

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Standon Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 25 January 2011, 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: 3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms Painter and Cllr Mrs Wilkinson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Acford	Personal	Wife – Chairman of Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre
Cllr Mrs Arikans	Personal	Allotment holder
Cllr Cowell	Personal	Employee of Environment Agency
Cllr Stacey	Personal	Employee of Herts County Council
Cllr Stacey	Personal & Prejudicial	Payment of accounts – Chairman’s allowance
Cllr Mrs Arikans	Personal & Prejudicial	Planning application 3/10/2166/FP
Cllr Marks	Personal & prejudicial	Agenda item 8 – Extra-ordinary meeting

3. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) East Herts Fund for the Future – Annual Quiz

A letter had been received from Ms Janet Mayes regarding a forthcoming annual quiz to be held on Friday, 1 April 2011, at Wodson’s Sports Centre. Invitations were extended to the Parish to send a team to the event.

4. PARISHIONERS’ COMMENTS

(i) Residential Development – Wallace Land – Puckeridge

A resident sought information as to whether responses had been received from East Herts Council and the Environment Agency in respect of the matters raised at the last meeting. The Chairman confirmed that responses had been received to which reference would be made later in the agenda.

(ii) Resignation of Cllr Mrs Dearman

A resident referred to item 26 on the agenda and wished to express his appreciation to Cllr Mrs Dearman for her services rendered to the Parish Council.

(iii) Request for Agendas

A resident asked that the Clerk ensured that 2 copies of the agenda were forwarded to the Chairman in future.

(iv) Road salt

A resident requested the Hertfordshire Highways should provide more road salt for the salt bins.

5. PCSO'S REPORT

In the absence of Stephen Whittaker the Chairman referred to an e-mail which had been received from Stephen, together with additional items as set out below:

- A break-in at the Bowls Club had been investigated.
- Residential burglaries in the parish and other areas.
- Fly-tipping occurring in Dowsetts Lane.
- The quarterly locality meeting had met on the previous Friday - official update on forthcoming priorities with speeding on the A120 and B1368 being matters of routine.
- Hare coursing also seen as a priority.
- Dog fouling on the increase around Community Centre playing field.
- Dog bin at the Community Centre overflowing.
- Cllr Marks expressed his disappointment that local issues had not been downloaded to Neighbourhood Watch and it was felt to be essential that local personnel were circulated with all such matters.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 November 2011 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Wallace Land Development

- (a) With regard to information concerning the Section 106 agreement, a letter had been received from East Herts stating that as the decision had already been made there was no opportunity to amend or add to the Section 106 agreement made by the Council. Any requests should be directed to Fairview Homes.

- (b) With regard to the request for information concerning the full survey on the drainage and associated works, a letter had been received from the Environment Agency confirming that the flood risk assessment submitted with the planning application had demonstrated that measured infiltration rates on the site were appropriate for soakaway drainage. There had been no records of ground water flooding in the area and it had not been considered that the use of soakaways on the site would increase flood risk. The geology of the site being chalk and sand were typical to soakaways.
- (c) With regard to the request that the bus stop opposite the site be upgraded as part of the Section 106 agreement, a letter received from East Herts had advised that within the County highway's consultation response to the planning application it had been indicated that £29,000 would go towards improvements to existing bus stops.

8. MINUTES OF EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING - 4 JANUARY 2011

Cllr Marks having declared a personal and prejudicial interest vacated the meeting.

- RESOLVED: (i) that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 4 January 2011 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.
- (ii) that the HR Working Party meet and discuss/agree interim arrangements and report to the next meeting.

9. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2011

- (i) Precept 2011/2012

RESOLVED that the precept be confirmed at £60,000.

- (ii) Minutes of last meeting held on 6 January 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last Finance Committee meeting held on 6 January 2011 be received.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

- (i) Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 4 January 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4 January 2011 be received.

(ii) Planning applications received subsequent to the above meeting

No objections were raised on the following planning applications:

To note that Cllr Mrs Arikans vacated the meeting prior to discussion on planning application 3/10/2166/FP having declared a personal and prejudicial interest.

3/10/2166/FP Single storey rear and front extensions, pitched roof to replace existing flat roof over porch and garage, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation at 2 Britannia, Puckeridge.

Comment: Members were happy to support the conversion of garages to habitable dwellings provided there would be no displacement of vehicles onto the public highways. This matter was felt to be a policy decision of the Council which needed to be discussed and formally approved at the next Planning Committee.

3/10/2172/FP Single storey front extension at 44A South Road, Puckeridge.

3/10/2193/FP Single storey rear extension, including alterations to existing roof, at 32 South Road, Puckeridge.

3/10/2220/FP Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory at 138 Station Road, Standon.

3/10/0028/FP Garage conversion at 2 Huntsman Close, Puckeridge.

3/11/0041/FP Single storey front extension and part garage conversion at 10 Saffron Meadow, Standon.

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Minutes of meeting held on 8 December 2010

The minutes of meeting held on 8 December 2010 were noted.

(ii) Other matters raised:

- Junction Park Lane/Station Road – recent repair work which had been undertaken was breaking up.
- Replacement of double yellow lines required at the above junction. The Chairman confirmed that he had raised this matter with Hertfordshire Highways and a default notice had been issued.
- Road sign on the filter lane from Old Hall Green to the A10 had been reversed.
- Old Hall Green Lane west of back entrance to the college (item 19) - concern expressed that no action had been taken despite the remarks that the work would be undertaken as soon as possible.

- Pelican A120 – obscured by trees (item 7). Cllr Cowell expressed concern that a comment had been made requiring an action from him. The land was felt not to be the responsibility of the Environment Agency and, therefore, it was suggested that a land search be undertaken.
- A10 subsidence – the Chairman drew attention to the fact that the problem now extended to both lanes 1 and 2 and there was evidence of the crash barrier subsiding.
- Dark lane – barriers which had been erected to undertake work at the bottom of Dark Lane were still in place despite work having been completed.

12. COMMUNITY CENTRE

(i) Update

No matters were raised under this item.

The Chairman referred to a recent e-mail concerning the possibility of the need to have in place an energy efficiency certificate and he confirmed that enquiries were being made as to whether the Council wished to have such a certificate in place.

Cllr Acford wished it placed on record that the membership of the Management Committee of the Community Centre comprised volunteer personnel who did not take any money out of the Community Centre and he was concerned that a councillor had indicated to the contrary.

(ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2010 were received. (See Appendix A)

(iii) Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19 January 2011 were submitted and it was agreed that these be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

13. PLAYING FIELD

(i) Update on Cricket Club

It was noted that there had been no further communication from Mr Little since the last letter. However, prior to this letter, Mr Little had indicated that he would undertake reinstatement when the weather improved. Members expressed their dissatisfaction and they asked that a quotation be obtained for the necessary work to be undertaken and for the Ware Cricket Club to be invoiced.

(ii) New Youth Football Team

The Chairman referred to an e-mail which had been received from Mario Persico requesting that his proposal for the use of the field by the Youth Football Club be debated at the next Parish Council meeting. Mr Persico confirmed that he would speak to relevant parties prior to the matter being discussed.

(iii) Playground Inspection Report

Members had been circulated with the latest report from Broadmead Leisure Ltd dated 4 January 2011 and made specific reference to item 13, a large log cabin slide, noting (i) graffiti under slide and (ii) right hand post rotten. This matter to be taken up with Broadmead as there had been no indication on the report of action required.

14. ALLOTMENT MATTERS

No matters were raised under this item

15. COMMUNITY LED PLAN

Members had been circulated with the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 January 2011 (See Appendix B). Cllr Lang confirmed that all was going well.

16. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

(i) Verbal Report

Reference was made to a comment from a parishioner concerning the path running beyond the school (behind Gatesbury) part of which was missing.

This matter would be drawn to the attention of P3.

(ii) Modification Order- Public Right of Way in the Bromley Area

RESOLVED that details of the proposed modification order be put on circulation to members, that details be forwarded to Mr John Harris and the matter to be discussed further at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

17. VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2011

Cllr Lang informed members that application forms were required to be submitted on or before 5 May 2011 and he was happy to undertake to carry out this work on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Acford expressed his concern at the volume of work that could be required.

It was agreed that an article be inserted into the next issue of PS to solicit volunteer help.

18. LITTER AGENCY

The Clerk informed members that 2 people had approached him with a view to taking on the litter agency previously undertaken by Mr Stacey. One of the people, Mr Ken Duckett, 5 Vicarage Close, was extremely keen to carry out the work. Members stated that it would seem that Mr Duckett had been previously litter picking in the area and, as such, he would be an admirable choice.

It was agreed that the Chairman would speak with Mr Duckett and remuneration be set at that previously paid to Mr Stacey (£420) with an indication that this would be reviewed in the future.

It was reported that the litter bin situated at the Community Centre was overflowing.

19. COMMEMORATION OF WEDDING KATE MIDDLETON TO HRH PRINCE WILLIAM

Members noted the above occasion, but they felt that any commemorative event be left to local arrangements.

20. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

It was agreed that members of the Planning Committee decide upon this issue.

21. THE LOCALISM BILL

Members had been circulated with a briefing document from the National Association of Local Councils regarding the Localism Bill which it was generally felt would not receive Royal assent for a further two years. However, it was important for the Parish Council to be alerted to the practical and financial implications which would emanate as a result of what would appear to be a devolution of functions down to Parish Councils.

22. CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

Cllr Mrs Arikans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above matter and vacated the meeting.

Members had been circulated with a briefing note from Stop Stansted Expansion regarding the above. Members noted that the document expressed the views of only SSE and that there had been no document received from the CAA.

RESOLVED that this item be reviewed at a future meeting of the Parish Council and, in the meantime, a reference to its contents be placed on the website and in the next edition of PS News.

23. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Chairman, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the payment of accounts vacated the meeting.

RESOLVED that the accounts for payment as set out in the attached statement be duly authorised for payment and the financial statement be received.
(See Appendix C)

24. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Replacement play equipment.
- Standon Charities – Review of Poor Land as part of Community Growing Initiative – Awaiting response from Standon Charities.
- Review of Standing Orders.
- Update on telephone boxes
- PCSO review.
- Provision of dog bins/litter bins.
- Review of allotment rents (February meeting).
- Youth Football Club.
- May Day – request for use of field.
- Community Centre – Minutes of meeting held on 19 January 2011.

25. CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Planning Committee – 8 February 2011.
- Finance Committee – 7 April 2011.
- Highways Meeting – 9 February 2011.
- Parish Council Meeting – 27 February 2011.
- Standon Village Hall Committee – 7 February 2011.
- Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre – 3 March 2011.
- Community Led Plan – 27 January 2011.

26. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR

The Chairman confirmed that he had received a formal notice of resignation from Cllr Mrs Dearman and he wished on behalf of the Council to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the last 3 years of her term of office.

Footnote: The Chairman stated that this would be the last meeting that the Clerk would attend as he was retiring on 31 January 2011. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to John for all his work during his association with the Parish Council.

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