

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Copley

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held at the Community Centre,
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville on Tuesday 29th July 2014**

PRESENT: Cllrs: J Hunt, M Rogers and D Starr

Mr J Reed (co opted)

CLERK: Sarah Copley

E14/48	APOLOGIES Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Wood and Mr R Jones.	
E14/49	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
E14/50	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 th May 2014, previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was noted that the query regarding the MVAS had been resolved and the order placed with Transport for Bucks.• Aylesbury Mains would be attending the Environment Committee meeting in September to discuss the upgrade of the old streetlight stock.	
E14/51	DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL The information provided by Bucks CC in regard to the services they wished to devolve to Parish and Town Councils was discussed. There had not yet been a decision from BCC regarding the 40mph areas within the parish. It was unanimously AGREED to recommend to the Parish Council that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the Parish Council accept the devolved services provided the 40mph limits in the parish are included;b) the Parish Council cluster with other local parish and town councils, and;c) should the Council agree to accept the devolved services, the Environment Committee be tasked with drawing up a specification of works in order to request quotes from Aylesbury Town Council, Amersham Town Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council.	
E14/52	COMMUNITY ASSETS The information provided by Aylesbury Vale District Council on how to register assets of community value was discussed. It was AGREED to recommend to the Parish Council that an application be submitted to register Bucks CC Sports and Social Club as a community asset. Other possible places identified were the Co-op in Hawkslade, the Post Office and Stores on Station Road and The Woolpack, The Bell and The Bull public houses.	
E14/53	TREES a) Earlier in 2014 the Parish Council had logged a call with Transport for Bucks regarding the tree at the junction of Marsh Lane and Lower Road as Cllr Butler had raised concerns over the safety of some of the large branches. A local resident had subsequently applied for a Tree Preservation Order to be placed on the tree, which AVDC's tree officer had turned down due to its poor condition. TFB had recently responded that the tree was diseased and would need to be cut down, the tree had been classed high priority and would be felled later in the summer. The resident was dismayed to hear that it would be felled and had contacted all councils with their	JH

	<p>concerns. It was AGREED that the Council would need to abide by the decision of TFB as the tree was on Highways land and a safety issue, but that Cllr Hunt would speak to their lead officer to determine whether there were any other options that would save the tree.</p> <p>b) The dead tree at the junction of Old Risborough Road and Risborough Road had been classed as medium priority to cut down and would not be done this summer but when the budget was available.</p> <p>c) The Clerk reminded Councillors that the insurance company had recommended that the Council get an arboriculturist's report for trees on the Council's land.</p> <p>d) Cllr Hunt said that the trees given to the Council by the Woodlands Trust were still being grown on in her garden. It was suggested that they could be planted at the Council's land in Marsh Lane once it had been vacated.</p>	
E14/54	<p>BENCHES</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that the three new benches had been installed at Hawkslade and positive feedback received from local residents. However AVDC had concerns regarding the slabs they had been installed on causing a trip hazard. Amersham Town Council had installed the benches on behalf of the Parish Council and were liaising with AVDC to find a suitable solution.</p> <p>b) A quote of £72 had been obtained to replace the missing slat on the bench behind the Community Centre, it was AGREED the Clerk request that the repair is carried out as soon as possible.</p>	Clerk
E14/55	<p>LITTER / DOG WASTE BINS</p> <p>a) The Council had ordered a replacement bin for Lodden Close as the original had disappeared. The resident who had reported the bin missing had recently said that the bin had been put in a different place and that there were littering problems where the bin had originally been. The Clerk had reported to AVDC to request that the bin be moved to the correct location.</p> <p>b) The lock on the bin by the skatepark was broken and the groundsman had to empty it piece by piece which was difficult and time consuming. It was noted that due to the numbers of plastic drink bottles placed in this bin, it was regularly overflowing. It was AGREED to recommend to the Council that a new larger bin be purchased for this site.</p>	
E14/56	<p>NOTICE BOARDS</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that the new notice board for Stoke Leys was due to be installed in August. As there was currently a skip outside the Community Centre, it was agreed to get the old bin removed from site as soon as possible and use the skip to dispose of it.</p> <p>b) The footpath map in the notice board by the school was looking very shabby and water damaged. The Clerk was asked to take it to Sign Wizzard to see if they could produce a new one.</p>	Clerk Clerk
E14/57	<p>BUS SHELTERS</p> <p>a) Complaints had been received regarding dust and cobwebs in the bus shelter opposite the Bull PH. The Clerk would ask the groundsman to remove these.</p> <p>b) The Clerk would inspect the bus shelters to ensure they all have a sign with the Council's details in order for any issues to be reported.</p>	Clerk Clerk
E14/58	<p>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that the Rights of Way team at BCC had contacted the resident at Chestnut Way asking that the "No Access" be removed as there was a public right of way there.</p> <p>b) Cllr Rogers reported that although the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order was due to be implemented in August, no date had been communicated to residents. This could cause problems for residents who are away over the summer if they left their car on the road. The Clerk would contact Transport for Bucks for an update.</p> <p>c) Cllr Starr said that the footpath by the church had become very overgrown and he had</p>	Clerk

	recently cut back some of the overhanging vegetation.	
E14/59	SWALLOW LANE BURIAL GROUND There were no new issues raised.	
E14/60	ALLOTMENTS a) Four tenants had recently been given notice to vacate their plots due to lack of cultivation. One of the plots had already been re-let and the other three would be let as soon as possible to the next people on the waiting list. The Clerk would ask the groundsman to strim the plots first. b) The new tenant had requested permission to put a polytunnel on his plot. There were no objections to this provided it did not have glass panels and was no bigger than 8' x 6' in size. The Clerk was also asked to advise the tenant that the Council would not accept any responsibility for loss or damage to the polytunnel. c) One of the water troughs had a leaking tap which meant that water was not going into trough but onto the ground around it. In consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk had arranged for P Merrison to repair the tap. This had been done but there had since been further problems with this trough as the ballcock mechanism had broken a few weeks later. Aylesbury Town Council who had installed the troughs had been asked to repair it to make the trough usable again.	Clerk
E14/61	ANY OTHER ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION) The Clerk reported that the Best Kept Village results had been announced but that Stoke Mandeville had been unsuccessful this year.	
E14/62	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The Environment Committee would next meet on Tuesday 30 th September 2014.	

Signed: _____

Date: 30th September 2014