

MINUTES of the Meeting of Stanton Parish Council held on 11 May 2017 at Stanton Community Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: K McDonald (Chairman), B Brown, L Morris, J Mann, N Chapman, J Frizzell, M Scowcroft, J Miller, B Smithson

Also Present: County Cllr Joanna Spicer (Arrived later), Borough Cllr Jim Thorndyke

1. Election of Chairman:

The Chairman asked for nominations for the position of Chairman for 2017-2018.

Cllr Miller nominated Mr Kelvin McDonald. The nomination was seconded by Cllr Mann. All agreed. There being no other nominations, Cllr McDonald accepted the position and was duly elected Chairman for 2017-2018. Cllr McDonald signed and dated the 'Acceptance of Office'. This was counter signed by the Responsible Officer.

2. Election of Officers

- a. **Vice Chairman.** The Chairman asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Cllr Smithson nominated Cllr Hart (Absent but has agreed to stand). The nomination was seconded by Cllr Frizzell.
Cllr Miller nominated Cllr Chapman who indicated he was willing to stand.
In accordance with Standing Order 8, Cllrs were asked to vote by a show of hands and Cllr Hart was duly elected Vice Chairman for 2017-2018.
- b. **Responsible Financial Officer/Clerk** Mrs Joy Hart accepted the position for 2017-2018
- c. **Internal Auditor.** Mr Tony Mansfield is willing to continue and was elected to act as Internal Auditor for the year 2017-2018.

3. **Apologies for absence:** S Willcox and F J Hart – reasons for absence accepted.

4. **To read, consider and approve the minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting on 13 April 2017 were approved by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Brown.

5. **Public Forum:** No members of the public were present

6. Report from:

a. S C Cllr J Spicer

- (Cllr Miller congratulated CCllr Spicer on being re-elected as County Councillor)
- There has been a meeting at The Grundle with Suffolk County Council and Parish Councillors McDonald and Chapman in respect of the grid which was very positive. Some changes have been agreed by the County Council and hoping that outstanding maintenance agreement will be completed soon.
- The changes to the bus timetable have been implemented but this will not please everyone. It's important that the passengers talk to the bus company as the timetable has now been changed 4 times in one year.
- Abbey Homes site. Ongoing issues are being addressed by St Edmundsbury but it is a slow process which she is keeping an eye on.
- The request for traffic calming measures in Duke Street North has been noted. It is difficult to see what could be done as it is narrow. Cllr Spicer will visit the area to assess.

b. B Cllr J Thorndyke

- St Edmundsbury has now made a decision to consider joining up with Forest Heath District Council. The back-office staff are already working together as one council so the process is now looking at Councillors. There should be a public consultation in June/July with a decision at the

end of September. Should this go ahead then the elections in 2019 will be for a new Council combining the two and may mean a change to the number of Councillors in the area.

- Cllr Brown asked BCllr Thorndyke where planning was in relation to the outstanding Abbey Homes issues. BCllr Thorndyke understood that Sarah Rampley was dealing and that the site will not be adopted until all issues are completed to the satisfaction of planning officers. Cllr Brown wanted BCllr Thorndyke to note that Abbey seemed to have washed their hands of it. Residents are being asked to pay service charges and some are refusing to pay. The Play Area and landscaping is in a very poor state and dangerous for children. It is likely that residents will form a resident's association to try and get things done. Cllr Frizzell proposed that Council pay for the hire of a room for a meeting of the residents if they felt it would be useful. This was seconded by Cllr Chapman and carried.
- Councillor Miller asked about the opening times and refreshments available at the bus station as it would appear that the station doesn't open until after 8am and the drinks machine has been removed. BCllr Thorndyke said that he would make enquiries.

7. **Clerk's Report:** End of year accounts now completed and submitted to internal auditor. Balance sheet prepared. Bank reconciliations completed and submitted to internal auditor. Surplus from previous year has now balanced. End of year budget completed and circulated.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting 13 April 2017 -

Item 7a – SID machine has now been delivered and paperwork is being prepared for submission to SCC

Item 7d – Facebook entry made. Cllr Willcox is co-ordinating responses

Item 9 – Community Recognition Awards letters sent to all nominations. All three have accepted and were very humbled by their nominations

8. **Declarations of Interest:** Chairman declared an interest in the accounts

9. **Matters for discussion:**

- a. To approve the quotation from Hillcrest for the provision of flowers for the village tubs.**
The quotation of £350.06 + VAT was approved. Cllr Miller will liaise with Hillcrest as to when the planting should take place. Clerk to advise Hillcrest.
- b. To decide on any action that can be taken in respect of the potholes in Bury Lane and the lines and signage at Wyken Road** Cllr Mann reported that the potholes at the bottom end of Bury Lane have now been filled but the road surface is still poor further up. White lining required at the Wyken Rd junction. Clerk to report the issues to Highways.
- c. Application for Pharmacy in Stanton –** The Chairman reported that he has been to see the Manager at Stanton Surgery to discuss the application.
It was agreed by all that it would have been useful for the Surgery to advise Council of their intentions as the application was very unclear and had caused upset to many residents who felt they would lose their right to prescriptions if they were registered with a GP at the Ixworth surgery. The Chairman has been assured that this is not the case and the application is being made to safeguard the residents of Stanton from a commercial pharmacy moving in to take the business of dispensing medicines.
After further discussion about the process Councillors agreed to support the application. Clerk to respond.
- d. To discuss the advantages of preparing a neighbourhood plan (Cllr Miller)**
BCllr Thorndyke feels that it is imperative the Parish has one. Chairman McDonald agreed that the village needed a plan but the Parish Council would require some guidance from the Borough as to how to start the process.
It was agreed that BCllr Thorndyke would arrange for a member of staff from St Edmundsbury to contact the Clerk to arrange a public meeting to start the process.
There are grants available to assist the cost. The process will need a committee of people not necessarily from the Parish Council so would need residents to get involved as a committee.

- e. **To bring to Councils attention the poor state of the red dog litter bins** Cllr Miller reported that the two red dog bins in the village are in need of a clean, Cllr Chapman agreed to deal.

10. Accounts

- a. The end of year accounts, bank reconciliation and balance sheets were circulated. No issues were raised.
- b. The Local Council Insurance Renewal due on 1 June was approved and authority granted to pay by BACS. The premium has risen from £2009.41 to £2055.29 (2.3% increase)
- c. The accounts as below were approved by Cllr Mann and seconded by Cllr Chapman.

PAYMENTS	£GROSS	£VAT	£NET	WHAT FOR	EXP. POWER
Anglian Water	4.00		5.00	Water charges pumping station	LGA 1972 S111
EON	17.00	0.85	16.15	Monthly electricity floodlights	LGA 1972 S111
EON	16.00	0.80	15.20	Monthly electricity pumphouse	LGA 1972 S111
Talk talk (Apr)	35.75	5.96	29.79	Monthly internet and phone charges	LGA 1972 S111
HMRC	255.20		255.20	PAYE	LGA 1972 S112
K McDonald	7.16	1.19	5.97	Footpath repairs	Highways Act 1980 s43,50
ICO	35.00		35.00	Data Protection registration 17-18	LGA 1972 S112
Mr C Cotton	224.00		224.00	Notice Board renovation	LGA 1972, s142
Suffolkbiz	70.00		70.00	Website training	LGA 1972 S112
Staff salaries	852.30		852.30	Clerk and Street Cleaner	LGA 1972 S112

11. Correspondence from Borough and County Councils

- a. Temporary Closure A143 8-10 May - noted
- b. Play Area Inspection Reports – The Clerk has been in contact with Sutcliffe's to request a site meeting in respect of issues raised by the Play Area Inspector and especially the sunken surfaces, the broken spinning pole and loose fittings. Clerk to chase for a date.

12. Planning Applications:

a. New Applications received

DC/17/0705/HH | Householder Planning Application - (i) single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing rear extension (ii) double garage and office/hobbies room (following demolition of existing double garage and workshop) | Greenbanks The Street Stanton IP31 2DQ (Mr Bryan Musto)

RESPONSE - This is a well thought out extension which will have little visible impact on the appearance from the kerb side and will enhance the value and quality of this property. Council welcomes improvements to existing properties and has no objections.

DC/17/0716/OUT | Outline Planning Application (All matters reserved) 1no. dwelling and garage | Land Opposite Pond Farm Upton Road Stanton Suffolk (Mr and Mrs B Shaw)

RESPONSE - Council believe that the proposed development is outside of the housing settlement boundary of the village and is in the Countryside. There are no buildings on the proposed site which is a green area and the recent completion of a large estate of nearly 100 new properties in the village has ensured that there is currently sufficient housing in the area at this time. Council therefore object to the application.

b. Previous applications decided

Reference	Address	PCC decision	St Eds decision	Decision date
DC17-0235-HH	44 Honeymeade Close	Object	Refused	02/05/17
DC17-0267-HPA	14 Sturgeon Way	N/A	Prior approval	05/05/17
DC17-0439-HH	5 Coney Walk	Support	Granted	26/04/17
DC17-0494-TCA	Beech Cottage The Street	Object	Granted	19/04/17

There being no further correspondence to consider, the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Minutes signed as correct..... K McDonald