

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **Standon Parish Council** held on Tuesday, 24 February 2009, at 7.30 pm in the Colliers End Village Hall.

*Cllr M Acford	Cllr A Lang
Cllr Mrs A Attard-Butler	*Cllr W C 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: 2 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs Attard-Butler, Goodsell, Lang, Ms Painter and Mrs Wilkinson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Acford Personal Community Centre – husband of Chairman of
The Management Committee

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PCSO

The Chairman informed members that the new PCSO, Mr Robert Rawlings, would be starting his induction course on 2 March 2009 and he would be in post at the beginning of April 2009.

2. New Style Agenda

The Chairman stated that he had received a number of positive feedbacks on the new style Agenda.

PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2009 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

1. Concrete pipe situated in the Play Area

The Chairman produced pictorial evidence showing that the structure was still in situ.

2. Trees western end of Playing Field

Cllr Marks confirmed that the trees had been cut back, but he questioned whether sufficiently. Cllr Mrs Dearman agreed to inspect the site.

3. The Post Office – 42 High Street, Puckeridge

No response had been received from East Herts Council with regard to the Parish Council's concerns regarding a breach of the planning permission. The Clerk to chase for a response.

4. Allotments

To note that a meeting to discuss the tenancy agreement and the maintenance of the hedge had not been convened. The Clerk to arrange as a matter of urgency.

5. A120 Matters – Membership of Working Party

To note that a meeting of the Working Party would be scheduled before the next Parish Council meeting.

6. Training for Councillors

To note that a general County training course for Councillors organised by the Herts Association of Parish Councils was scheduled to take place on 7 October 2009 at the Community Centre.

7. Recreation Ground Trustees

The Clerk confirmed that the information requested from members had now been received and would be forwarded to the Charity Commission.

Cllr Marks confirmed the current trustee as being only Cllr Cowell. However, this would be rectified by the personal information now supplied by Councillors which would be forwarded to the Charity Commission.

8. Precept 2009/2010

The Clerk was requested to forward a copy of the agreed Precept details to all members.

PLANNING

1. Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 February 2009

Amendment: (ii) No Objections – Application 3/09/0045/FP/SE

Insert: “subject to a flood risk assessment”.

Having given effect to the above amendment, the Minutes were confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and were signed by the acting Chairman of the Committee (Cllr Marks)

2. Current Planning Applications

No objections were raised on the following planning applications:

3/09/0051/FP/SE Demolition of existing stables and storage barn and replacement with new timber framed stables and store at Latchford Lodge, Morley Lane, Standon.

3/09/0135/FP/SE Erection of electric gates, brick piers, walls and railings at Sunfield, Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green.

3. Appeal

To note that the following appeal was to be determined by the written representation procedure:

3/08/1414/FP/NB Change of use to provide for parking of up to 10 large goods vehicles – retrospective – Plashes Farm, Colliers End.

Note: Parish Council comments on the application at meeting on 24 September 2009 were “No objections with no comments”.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of response from Mr Yucelt, Assistant District Manager, Hertfordshire Highways, regarding a number of highways issues which had been brought to his attention. In addition also of concern, was his apparent reluctance to meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss various highways matters, as was the previous arrangement. It would appear that the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 26 February 2009, would now not take place, as confirmation had not been received from Mr Yucelt until today – the day of the Parish Council meeting. There would, stated the Chairman, appear to be a distinct lack of co-operation and courtesy being shown towards the Parish Council and it was felt that a strongly worded letter should be forwarded to Mr Kyan setting out the concerns of the Parish Council and suggesting a date in early March for an on-site highways meeting.

Other matters raised

1. Lack of street markings at the junction of South Road and Station Road.
2. Inadequate patching work recently undertaken on the A120 west of Howe Fencing.
3. Uneven surface – footway north side of Fishers Mead/Station Road.
4. Footway outside Century Hall – signed in footway reducing the width of the footway.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

Parish Paths Partnership

No matters were reported.

COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Minutes of the Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre – 19 01 09

The Clerk tabled for members' information a copy of the attached Minutes. (See Appendix A)

2. Partnership Agreement

The Chairman tabled the attached agreement which had been accepted by the Community Centre Management Committee and the Parish Council's representative.

RESOLVED that the document be formally approved by the Parish Council.

3. Update on Central Heating

Members were referred to paragraph 3 of the Minutes of the Community Centre held on 9 February 2009.

The Chairman informed members that the Chairman of the Management Committee had rung him that evening confirming that a new path was required. Members expressed their concern regarding the finished height of the units on the building and their protrusion onto the path, which now presented a health and safety issue for the users of the Centre. A question was raised as to how the structure had ever received planning approval. With regard to the costs involved in providing the new path, the general feeling was that, as the work involved, was external the cost should be met by the Parish Council. However, Cllr Mrs Dearman was extremely unhappy with the suggestion and she was appalled that this health safety issue had been allowed to happen and not been picked up during planning or installation.

On being put to the vote it was RESOLVED that, in principle, the Parish Council would consider meeting the cost of providing a new path subject to the Parish Council obtaining three quotations.

PLAYING FIELD

1. Request to hold Fun Fair on the Playing Field

Members considered the above request and, following discussion, were of the opinion that the Playing Field would not be a suitable venue for the event.

RESOLVED that the request be denied.

2. To discuss issues relating to hedge cutting

The Chairman confirmed that Martin Sallows had cut the hedge along the northern boundary except for a small section behind number 8 Britannia, which could not be accessed because of the presence of an obstruction (rollers). A suggestion was made that a meeting with Martin be convened to be attended by the Clerk, Cllr Marks and the resident concerned to resolve the issue.

Cllr Marks also referred to the hedge cutting which had taken place at the children's play area and he was concerned at the amount of twigs which had been left on the site.

The matter would be raised with Martin at the meeting.

LITTER COLLECTION

1. Extension of Agency Agreement

The Chairman referred members to pictorial information which showed that the litter bins had not been emptied recently. The Clerk stated that the person undertaking the work had now secured a full-time job which made the task difficult. Members considered the position and the problem of recruiting someone for the position.

RESOLVED that the East Herts Council be requested to take back the agency agreement (litter bins only).

2. Extension of Agency Agreement (Litter Collection)

The Chairman informed members that at present there was no litter picking of the area from the A120 (Cambridge Road) to the B1368 and he had received a number of complaints regarding the presence of litter on this stretch of highway.

RESOLVED that Mr Stacey be approached to see if he would like to undertake the additional work with an increase in his present remuneration to be agreed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Chairman tabled a draft “Terms of reference” document which he suggested should be referred to the first meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Members concurred with the Chairman’s suggestion and it was confirmed that the first meeting would take place on Thursday, 5 March 2009.

WEBSITE

A general discussion took place on the content of the website with particular reference to the e-mail addresses of Councillors. The general feeling was that this information should be deleted in favour of only Councillors’ telephone numbers being displayed. It was further agreed that a reference to the formation of the newly created Finance Committee should be displayed.

TO RECEIVE REPORT ON PARISH NOTICE BOARDS

The Chairman gave details of the location of the existing notice boards in the Parish drawing attention to the fact that there were no notice boards in Colliers End and Wellpond Green and the notice board at Barwick required repairing.

The Chairman stated that he was currently in the process of compiling a report to be tabled at the next Parish Council meeting and he would welcome some assistance. Cllr Cowell volunteered his services.

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out on the attached list be duly authorised for payment. (See Appendix B)

(ii) Financial Statement

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

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Zurich Playground Inspection Report
- Saturday Surgery – future
- Allotments – Tenancy agreement and other related matters
- Venues for future meetings
- Clerk’s job description and contract of employment

CONFIRMATION OF DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS AND AGREEMENT ON FUTURE VENUES

The Chairman referred members to the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, Part III, paragraph 14 (5) which stated:

“A parish meeting shall not be held in premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor, except in cases where no other suitable room is available for such a meeting either free of charge or at a reasonable cost.”

The Chairman further stated that he had received a number of complaints from members of the public concerning the present venue. Enquiries had been made regarding the use of Standon Village Hall, the Ralph Sadleir School and the Roger de Clare school, all of which would appear to be inappropriate or not readily available at the time required. There would appear to be a general reason now for the Council to meet on licensed premises, ie the Community Centre.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mrs Marks to be allowed to speak. Mrs Marks stated that it would be a simple exercise for the Community Centre Management Committee to de-licence one room to facilitate meetings.

Having reinstated Standing Orders, Cllr Mrs Dearman stated that having met with a Licensing Officer of a neighbouring county advice was that there was no reason why the Parish Council could not meet at the Community Centre.

RESOLVED that, as there was no suitable venue available to the Parish Council, then future meetings could be held at the Community Centre.

5 March 2009	Finance Committee
10 March 2009	Planning (Cllr Cowell submitted his apologies in advance)
14 March 2009	Saturday Surgery – Cllr Lang
24 March 2009	Ordinary Parish Council (Cllr Stacey submitted his apologies in advance)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.