

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Standon Parish Council held on Tuesday, 23 February 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: 5 members of the public
PCSO Stephen Whittaker
PC Tony Morris
Sergeant Duncan Wallace

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Acford.

2. DECLARTIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Stansted Airport Conference

A new date was to be set for after March.

(ii) Launch of Hertfordshire Policing Plan 2010/2011

Invitation to attend the above to be held on Monday, 29 March 2010. The Clerk to distribute information to all members.

4. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Telephone line to Southfields

A resident voiced concern regarding the problems being experienced with BT concerning the provision of a telephone service to the properties in Southfields and he expressed his appreciation for the work the Parish Council was undertaking to have the matter satisfactorily resolved.

An additional related matter was raised concerning the lack of signage (Chapter 8) for the work undertaken, a plea for the Parish Council to press for the cabling to be placed underground (option 2 of the Clerk's letter to the residents) and for careful scrutiny of the wayleave conditions.

(ii) Website

Disappointment was expressed by a resident that the Agenda had not been posted on the website.

(iii) Parish Plan

An enquiry was made as to whether it was too late to have an input into the Parish Plan.

(iv) Phone Box – Standon High Street

It was reported that there were two broken panes of glass and damaged equipment in the telephone box. A request was made for BT to effect a repair.

5. PCSO'S REPORT

Stephen reported on the following matters:

- The problem of motorists parking near the video shop was being pursued with East Herts Council.
- Weekly speed checks were being carried out on the A120 with proportionally very few motorists exceeding the speed limit.
- Dog fouling bags were being distributed to shops and on notice boards as well as posters.
- There had been very few cases of anti-social behaviour during the school holiday period. Visits were being undertaken to schools in relation to parking issues during school times.

Sergeant Duncan Wallace gave the following report:

- He confirmed that speed checks were now a regular duty as part of the Police Locality Plan.
- PC Tony Morris was now permanently stationed at Buntingford and two dedicated special constables had been appointed.
- A conviction had been secured in respect of the body parts found in various locations in the Parish.
- There had been a significant decrease in reported crime over the last 12 months.

The Chairman enquired as to whether the Parish Council would receive reimbursement of the funding for the high-visibility jackets purchased in respect of the walking bus project. Sergeant Duncan Wallace stated that there was a JAG meeting this coming Thursday where the matter would be raised.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2010

PCSO'S Report – page 2 – item 3

Delete: 'Heavy lorries' and insert 'Hare coarsing'.

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) South Road Junction/A120

Rationale still awaited.

(ii) Community Centre – Trade Waste Bin

East Herts Council had been approached with a view to securing additional keys.

8. PLANNING

(i) Current Applications

No objections were raised on the following application:

3/10/0208/FP First floor side extension at 8 Perowne Way, Puckeridge.

(ii) Additional Applications

None.

(iii) Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 January 2010

RESOLVED that the above Minutes be received.

(iv) Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2010

RESOLVED that the above Minutes be received.

(v) Planning Applications – Consultation Document

Members had been circulated with a copy of the above document with a view to formulating comments in time to meet the deadline of 19 March 2010. It was agreed that the document be referred to the next meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 9 March 2010 with members submitting any comments to the Clerk which they felt required inclusion in a response.

9. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Salt Bins

There had been a lack of response to the request for the bins to be restocked. Many were still empty. This matter would be chased with Hertfordshire Highways

(ii) Telegraph Poles –Southfields

The matter raised by a resident concerning Chapter 8 signage would be referred to Hertfordshire Highways.

(iii) Potholes

It was reported that there was a large pothole near the almshouses in Standon.

(iv) Indiscriminate Parking

It was reported that more vehicles were being parked in the vicinity of the AA parked vehicle. The police, plus the PCSOs agreed to visit the site.

Standing Orders were suspended:

Concerns were raised by parishioners regarding the above item and the resultant traffic hazard. Vehicles exiting the A120 were having to move over to the opposite side of the road to negotiate the parked vehicles thus being in conflict with traffic exiting Saffron Meadow.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

10. COMMUNITY CENTRE

(i) Minutes of Community Centre Management Committee Meeting held on 20 January 2010

RESOLVED that the above Minutes be noted. (See Appendix A)

11. PLAYING FIELD

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

The Chairman reported on a meeting which had taken place with Oliver Heald, MP, at which the above matter had been discussed. There was some sympathy with the request for the provision of a more suitable surface. Cllr Marks was also of the opinion that something should be done as mothers with buggies were having great difficulty in negotiating the steep entrance to the play area.

The Chairman felt that should it be decided to undertake remedial work, then an approach could be made to Cllrs Mrs Jane Pitman and David Andrews with a view to such work being funded from their Locality Budget Scheme. It was suggested that in order to progress the matter, costings should be obtained and an approach should be made to Hertfordshire Highways or CDA as to the most appropriate form of surface.

Standing Orders were suspended.

A resident raised her concerns regarding the difficulty experienced by mothers with buggies and felt that the Parish Council ought to proceed to provide an adequate surface.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

The Clerk pointed out that this matter had previously been discussed by the Parish Council when a decision had been taken not to provide the surface. Should there be any deviation to this Resolution of the Council, then a notice of rescission would be required.

(ii) Temporary hire of Ground

The Clerk confirmed that he had set up a meeting for Monday, 1 March with Mr Little of the Ware Cricket Club and Mr Howden of the Football Club to progress this matter. Cllr Cowell had submitted some initial points which would need to be addressed. Mrs Denise Axford had been appraised of the situation and both Mr Howden and Mr Little would be speaking to Denise to discuss the active participation of both Clubs in the Community Centre facilities.

(iii) Quotations to repair chain bridge

The following quotations had been received:

J F Sallows Farming and Landscape	£475
Broadmead Leisure Limited	£950
FCB Building and Decorating	£1,160

Cllr Mrs Dearman expressed an opinion that she felt it necessary to employ a contractor who was involved with the Leisure Industry and she had undertaken some research on this matter with the Association of Play Industries. She confirmed that having met with Broadmead Engineering and the Clerk, it had been established that the equipment was not in a dangerous condition and did not represent a threat to the safety of patrons. Cllr Ms Painter suggested that discussions take place with Broadmead Engineering to establish if there was any set specification for the work necessary and for the matter to be discussed with Martin Sallows.

RESOLVED that delegated powers be given to the Chairman, Cllr Cowell and the Clerk to expediate this matter.

12. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson referred members to the contents of the attached Minutes. (See Appendix B)

13. ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk advised members that having discussed this matter with the Council's Solicitor, he had been informed that a draft lease had been prepared and would be dispatched to him fairly shortly.

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson referred to an estimate which had been received to undertake a widening of the access road to the new area of land in the sum of £117.50.

Members approved the expenditure and noted the report of the Clerk.

14. PARISH PLAN

(i) Parish Plan Update

Cllr Lang gave members the following update. (See Appendix C)

(ii) Prize Draw for Questionnaire Winner

As questionnaire had not been distributed yet a prize could not be drawn. This item was deferred to the April meeting after questionnaires had been returned.

15. STANDON VILLAGE HALL

(i) Constitution

Cllr Goodsell referred members to Minutes 3 (b) of the Minutes of the Standon Village Hall Committee held on 8 February 2010 which set out the agreed course of action.

(ii) Minutes of meeting held on 8 February 2010

RESOLVED that the above Minutes be noted. (See Appendix D)

16. PARISH COUNCIL MAJOR INCIDENT PLAN

To note that the draft document was currently out on circulation, but had been misplaced. If necessary a new version could be downloaded from Herts Direct website.

17. TELEPHONE SERVICE TO SOUTHFIELDS

The Chairman informed members that the matter concerning the above had been raised with Oliver Heald, MP, who had formally written to the Director of Public Affairs setting out the concerns of the Parish Council and local residents. A formal letter of apology had now been received from BT and wayleave to regularise the situation was awaiting approval by the Council.

The Chairman referred to the meeting which had taken place with Oliver Heald, MP, and had been attended by him, Cllr Marks, the Clerk and a representative of BT Openreach, Mr Scott Saunders. Two options had emerged from the meeting both involving the retention of the poles. Option 1 was to take the supply from the top of the poles to the individual properties and option 2 was to bury the cabling between the poles and run the supply up the poles to the individual properties. Concerns had been expressed that option 1 could possibly involve damage to the trees. Option 2 was being considered by BT. The Clerk confirmed that subsequent to the meeting, BT had indicated their agreement to option 2 with a further agreement to re-site the pole situated opposite number 22.

Members expressed their satisfaction with BT's agreement and delegated powers were given to the Clerk and the Chairman to satisfactorily conclude the wayleave agreement.

18. PERSONNEL WORKING PARTY – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2010

The Chairman reported on the above meeting and he confirmed that the Clerk's appraisal had taken place and a letter of intent in respect of the Clerk's retirement position would be issued in due course.

19. FINANCE COMMITTEE – 18 FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 18 February 2010 be noted.

20. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as detailed on the attached schedule be duly authorised for payment. (See Appendix E)

(ii) Financial Statement

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

21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Aviation Security Presentation by Stansted Airport Police (23 March 2010).
- Parish Travel Plan – Car Sharing – Presentation – awaiting confirmation of date.
- Renewal of notice boards.
- Presentation – 3 Villages Eco Group – date to be considered.
- Revised Standing Orders
- To review effectiveness of Internal Audit.

22. CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- Finance Committee – 20 May 2010.
- Planning Committee – 9 March 2010.
- Parish Plan Working Party – 9 March 2010.
- Highways Meeting – Monday, 8 March 2010 at 10.00 am.
- Parish Council meeting – 23 March 2010.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.41 pm.