

SPC STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd February 2011 in the Community Centre, Station Road, Puckeridge at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors: Richard Stacey (Chair), Graham Cowell, Ken Goodsell, Mark Acford, Mary Wilkinson

Interim Clerk: Belinda Irons

PUBLIC: 3

11.27 Apologies for absence: Alex Lang, Emma Painter, Colin Marks, Ruth Arikans

11.28 Other absences: none

11.29 Declaration of Member's Interests (prejudicial/personal):

Cllr Stacey: Employee of Herts Highways (Herts County Council)

Cllr Acford: Mrs Acford is Chairman of Community Centre Management Committee Standon Charities

Cllr Cowell: Employee of Environment Agency

11.30 Minutes of Previous Parish Council Meeting: 25th January 2011:

Cllr Arikans reported via email that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th January did not accurately report that she remained in the room after making a declaration of interest. The minutes were duly amended. PROPOSED: Cllr Cowell, seconded: Cllr Goodsell. AGREED AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

11.31 Minutes of the HR Working Party/Extra Ordinary parish Council Meeting: February 2011: Minutes of the meeting were previously supplied to Councillors for comments. Cllr Stacey reported that the Working Party had agreed to appoint Belinda Irons as the Interim Clerk, and Barbara Norris as the Deputy Clerk until such time as a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer was appointed. Cllr Stacey thanked both ladies for supporting the Council and formally welcomed them to their posts.

Appointment of Interim Clerk: Belinda Irons: AGREED.

Appointment of Interim Deputy Clerk: Barbara Norris: AGREED

PROPOSED: Cllr Cowell, seconded, Cllr Goodsell. AGREED AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.

11.32 PCSO Report:

The Chairman read the PCSO report, received via email, to the meeting:

I'd like to apologise for not being able to attend this month's meeting, which has once again fallen on my rest day.

During late January and February a number of garages in Gauldie Way and Roundhay were reportedly broken in to. These buildings form part of garage blocks that are unlit and not directly overlooked.

- Circle Anglia have been made aware
- Advice has been included in the next PS News article
- Those with garages are asked to review their security

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Between 2300hrs on Thursday 3rd February and 0700hrs on Friday 4th February 2011, some vehicles were damaged on Station Road - They had their roof mounted aerials removed. There were no sightings of offenders or any other significant information offered about these crimes.

I have been contacted by a number of parents concerned about the parking of vehicles outside the schools on Station Road during the drop off / pick up times.

As these are mainly reports of parking on the zig-zag lines, I have been speaking with East Herts Parking Services about increasing their patrols of the area at this key time.

- I have made several patrols and spoken with parents about their parking
 - Cllr David Andrews has also offered his support
 - The local Parent forum / group will also be working to raise awareness of this issue
 - There have been a number of suspicious vehicles seen in the Standon and Puckeridge area and reported to Police recently. This is always encouraged and I'd like to thank all members of the community who have been looking out for any persons or vehicles that they do not think are "right" – many of these reporting persons have been members or co-ordinators of the local Neighbourhood Watches.
 - As ever, if you see any persons or vehicles that you feel are suspicious or have any incidents of anti-social behaviour to report, please contact us on the non-emergency telephone number 0845 33 00 222 as soon as possible. Remember; always use 999 in an emergency.
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Meeting suspended for

Adjournment for Public Discussion: limited to 15 minutes:

A parishioner responded to Item 7.1.b of the January 2011, minutes regarding the Environment Agency report on Wallace Land. He stated that flooding had been recorded around and on the land in question, although the report stated to the contrary, and that the geology of the site had been inaccurately recorded. The parishioner wants to fully investigate this issue with the Environment Agency and requested a copy of the Environment Agency documentation and the Fairview application, which the Chairman stated would be supplied.

A parishioner reported that repairs made over time to the A120 at the top of Chalk Pit Hill had not been carried out using the correct materials, and requested the Council raise this issue with Herts Highways. The Chairman reported that this was in hand.

Meeting resumed

11.33 Chairman's Announcements:

EHDC Mr Kevin Steptoe has emailed that a conservation work assessment is to be conducted in the near future by Mr Bosworth.

11.34 Clerk Vacancy:

Advertisements have been posted to the parish notice boards and the web site, HAPTC web site, and is due for publication for one week in the Hertfordshire Mercury newspaper. Interviews are due to be held on the 1st April.

11.35 Planning:

Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee meeting: February 2011: APPROVED.

Planning Applications

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3/11/0173/FP Planning application	Barn Cottage, Mill End, Standon Front dormer window: <i>no objection</i>
3/11/0195/FP & 3/11/0196/LB Planning & Listed Building application	St Edmunds College, Old Hall Green Refurbishment of Quadrangle: <i>no objection</i>

Planning Decisions

3/10/2166/FP Decision awaited	2 Britannia, Puckeridge Single storey rear and front extensions, pitched roof to replace existing flat roof over porch and garage, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation.
3/10/2172/FP Decision awaited	44A South Road, Puckeridge
3/10/2193/FP Decision awaited	32 South Road, Puckeridge Single storey rear extension, inc. Alterations to existing roof
3/10/2220/FP Decision awaited	138 Station Road, Standon Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory
3/11/0028/FP Decision awaited	2 Huntsman Close, Puckeridge Garage conversion
3/11/0041/FP Decision awaited	10 Saffron Meadow, Standon Single storey front extension and part garage conversion

11 Wickham Way has been refused.

11.36 Finance: Itemised Payments will be shown on a separate Appendix

Finance Summary:	Balance Brought Forward:	£57,954.31
	Plus Income	£0.00
	Less Payments	£2,477.65
	Total available to Council	£55,477.66

Approval of payments: PROPOSED: Cllr Acford, seconded Cllr Wilkinson.

AGREED AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

11.37 Highways Issues:

Minutes of the Highways Meeting: 9th February 2011: ACCEPTED

Update:

Pot holes: Herts Highways has advised they are being repaired

A10 subsidence: Herts Highways will continue to monitor the situation
Old A10: Streetlight bent over with lamp on the ground and full of water
(note to minutes: reported on Herts Direct web site 24.2.2011)

Members expressed their continuing concern over the level of service provided by Herts Highways and will press for increased action through the District and County Councillors and the Member of Parliament.

Telephone Boxes:

The Parish Council wishes to adopt the Puckeridge box, and have the South Road box removed. BT to be chased to paint the Standon box.

CLERK TO

ACTION

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South Road/Station Road junction: oak tree: Councillors expressed concern that this very old tree does not have any legal protection. The Clerk will investigate how to get a tree preservation order with EHDC.

CLERK TO

ACTION

The Chairman suspended the meeting to enable a member of the parish to speak:

Pot holes reported on the A10 are repaired swiftly, but those on side roads are not.

The Chairman resumed the meeting.

11.38 Community Centre:

Minutes of the meeting: 19th January 2011: ACCEPTED

The path around the heating system protective grills still needs to be actioned.

CLERK TO

ACTION

11.39 Standon Village Hall:

Minutes of the Standon Village Hall Committee: 7th February 2011: ACCEPTED

11.40 Playing Field and Playground:

Cricket Square:

update:

The Cricket Club has emailed with an intention to repair the damage to the square in April provided weather conditions are suitable.

Youth Football Club:

update:

The organiser is due to meet with the Community Centre Management Committee and the Adult football team, and the Parish Council will be guided by their comments when taking a decision.

Playground Inspection:

update:

Item 13 points 1 & 4 have are not clarified as being repaired. The Clerk will investigate with the contractor.

CLERK TO

ACTION

- 11.41 May Day event: Cllr Acford updated those present that the costs of holding the annual event had spiralled over the past few years from nothing to approximately £3,500, with ensuing liability and risk. Cllr Acford explained that the aim of the event was to raise the profile and profits of local organisations and charities, and provide parishioners with an enjoyable traditional event.

Whilst the event has sufficient funds to ensure it will take place this year, he raised the possibility that, due to the high cost of insurance, policing, and associated expenditure, the Committee may wish to pass this to the Parish Council in future.

Cllr Acford also reported that the May Day Committee has committed to the purchase and erection of a grave head stone for Mr Arthur Clements, a lifelong resident of Standon whose grave is unmarked.

- 11.42 Allotments: Update:
Cllr Wilkinson reported that the hedge has been thickened up by the replanting work carried out by the contractor. A working party meeting is required to agree how to use the buffer zone land as no agreement was reached at the previous meeting. The Working Party also needs to request the Parish Council record the items needed in the future, such as planting

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of the buffer zone, the provision of new security gates at the allotment entrance in Station Road.

- 11.43 Community Led Plan:
Minutes of the Community Led Plan Group: 27th January 2011: ACCEPTED.
Verbal update: 8th February: the Chairman thanked all members of the group for their hard work. A draft document should be available in March, with the finalised document available April/May.

- 11.44 Parish Paths Partnership (P3)
Modification Order – Public Right of Way: Bromley Lane area:
Cllr Wilkinson reported that this is an unused path with a more suitable and well used path running very close by, and there were no objections to it being closed.
Cllr Wilkinson also reported that John Harris is seeking funding for a board showing local footpaths and pubs, to be sited close to the pudding stone in Standon.

- 11.45 Village of the Year Competition 2011:
Cllr Lang has expressed an interest in co-ordinating an application. Cllr Acford stated that as it has been identified in the Community Led Plan as an action the community wishes to undertake, an application should be supported.

- 11.46 Litter Agency: update:
EHDC: Review of litter picking agreement: update
The Clerk reported she was still waiting an update on future funding from EHDC.
Council agreed she would formally write for clarification. **CLERK TO ACTION.**

Provision of dog waste bins in Station Road: update: The contractor will liaise with the Chairman regarding the exact position of the new bin. The Chairman reported the metal bins continue to be stolen.

- 11.47 Annual Parish Meeting: Suggested Agenda items:
The Chairman's video
Reports from the following parish organisations:
Brownies & Scouts
Village Hall
Community Centre
Three Villages Eco Group
U3A
May Day Committee
- 11.48 Local Council Elections:
The Chairman requested Councillors express their intentions privately to him or the Clerk prior to the election.
The Chairman also reported that EHDC are holding a 'Councillor Event' for prospective District Councillors.
Vacancy: The Clerk recommended that Council make a decision regarding either waiting for the election to fill the vacancy, or fill by co-option prior to the election.
PROPOSAL: 'That Standon Parish Council herewith agree to wait for the outcome of the Local Government Elections before making a decision regarding co-option to fill the current vacancy'. PROPOSED: Chairman. AGREED AND RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY.
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- 11.49 Standon Charities: Charitable Donations to Parishioners:
Parishioners suffering 'hardship and need' are invited to apply for funds from the charity. There are no age limits, and no limits restricting requests. Applications are to be made by letter to John Harris.

Update: Cllr Acford stated there are currently 11 almshouses helping those in need or hardship. It is anticipated that a further dwelling will be provided in the village. Many are let to young people who cannot afford to privately rent or purchase.
- 11.50 Standing Orders: review: ongoing: **CLERK TO ACTION**
- 11.51 Correspondence:
Bowls Club: Request a meeting to discuss the lease. The clerk will obtain more information prior to a meeting being arranged. **CLERK TO ACTION**

Community Centre: Hedge cutting: The Clerk has contacted both the complainant and the contractor regarding an elder bush growing on the field. **CLERK TO ACTION**

Email:
Herts CPRE Village of the Year Competition: see item 11.45 above

Great British Elm Experiment:

Three Villages Eco Group will be supplied with saplings grown from Dutch Elm Disease Resistant parents, and are committed to monitoring them for at least ten years as part of this experiment to see which, if any, succumb. Saplings are available for purchase. For further information please see www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms

11.52 Items for future agenda:

Youth Football Club Presentation
Dog Waste Bins
Contracts: Finance Committee
Telephone Boxes
Standing Orders
Sub-Committees

11.53 Dates of Next Meetings:

Finance Sub-Committee:	7 th April 2011
Planning Sub-Committee:	8 th March 2011
Highways Meeting:	6 th April 2011
Standon Village Hall Committee and AGM:	9 th May 2011
Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre:	3 rd March 2011
Community Led Plan Group:	8 th March 2011

Parish Council Meetings:

22 nd March	26 th April	24 th May: AGM & APM	28 th June	26 th July
27 th September	25 th October	22 nd November.		
Annual Parish Meeting: 24 th May				

Meeting closed at 9.22pm

AGENDA AND MINUTES AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL FROM THE CLERK FREE OF CHARGE