

## STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Standon Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 22 June 2010, at 8.00 pm in the Community Centre.

\*Cllr M Acford

\*Cllr Mrs R Arikans

\*Cllr G D Cowell

\*Cllr Mrs J A Dearman

Cllr K Goodsell

\*Cllr A Lang

Cllr C W Marks

\*Cllr Ms E Painter

\*Cllr R M Stacey (Chairman)

\*Cllr Mrs M Wilkinson

\* denotes present.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.  
PCSO Stephen Whittaker

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Goodsell and Marks.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Acford	Personal	Wife is Chairman of the Management Committee
Cllr Acford	Personal	Standon Charities
Cllr Mrs Arikans	Personal	Allotment holder
Cllr Stacey	Personal	Employee of Herts County Council
Cllr Cowell	Personal	Employee of Environment Agency

### 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman confirmed that he had attended the East Herts Rural Conference held on 10 June 2010. He had all the presentations if anyone wanted to view them.

### 4. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

#### (i) New Football Proposal

A statement was made that the top pitch had always been well used in the past for youth football and it was now not understood what was felt to be the problem.

5. PCSO'S REPORT

Stephen gave the following information on the previous months activities:

- A lot of work had been carried out in connection with anti-social behaviour and Stephen was working closely with the local authorities and parents.
- It was disturbing to note the presence of graffiti around the village and Stephen advised that the best way of tackling the problem was to contact East Herts Council's Environmental Crime Unit.
- A successful and very positive Neighbourhood Watch meeting had taken place (Perowne Way/Wickham Hill) and the next step was to refresh the scheme for Wellpond Green.
- A lot of work had been carried out with regard to speeding on the Cambridge Road with regular checks being undertaken. A more robust approach was now being taken to speeding and it was disturbing to note that the preceding month had revealed that over 71% of those offending had been local people.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2010

RESOLVED that with the exception of Minute 14 (iv), Youth Football Team, the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

None.

8. PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 8 June 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received.

(ii) Planning applications previously circulated at the Planning Meeting

No objections were raised on the following applications:

3/10/0899/FP Replacement stables and stores at Latchford Lodge, Morley Lane, Latchford.

3/10/0900/FP Two-bed agricultural worker's dwelling and integrated farm office at Dowsetts Farm, Dowsetts Lane, Colliers End.

3/10/0923/LB Basement extension at Home Farm House, 16 High Street, Puckeridge.

## 9. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Matters raised by members:

- Weeds along the Cambridge Road.
- Sign obscured by overgrown foliage at the patrol crossing in Cambridge Road, Puckeridge.
- Ponding of water in Park Lane – it was possible that a drain was sited in the wrong place.
- Road sign 'Puckeridge' - still needed repositioning to junction of Buntingford Road/Braughing Road.
- 40mph speed sign on the A120 was still malfunctioning.
- Overgrown foliage near the school crossing Station Road.
- Parish Council to identify sites for salt bins (request by Cllr Andrews).
- Parking of vehicles in proximity to South Road/A120 junction – problem had escalated.
- Graffiti – PCSO advised to deal directly with East Herts Council not Herts County Council.

## 10. COMMUNITY CENTRE

### (i) Minutes of the Management Committee held on 26 May 2010

See Appendix A.

### (ii) Replacement of Fire Doors

The Chairman thanked the Management Committee for arranging for the work to be undertaken. Clarification of any financial contribution from the Parish Council would be referred to a future Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 26 May 2010 be noted.

## 11. PLAYING FIELD

### (i) Grasscutting Contract

No matters were raised under this item.

With regard to the grass mowings the Cricket Club had been approached with a view to curtailing the activity of depositing grass mowings under the boundary hedge.

Cllr Acford drew attention to the grass immediately surrounding the front and sides the Community Centre which was not being cut. He requested that this matter be addressed with the contractor.

(ii) Youth Football Team

To note that a notice of rescission had been received in accordance with Standing Orders.

Cllr Acford stated that this issue had been discussed at the April meeting and, therefore, a decision had been made. However, it did not mean that football would not be considered in the future.

A reference was made to an informal meeting attended by a number of members at which an indication had been given that two members could not now support the rescission notice in view of a number of matters which had been drawn to members' attention which materially effected the situation. Cllr Ms Painter was concerned that recent e-mails which had been sent out by the Clerk were only selective and a full history of what had transpired had not been made available to members.

The Clerk stated that, in view of the fact that two members had withdrawn their names from the rescission notice, there was no longer a relevant notice in accordance with Standing Orders. Therefore, no further discussion should take place and the matter should not be pursued.

12. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Acford referred members to the meeting held on 5 June (see Appendix B) and to the terms of reference emanating from the meeting. Cllr Acford, supported by Cllr Mrs Wilkinson, was pleased to record their satisfaction on the proceedings of the meeting which they had felt to be an excellent meeting which had been extremely constructive. Gratitude was extended to all those members of the Working Party for their input.

With regard to the tenancy agreement, Cllr Acford agreed to forward two copies to each member detailing the amendments to the current agreement. The members of the Working Party had agreed to meet on four occasions during the year, the next meeting being 5 July. Cllr Acford was hopeful that a good working relationship had been forged which would ensure that any problems concerning the allotments would be amicably addressed.

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson referred to the following items which had been raised

- (i) A need for a replacement water tank.
- (ii) The provision of safety gates at the Station Road entrance.
- (iii) The provision of water for the new allotment site.

Members agreed to item (i) and for estimates to be sought for items (ii) and (iii).

13. STANDON VILLAGE HALL

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received. (See Appendix C)

14. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Lang stated that there was not much to report since the last meeting and he was awaiting costings from the University of Hertfordshire.

15. LITTER AGENCY

Members were informed that the frequency of the litter agency agreement was on a weekly basis. With regard to the missing dog bin previously situated at Mill End, Cllr Mrs Dearman asked that the Clerk contact Mr Marshall and Mr Teague to clarify the situation.

16. MAJOR INCIDENT PLAN

Cllr Cowell informed members that he had now received further information from the Clerk which would enable him to complete the incident plan.

Members confirmed adoption and that delegated powers had been given to Cllr Cowell to complete the plan and to despatch the document to East Herts Council.

17. PROVISION OF NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Cllr Acford referred to the recent damage to the play equipment and he was concerned that it had collapsed with three people on it. He felt that the Parish Council was fortunate that a serious incident had not materialised. He was also concerned about the standard of reporting from Broadmead Engineering in that the condition of the play equipment had not been identified as being of a major concern. A feeling was expressed that the firm might not be competent to carry out the inspections required. It was suggested that the time had come for the Parish Council to consider securing the services of an alternative competent engineer. The Clerk referred to the report which had been received from the Zurich Municipal which had also not highlighted the equipment as being dangerous, but merely serviceable.

Cllr Cowell drew attention to the age of the damaged equipment and indeed to all the equipment situated in the play area. The majority of the equipment was over 20 years old and it might be that it was now the right time to take a critical look at the condition of all items with a view to ascertaining whether the situation had arisen whereby a serious replacement policy should be considered. A suggestion was made that a number of members meet with Broadmead Engineering with a view to undertaking a critical inspection. It was further suggested that at such a meeting an invitation be extended to parents/mothers with children who would be able to point out any problems being currently experienced..

18. PAINING OF STANDON HIGH STREET TELEPHONE BOX

It was noted that BT had placed an order on 27 February 2010 for the box to be painted. BT had confirmed that as the box was listed it would not be removed.

19. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out in Appendix D be duly authorised for payment.

With reference to the provision of four benches information was sought as to their locations. Cllr Mrs Wilkinson agreed to discuss the matter with Mr John Harris.

(ii) Financial Statement

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

(iii) Report from External Auditor

A letter had been received from the External Auditor drawing attention to an amendment required to Box 10 (Total Borrowing) to record the total borrowing as at the 31 March 2010 as amounting to £51,382.

RESOLVED that the above be authorised.

20. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- (i) Review of Standing Orders – Working Party to meet prior to the July Meeting.
- (ii) Play equipment meeting – Clerk to convene.

21. CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- (i) Finance Committee – date to be arranged.
- (ii) Highways Meeting – 23 June 2010.
- (iii) Allotment Working Party – 5 July 2010.
- (iv) Planning Meeting – 13 July 2010.
- (v) Parish Council Meeting – 27 July 2010.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.