

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 25 May 2010, at 8.00 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: 28 members of the public.
Cllr David Andrews

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Stacey be duly elected Chairman for the ensuing civic year.

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OFFICE

The Chairman duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lang and County Cllr Mrs Pitman.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Cowell be duly elected Vice chairman for the ensuing civic year.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mark Acford	Personal	Wife is Chairman of the Management Committee
Cllr Mark Acford	Personal	Standon Charities
Cllr Mrs Arikans	Personal	Allotments
Cllr Stacey	Personal	Employee of Herts County Council

6. ELECTIONS

RESOLVED that the attached list be confirmed. (See Appendix A)

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

8. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS AND PCSO REPORT

(i) Allotments

The Clerk was thanked for supplying the requested details under the Freedom of Information Act as requested by the residents backing onto the new allotments. However, the request for an environmental impact study had still to be addressed.

An assurance was requested that the tenancy agreement would not be signed before scrutiny by the Working Party. It was noticed that a shed had been erected and also decking and it was questioned whether this contravened planning laws. County Cllr Mrs Jane Pitman had visited the site and had concurred with the residents that the impact on them was significant.

Given that local thefts were taking place in the Parish, a request was made for the main entrance and the entrance on the western edge of the site to be gated to dissuade unauthorised persons from accessing the allotments.

Reference was again made to the lack of consultation with the residents, it being pointed out that 4 years had elapsed since the matter of providing additional allotment land had first been raised. It was stated that there was no problem with the provision of additional allotment land, but the concern was the location of the new site, which impacted on the lives of the residents. It was further pointed out that parking outside the residents' houses was now more difficult, as allotment holders were using this part of the highway on which to park to access their allotments.

(ii) Youth Football Club

Mr Persico gave members details of his intention to provide a youth football team which he hoped he would be able to operate on the Community Centre grounds and he sought the Parish Council's support in being allowed to operate this new venture. Positive support was received from a number of members of the public present at the meeting.

(iii) PCSO Report

Stephen gave the following information:

- He had now been in post for one year and he was pleased to report that over the past year crimes had been down by 25%.
- Regular speed checks were taking place on the A120 and on average only 2% of motorists were exceeding 36 mph.
- Cambridge Road had also been the subject of periodic speed checks. However, it was disturbing to note that 85% of people offending were villagers.

- Thefts from allotments had been investigated and periodic visits would be made to the site in the future.
- Unfortunately, the owners of the land being used by off-road vehicles at the junction of the A10/A120 had agreed not to allow the activity to continue. The Police would now be under an obligation to take action to ensure a cessation of the activity.
- Anti-social behaviour had been observed in the area of Perowne Way behind the school and a high visibility patrol had taken place.
- A Neighbourhood Watch scheme was in the process of being set up. A meeting had been called for Wednesday evening to discuss the implications.

9. MINTUES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 April 2010 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

10. MATTERS ARISING

None.

11. ALLOTMENTS

(i) Tenancy Agreement

RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the Allotment Working Party.

(ii) Constitution of the Allotment Working Party

The Clerk tabled for members' information a summary of the responses in respect of those parishioners wishing to be considered as representatives on the Allotment Working Party. Cllr Acford requested an adjournment in order for allotment holders and residents to decide on their respective representatives to which members agreed.

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned

RESOLVED that the meeting be reconvened and the below persons be appointed to serve on the Allotment Working Party:

Resident Representatives:

Mr Andrew Simmons, 93 High Street, Puckeridge
Mr Matt Harris, 85 High Street, Puckeridge

Allotment Representatives:

Mr Alan Cooper, 69 High Street, Puckeridge
Mrs Doris Windsor, 21 Station Road, Puckeridge

Parish Council Representatives:

The Parish Council representatives were confirmed as Cllr Mrs Wilkinson and Cllr Acford.

Allotment Manager

Mr Brian Durrant.

Agreed that the Allotment Working Party meeting to be convened as a matter of urgency. Cllr Acford agreed to ascertain likely dates.

(iii) Provision of Water Container – New Allotment Site

RESOLVED that this matter be referred to the Allotment Working Party.

12. PLANNING

(i) Planning Committee Meeting – 11 May 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received.

(ii) No objections were raised on the additional planning applications:

3/10/0648/FP and 3/10/0649/LB – Alterations and conversion of outbuilding at
68 High Street, Standon.

13. COMMUNITY CENTRE

(i) Community Centre Management Committee Meeting - 21 April 2010

RESOLVED that the above Minutes be received. (See Appendix B)

(ii) Consideration of path around protective cages

Now that the planning application for the grills had been approved, there was a need to provide a safe access way adjacent to the Community Centre. A previous quotation had been received from J F Sallows to extend the concrete section to the corners of the building with the new section of path to be the same width as the existing one. The price quoted at the time (20 May 2009) was in the region of £350.

RESOLVED that delegated powers be given to the Clerk and Chairman for the work to be undertaken.

14. PLAYING FIELD

(i) Provision of footpath to children's play area

The Clerk informed members that he had ascertained from the Council's Solicitors that the metalled surfaced area from Station Road to the boundary of 1 Southfield was only partly registered. The centre line of the surface being the delineation of ownership and the area abutting the play area being unregistered. As far as the unregistered land was concerned there was no way of finding out the owner. As the Council had not enclosed or used the land for the necessary period of time (12 years), there was no possibility of it seeking ownership of the land at this stage. The Council would need to decide whether to proceed to carry out any works to provide an access on the basis that it was unlikely that anyone would come forward to challenge the Council. The Clerk had established that to install a gate at the side of the play area and a small concrete section to form a new path would amount £535 + VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted and the work proceed.

The Clerk was requested to arrange for a sign to be displayed on the existing gates to the play area advising members of the public of the alternative access which would be more suitable for disabled and buggy users.

(ii) Playground meeting with Broadmead Engineering re work to play equipment

Cllr Mrs Dearman had reviewed the notes of the meeting held on 26 April 2010 attended by Mr Paul Tucker, Broadmead Leisure Ltd, and the Clerk. There were a number of items which were at variance with the report which had been received from Zurich Municipal. As the Council had reinsured with the NFU, it was noted that the inspection reports from Zurich would no longer be available and it was asked whether the NFU would be prepared to accept the reports from Broadmead Leisure Ltd. Currently the play equipment was not insured and negotiations were underway with the NFU.

(iii) New play equipment

RESOLVED that this matter be referred to a future Agenda.

(iv) Youth Football Team

The Chairman referred members to this matter which had been raised under 'Parishioners' Comments' and he gave an overview of the situation which had been discussed by the Management Committee meeting held on 21 April 2010. The Chairman further referred to the decision to refuse permission taken by the Parish Council at the last meeting which had not been taken lightly. No further discussion took place on this matter in view of no notice of rescission having been received.

15. STANDON VILLAGE HALL

(i) Letter from Management Committee dated 26 April 2010

Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from Mrs Wendy Smith, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee which in essence agreed to the reduction of the Parish Council's members from 4 to 3. However, no further amendments were approved to the document which had been signed by the Parish Council on 8 May 2006.

(ii) Website – to consider financial contribution

A letter had been received from Mrs Barbara Norris on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee confirming that it was the intention of the Committee to go ahead with a website for the Village Hall. Members agreed to incur the necessary costs, excluding the VAT. The Village Hall Committee would reimburse the Council for the net amount.

16. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2010. They approved the recommendation that the financial accounts for the year 2009/2010 be approved and that the Chairman of the Parish Council be authorised to sign the Annual Return for submission to the Audit Commission.

17. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Highways meeting – 26 March 2010

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting be received.

(ii) Highways meeting – 19 May 2010

To note that the highways meeting scheduled for 19 May 2010 had been cancelled and a new date was to be arranged.

(iii) New items raised by members

- The problem regarding the parking of vehicles on South Road near the junction of the A120 had not been resolved and was of serious concern in view of its close proximity to the entrance to Saffron Meadow.
- The bench by the river (A120) was in need of repair.
- To note that details of the locations of salt bins were on the Hertfordshire County Council's website and, therefore, there was no need for the Parish Council, as had been requested, to supply this information.
- Trees at Station Road near Britannia were encroaching onto the footway impeding sight lines.

18. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Lang had circulated members with an interim report on the community led plan, the contents of which were noted by members. (See Appendix C)

With regard to the winners of the prize draw the following winners were confirmed:

Youth – Mr Nick Dickens (£25)

Adult – Mr Steve Hill (£50)

The Chairman confirmed receipt of £1,000 received this evening from Cllr Andrews from his locality budget with members expressing their gratitude.

19. RENEWAL OF NOTICE BOARD

The Clerk gave details of the 9 notice boards, together with their locations and condition. Whilst one or two were of poor quality it was, nevertheless, felt that the Parish was served well and there was no need for the Council to consider any renewals.

Members accepted the report and the conclusion of the Clerk. Both the Clerk and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson were thanked for their action in this matter.

20. 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 D)

(ii) Financial Statement

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

21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Review of Standing Orders.
- Parish Travel Plan – Car Sharing – Presentation – Awaiting confirmation of date.
- Presentation – 3 Villages Eco Group – date to be considered.
- Painting of telephone box – Standon High Street.
- Litter Agency – Frequency of emptying of litter bins.
- Missing dog waste bin.
- Major incident plan.
- Playing fields – grass cutting contract and update on mowings left under hedgerow.
- New play equipment

22. CONFIRMATION OF DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the following meetings were confirmed:

Finance Committee – date to be arranged.

Planning Committee – 8 June 2010 – 7.00 pm.

Highways meeting – date to be arranged.

Parish Council meeting – 22 June 2010 – 7.30 pm.

23. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the Press and Public be excluded during the following Agenda item in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

24. REMUNERATION OF ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVE

RESOLVED that for the financial year 2010/2011 an ex-gratia payment of £100 be approved for Mr B Durrant.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10 pm.