on the A120. The Chairman stated that the correspondence would be raised at the next Highways meeting.

Members asked that a copy of the correspondence be forwarded to Mr David Bell for his information.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Centre Management Committee meeting held on 18 November 2009 be received. (See Appendix A)

2. 5-year Business Plan

Members were informed that there was no business plan in place. However, it was confirmed that the following issues had been identified as requiring attention:

- (i) Repairs/replacement of concrete ramp at entrance to Community Centre.
- (ii) Repairs to guttering.
- (iii) Repairs to/replacement of doors.

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson enquired whether there had been any savings on the electricity following the installation of the new system. The information would be sought.

Prior to discussion on the following matter Cllr Acford and Stephen Whittaker (PCSO) left the meeting.

PLAYING FIELD

1. Provision of footpath to children's play area

A letter had been received from Oliver Heald, MP, seeking a Friday meeting with members of the Council and Ms Tracey Gosling (the resident raising the issue) to evaluate the problems being experienced in taking prams down to the play area.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Oliver Heald, MP, to arrange a meeting.

Note: To raise also South Road/Station Road junction and A120 speed cameras.

2. Temporary hire of ground – Ware Cricket Club

Members had been circulated with an e-mail received from Mr Jonathon Little (Ware Cricket Club) seeking the Council's permission to use a part of the Playing Field for use as a cricket pitch. The growth of the Ware Cricket Club placed considerable constraints on the current facilities. Whilst initially the use would be for 2010 and 2011, ideally the Club would be looking to establish a long-term presence. Maintenance of the pitch would be carried out by Cricket Club staff.

Cllr Cowell gave his wholehearted support to the application made by the Cricket Club and he welcomed the extended sporting facility which would be provided for the Parish.

Members further endorsed Cllr Cowell's sentiments and felt that an early meeting with the Cricket Club, the Football Club and representatives of the Parish Council should take place as early as possible.

The Clerk was asked to action this matter.

3. Inspection Report on Play Equipment

Members had been circulated with a copy of the latest Inspection Report issued by Broadmead Leisure (5.01.10), together with an estimate for repairs to the chain bridge in the sum of £950.

Members referred to a number of items in the report where work had been identified as being "in hand". The Clerk stated that in these instances instructions had been given to carry out a repair in the interests of safety and where the sums involved would not exceed £100 per item.

Cllr Mrs Dearman expressed her concern that the comments made on the report would suggest that the time might fast be approaching when a number of the items would need to be replaced and quotations would need to be obtained. Cllr Mrs Dearman undertook to enquire about grant aid.

In addition, Cllr Mrs Dearman wished to establish whether the repairs identified to the chain bridge would suggest that the equipment was a danger to the public and consideration should be given to roping off the equipment and taking it out of service.

Members felt that Broadmead Leisure should be contacted with a view to providing a report and, in the meantime, two further quotations should be obtained to effect the repair.

A resident suggested that the Parish Council could hire a temporary fencing structure which would add a degree of security. The suggestion was noted.

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

No matters were raised.

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson informed members that the next meeting would take place in February 2010.

ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk informed members that details of the agreement between the Parish Council and Standon Charities had been passed to the Council's Solicitors and there was nothing further to report on this matter.

With regard to planning permission for the change of use of the land, the Clerk confirmed that the East Herts Planning Officer had confirmed that the proposals did not represent a material change of use of the land and planning permission was not required.

PARISH PLAN

1. Minutes of the Working Party dated 16 December 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Working Party dated 16 December 2009 be received. (See Appendix B)

2. Minutes of the Working Party dated 12 January 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Working Party dated 12 January 2010 be received. (See Appendix C)

3. Parish Plan Update

In the absence of Cllr Lang, Cllr Mrs Arikans gave an update:

- The Parish Plan e-mail address parishplan@standonparishcouncil.co.uk had been activated and a quotation of £350 had been received to include an electronic version of the questionnaire on the web.
- A mobile phone (07826 656499) for the sole use of answering queries would be passed between work group members once the questionnaire was published.
- The Public Meeting was to be held on Tuesday, 2 February 2010. All Councillors were expected to attend. Apologies received from Cllrs Marks, Ms Painter and Mrs Wilkinson.
- Richard was to investigate the possibility of refreshments.
- Should Councillors wear badges?
- Posters had been put up in Barwick, Standon, Puckeridge, Colliers End and Wellpond Green.
- Cllr Mrs Dearman had asked if user groups had been notified of the meeting.
- Questionnaire to be published in the March edition of PS with additional copies available at various locations.
- A stall would be available at May Day.
- Next meeting Tuesday, 9 March 2010, after Planning Committee meeting.

STANDON VILLAGE HALL

1. Constitution

Cllr Mrs Dearman stated that there was no desire on the part of the Management Committee to change the constitution other than to give effect to the proposed change to the Parish Council representative. The Chairman reiterated his comments made at the last meeting that there was a need to have consistency with the agreement relating to the Community Centre, especially in respect of insurance matters. It was agreed that the Clerk furnish the Village Hall representatives with a copy of the Community Centre agreement in order to enable comparison.

2. Request for grant towards Arts/Crafts Exhibition

In the absence of correspondence it was agreed to defer this matter for further clarification. Cllr Goodsell agreed to action.

A request had been received to be allowed the use of Burrs Meadow in June for car parking in connection with the event and in October in connection with the Music Hall Show.

Members agreed to the June date subject to weather conditions. However, they did not agree to the October date.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 15 December 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2009 be received.
(See Appendix D)

PARISH COUNCIL MAJOR INCIDENT PLAN

Cllr Cowell agreed to produce a draft document for consideration at the next meeting.

HIGH VISABILITY JACKETS

The Chairman referred to earlier discussion in the meeting and he asked members to consider a payment of £75.43 being made to Mrs P Constantinou who had taken upon herself to purchase the jackets following the lack of response from the Police. The Chairman stated that he was still hopeful that money would be forthcoming from the Police.

RESOLVED that the sum of £75.43 be approved.

GRANT APPLICATION – ROAD VICTIMS TRUST

Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from the above organisation seeking consideration of a grant.

RESOLVED that no grant be payable.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2009 be received.

PRECEPT 2010/2011

RESOLVED that the Precept for the financial year 2010/2011 be confirmed at £60,000.

Note: Cllr Cowell raised the issue of the contribution from balances which had increased over the 2009/2010 figures. The Clerk confirmed that in his opinion the balance at the year end would exceed £25,000.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out in the attached schedule be duly authorised for payment. (See Appendix E)

2. Financial Statement

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

ITEMS OF FUTURE AGENDA

- Standon Village Hall – To receive Minutes of meeting held on 8 February 2010.
- Personnel Working Party – To receive Minutes of meeting held on 27 January 2010.
- Aviation Security Presentation by Stansted Airport Police (23 February 2010).
- Community Centre – Minutes of meeting held 20 January 2010.
- Parish Travel Plan – Car Sharing – Presentation.
- Renewal of notice boards – To receive report from the Chairman.
- Presentation – 3 Villages Eco Group.

CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Finance Committee – 18 February 2010.
- Planning Committee – 9 February 2010.
- Highways Meeting – Monday, 8 March 2010 at 10.00 am.
- Parish Council Meeting – 23 February 2010.
- Parish Plan Meeting – 2 February 2010 (Public Meeting).
- Parish Plan Working Group – 9 March after Planning meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.