

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Standon Parish Council held on Tuesday, 27 October 2009, 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: 15 members of the public for the presentation.
4 members of the public for the Parish Council meeting.

PRESENTATION ON ALTERNATIVE REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Mr T Walcock, Waste Management Manager (EHC) gave a presentation on the new refuse collection system.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lang and Cllr Ms Painter.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Acford	Community Centre (wife is Chairman of the Management Committee)	Personal
Cllr Stacey	Litter Agency	Personal

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Herts County Council's Transport Planning and Policy Team

The Chairman informed members that he had accepted an invitation to attend a workshop being organised the County Council on the future of transport in the County to be held on 25 November 2009. Two places had been booked to allow for one other member to attend.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

1. Joint Parish Council/Herts Highways Meetings

Comments made that the double white lines along the A120 through Standon were totally non-compliant with traffic management regulations and for this matter to be raised at the next joint Highways/Parish Council meeting on 13 November 2009.

2. Estate Agents' Boards

Proliferation of estate agents' boards on highway land in particular at the junction of Station Road/Kents Lane. Boards were in-situ where there was no visible sign of any development taking place or properties for sale.

3. Standon Travel Forum

Reference made to the token promise given that prior to the installation of road humps along Station Road as part of the traffic calming measures, a steel bollard would be provided at the northern corner of the junction of Park Lane with Station Road.

4. Standon Bridge (A120)

It was reported that the side of the footpath was in a filthy condition and was in need of cleansing. The hedge also required cutting back.

5. Traffic Regulation Sign (A120)

Mention was made to the traffic regulation sign situated on the A120 west of the Barwick Lane junction which was still in-situ. The Order for this sign had been instigated prior to the construction of the A10 bypass to deter rat running along Barwick Lane. The Chairman stated that the residents had requested that the sign remain.

6. New Incinerator - Westmill Landfill Site

Reference was made to the recent exhibition held at the Roebuck Hotel, Ware, on 9 and 10 October 2009 outlining the proposals to build a 38 megawatt combined heat and power facility on the present site adjacent to the industrial site and located at the junction of the A10 and the A602. Reference was made to the size of the development being horrendous, which could have a serious visual impact on the area.

7. Land Corner of Park Lane/Station Road

It was reported that there was a large brick situated on the site which was a potential trip hazard for pedestrians. The Chairman agreed to speak with Cllr Marks on this matter as the land was in private ownership. A land search by the County Council had established that the land was not owned by the County Council.

8. Station Road/High Street, Puckeridge

Concerns were expressed regarding the continuing indiscriminate parking of vehicles at the above location which represented a serious traffic hazard.

PCSO'S REPORT

In the absence of PCSO Stephen Whittaker there was no report available.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2009

Page 8 – Confirmation of Dates of Meetings:

- (iii) Presentation by East Herts – amend date to Tuesday, 27 October 2009.
- (v) Highways Meeting – amend date to Friday, 13 November 2009.

Having given effect to the above amendments the Minutes were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Amenity Bulb Planting

The Chairman informed members that the Parish Council had been unsuccessful in obtaining the bulbs under the amenity planting scheme. However, an application would be submitted next year. Thanks to parishioner for bringing this to the attention of the Parish Council.

2. Tree damage outside 7 Town Farm Crescent

The Chairman stated that this matter was being pursued by the residents and a response was awaited.

3. Salt Bins

Cllr Goodsell reported that the salt bin situated at the top of Batchelors was now full. The Chairman reported that the bin situated at Tollsworth Way was still empty. No reports were forthcoming on the remaining bins.

PLANNING

1. Current applications

3/09/1621/LB Secondary window glazing to all first floor windows and ground floor kitchen window at 2 Mill End Cottages, Mill End, Standon.

To note that the deadline for receipt of comments was 11 November 2009 which was following the date of the next Planning Committee (10 November). The plans had, therefore, been put on circulation for members' comments.

2. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 October 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 October 2009 be received.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The following additional items were raised to those previously raised by parishioners:

1. Batchelors/South Road Junction

To note that no remedial work had been undertaken to address the deterioration of the highway surface at this location.

2. Station Road, Puckeridge

The Chairman referred to two letters which had been received from Oliver Heald, MP with regard to matters which had been raised with him by constituents, viz:

- (i) Possible width restriction on South Road at its junction with Station Road;
- (ii) Lack of speed humps at the northern end of Station Road.

The matters had been taken up with Herts Highways and responses had been received which indicated that the matters had been fully investigated and no further action was planned.

The Chairman stated that he would discuss the problems with the District Manager, Herts Highways.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Minutes of meeting held on 10 September 2009

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

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes be referred to the next meeting.

3. 5-year business plan

The Chairman stated that this document had not yet been produced, but there were matters which had been identified by the Management Committee, viz replacement of outside ramp and replacement door frames which might need to be addressed by the Parish Council.

4. Tarmac footpath from car park to play area

The Chairman referred to a letter received from Oliver Heald, MP, with regard to a problem raised by a constituent concerning the difficulty of getting a buggy into the park by the side of the Community Centre. The existing path was stony and uneven and the suggestion made was that the path be tarmaced or improved in some way.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A resident supported the need for a more suitable surface to be laid as the path was well used by mothers taking their children to the park and the present path constituted a danger.

REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

Members were generally supportive of the path surface being improved, but felt that a tarmac surface would not be appropriate and that a rustic path would be more in keeping.

The Chairman asked that members view the site in order to assess a way forward.

PLAYING FIELDS – FENCING PLAY AREA ABUTTING STATION ROAD

Members were informed that the cost of replacing the chain link fence abutting Station Road with bow top fencing would be in the region of £2,000. A letter received from East Herts Council advised that should the fencing be in excess of one metre in height, then a formal planning application would be required.

The general consensus of opinion was that, as there had been no further incidents of damage, then the existing chain link fence should remain with the gate being permanently locked.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

A resident suggested that the Parish Council could consider replacing the present chain link fencing with chain link fencing made from high tensile steel covered in pvc.

REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

A letter had been received from the Rights of Way Unit (HCC) with regard to the proposed diversion of the public footpath running through the grounds of St Edmund's College.

The Chairman referred to the previous history when the Parish Council had raised no objection to the previous proposals for a re-routing of the footpath and which had been supported by both the County Council and the Parish Paths Partnership with only one objection being raised by the Ramblers Association.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council reiterate its support of the proposed modification.

ADOPTION OF LOCAL RED TELEPHONE KIOSK

A letter had been received from BT inviting the Parish Council to consider adopting for the sum of £1 the red telephone kiosks situated at the below listed locations. Essentially this would mean that BT would remove the equipment with ownership and and future maintenance of the structure being transferred to the Parish Council.

Telephone number	Listed	Address
01920821553	Yes	Near junction Park Lane/High Street Station Road, Puckeridge
01920821510	Yes	Pco Pco821510 Colliers End
01920821227	Yes	Pco Wellpond Green
01920821208	Yes	Pco Aston Road, Standon

The Chairman reminded members that BT had approached the Parish Council on a previous occasion with a similar request when the Parish Council had agreed to the following:

Standon High Street box – To be retained without equipment.

South Road/Aston Road box – To be removed.

Station Road box – To be retained, equipment to be replaced and Parish Council to pay £500 per annum for the maintenance.

RESOLVED: (i) that the following boxes be not adopted with agreement for them to be removed:

Pco Colliers End
Pco Wellpond Green

(ii) that the Parish Council's previous decision with regard to the Original response be reiterated.

EAST HERTS PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP

To note that two workshops were being held one on Monday, 2 November 2009 (10.00 am to 12.00 noon) at the Council Chamber, Wallfields, and one on Monday, 9 November 2009 (6.30 pm to 8.30 pm) at Waytemore Road, Bishop's Stortford. Cllr Cowell indicated his desire to attend the 9 November workshop.

HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY – RURAL PARISH COURSES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 had been circulated to all members. With regard to the next meeting to be held on 10 December 2009 both the Chairman and the Clerk agreed to attend.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be received.

PROPOSALS FOR MERGER OF THE PRIMARY CARE TRUST

A letter had been received from NHS East of England outlining proposals for the merger of the East and North Hertfordshire and West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trusts. A six week consultation process had been instigated and the Parish Council's views were being sought.

The Clerk informed members that he had discussed the proposals with Dr Nicholson (Puckeridge Health Centre) and he had been assured that the proposals would not impact on the provision of patient care.

RESOLVED that the contents of the letter be noted.

ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk stated that he was endeavouring to set up a meeting with Mr John Harris in order to progress this matter.

PARISH PLAN

The Chairman informed members that Cllr Lang had booked the William Davies Hall from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm and the Lankester Lounge from 5.00 pm to 8.30 pm for 17 November 2009 to provide a platform for parishioners to attend the Community Centre to give their views on the Parish Council's proposals to produce a Parish Plan (ie "an all day drop-in").

Members questioned the need to embark on such a process and agreed that it would be more appropriate for members of the Parish Plan Working Group (Cllrs Lang, Mrs Arikans, Goodsell, Ms Painter and Stacey, ex officio) to meet on 17 November at 7.00 pm to formulate the necessary questionnaire in advance of a public meeting.

Members were desirous of this matter being programmed as a matter of urgency.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr Michael Marshall indicated that he would be willing to assist the Working Group.

REINSTATEMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

LITTER AGENCY

A letter received from Mr T Watkins, Waste Service Manager (EHC), confirmed that, in view of the increase in the number of litter bins emptied as part of the Litter Agency agreement (from 15 to 26), the District Council was prepared to increase the present payment by an additional £420 per annum.

RESOLVED that the above be noted and that the matter be referred to the next meeting.

HAPTC COMMUNICATION

To note that an Informal Drop-in had been convened for Thursday, 19 November 2009 to be held at the Wheathamsted Memorial Hall.

STANDON VILLAGE HALL CONSTITUTION

Members had been circulated with a copy of the current constitution for information.

RESOLVED that a review of the constitution be undertaken by the following Councillors:

Cllrs Mrs Dearman, Goodsell and Ms Painter.

BUS SHELTER – COLLIERS END OPPOSITE RAJ VILLA

The Chairman informed members that the Clerk had been in discussion with Mr Dan Tancock, Passenger Transport Unit, Herts County Council, and he had been advised that the County Council was prepared to provide a shelter at the above location for the sum of £5,800 on condition that the Parish Council contributed the sum of £1,000. Maintenance costs would be absorbed by the County Council. The County Council was also prepared to provide the structure in the current financial year in advance of the Parish Council's contribution which would be included in the 2010/2011 precept.

Members were keen to see a shelter provided at this location which would address the number of complaints received that the previous structure on the site had never been replaced. It was also felt that the financial arrangement was an extremely good deal for the Parish Council.

However, Cllr Cowell questioned whether the proposed site fell within the boundary of Thundridge Parish Council and, therefore, was outside the remit of Standon Parish Council. Cllr Acford wished to express thanks to the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the proposals as outlined by the County Council be accepted subject to confirmation that the proposed site was within the Standon Parish boundary.

RENEWAL OF NOTICE BOARDS

The Chairman stated that a report on the renewal of notice boards would be prepared shortly, which would include as part of the proposal the utilisation of the adopted red telephone kiosks.

CDA – SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ASSOCIATION

The Chairman referred to his reference at the last meeting when he had suggested that the Parish Council consider joining the CDA. The Chairman felt that the benefits derived would far outweigh the modest subscription rate of £30 per annum.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council apply for membership of the Association.

PARISH TRAVEL PLAN

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson gave a report on the above with specific reference to the Car Share Scheme which could be operated at Parish level. The whole ethos behind the scheme was to reduce CO2 emissions, relieve parking, reduce car journeys and driver stress. The scheme would involve both car and non-car users.

Members were receptive of the scheme and requested that a representative of the CDA be asked to give a presentation at the January 2010 meeting of the Parish Council. It was also suggested that details be forwarded to the 3-Veg Group.

COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT

A letter had been received from Oliver Heald, MP, enclosing correspondence from Ms Jennifer Powers, Head of Government Affairs (Energy Saving Trust) with regard to the Trust's Green Community programme to support community based energy projects.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be forwarded to the 3-veg group requesting that the information be published and sent to groups within the Parish and details be placed on their website.

PROBATION SERVICE

The Chairman informed members that Cllr Lang had arranged a meeting with a Probation Officer for Wednesday, 21 October 2009, to view the 'No through road' near the White Hart. Unfortunately, no-one had turned up and, therefore, there were no matters on which to report.

Cllr Acford expressed his concern regarding the effectiveness and reliability of the service provided.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the payments as set out on the attached schedule (see Appendix B) be duly authorised for payment.

(ii) Financial Statement

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

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- (i) Standon Village Hall – Minutes 9 November 2009.
- (ii) Community Centre Minutes – 21 October 2009.
- (iii) Bus Shelter – Colliers End.
- (iv) Standon Village Hall – Constitution.
- (v) Parish Travel Plan – Car Sharing (Presentation) – January 2010
- (vi) Orchard Presentation – 3 Village Eco Group.
- (vii) Precept 2010/2011.
- (viii) Litter Agency.

CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

- (i) Planning Committee – Tuesday, 10 November 2009.
- (ii) Highways Meeting – Friday, 13 November 2009 – 10.00 am.
- (iii) Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 24 November 2009.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.