

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Copley

Telephone: (01296) 613888

**Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held at the Community Centre,
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville on Tuesday 24th March 015.**

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Rogers (Chair), J Hunt and S Pluckwell

Mr J Reed (co opted)

CLERK: Sarah Copley

E15/14	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllrs D Starr and P Wood.</p>	
E15/15	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
E15/16	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th January 2015, previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
E15/17	<p>DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL</p> <p>As an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council had been called for 26th March to discuss this topic, the Chairman proposed that the matter was deferred until then.</p> <p>The Chairman updated committee members with regard to the legal agreement which had been sent to all parishes, SMPC requested legal advice from NALC which had been sent to BCC for their comments. The legal advice and BCC's response would be considered at the extraordinary meeting of the Council which had been arranged for 26th March.</p> <p>MR, JH and Clerk met with Aylesbury TC to discuss the service and a draft SLA had been provided which would also be reviewed by the Council.</p>	
E15/18	<p>STREET LIGHTS</p> <p>a) Upgrade to LED The quotations received to upgrade three lights to LEDs as a trial were considered. After discussion it was AGREED to recommend to the Council that the quote from Sparkx was accepted.</p> <p>b) Structural testing of columns The three quotes for structural testing were considered and it was AGREED to recommend to the Council that the quote from Sparkx was accepted.</p> <p>c) Other issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EON had written to parish councils notifying of a 34% price increase with effect from 1st May. The Clerk had contacted EON who confirmed that if the Council entered into a fixed term contract then more preferential rates were available. EON would provide a written quotation for the Council to consider at their next meeting. • Mr Reed reported that Column 1 in Swallow Lane was not working, the Clerk would ask Sharps to repair it. 	Clerk
E15/19	<p>CHURCHES AND BURIAL GROUND</p> <p>a) The Clerk had provided a written report on the recent Cemetery Management training course that she had attended. As a result of the training, draft revised regulations for the burial ground were considered and, subject to some minor amendments it was AGREED to recommend that the Council adopt these.</p> <p>It was AGREED that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a maximum of two owners would be permitted for a grave • the Exclusive Right of Burial would last for 50 years • no caskets would be permitted as they required a larger grave • a written log would be kept of memorial stone inspections 	

	<p>The Clerk had drafted procedures for managing a burial which would be kept on file with the burial ground information. New forms for requesting an interment or memorial at the burial ground had been produced and would also be kept in the file.</p> <p>b) JH report on historical search for new burial ground was noted. Parish Councils have no statutory duty to provide a burial ground, however it was considered that morally the Council should look for future provision. The need for land for a burial ground had been advertised in the local paper and parish magazine but none had been put forward. It was considered that once the Vale of Aylesbury Plan was published, this may highlight potential sites. There was to be a meeting with HS2 later that week to discuss where the remains of the old church site and any excavated graves would be relocated. It was AGREED to recommend to the Council that a Working Group be convened to look at the issue.</p>	
E15/20	<p>ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>Cllr Hunt and the Clerk had carried out an inspection of the allotments the previous week and as a result the Clerk had written to 4 plot holders whose plots were uncultivated.</p>	
E15/21	<p>MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SYSTEM (MVAS)</p> <p>Due to other pressures, the MVAS had not yet been installed, Cllr Rogers suggested that it be done immediately after the Council meeting on 26th March.</p> <p>Data from the MVAS would be collected in order to demonstrate where there were speeding issues in the village.</p>	
E15/22	<p>STREET FURNITURE-</p> <p>a) Benches Cllr Rogers reported that the bench opposite the hospital had been re-positioned and was usable again.</p> <p>The groundsman had reported to the Clerk that the bench on the corner of Risborough Road and Lower Road had rotten slats. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for its repair.</p> <p>b) Litter Bins No issues with bins had been raised, however there had been an incidence of fly tipping of household waste in Sheridan Close. The Clerk had reported to AVDC for clearance, they had also referred the matter to Bucks CC for taking further action.</p> <p>A complain had also been received regarding the amount of litter in the verge and hedges along Lower Road between the hospital and the village, the Clerk would contact AVDC regarding clearance.</p> <p>c) Noticeboards The new noticeboards were on order and expected by end of April. The old boards would need to be disposed of by the Parish Council. Cllr Rogers agreed to assist.</p> <p>d) Bus shelter There Clerk had contacted Bucks CC who confirmed that if the Council wished to put a bus stop on Hawkslade, the Council would need to fund it but permission would first be required from Transport for Bucks. The Clerk was asked to contact Joe Houston to see if s106 funds could be used for this project.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
E15/23	<p>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS</p> <p>a) On Street Parking in Stoke Leys - a number of emails had been received from local residents regarding the ongoing issue of hospital workers parking in residential streets. The consultation on the Experimental Road Traffic Order closed at end of April, MR would convene a meeting of the residents group in order to collate concerns and suggestions to inform the Council's response.</p> <p>b) Bus Stop, Lower Road – the bus stop sited just past the end of the houses was overgrown and there was nowhere dry to stand as it is over grown with grass and other foliage. The Clerk had reported to TFB who had added to their gang sheet.</p>	

	<p>c) Brudenell Drive pavement – the footpath on Brudenell Drive had been damaged following vehicles being parked there while works were undertaken by the electricity company. Clerk had reported to TFB who had inspected the site and arranged the reinstatement by the contractor within 3 days. It was AGREED to write to TFB to thank them for their prompt attention.</p> <p>d) Street light, Orchard Close – The Clerk reported that Thames Water had admitted liability for the damaged cable following intervention from TFB. Sharps had repaired the damaged cable and billed Thames Water direct, Thames Water had then reinstated the pavement. The letter to TFB would include thanks to Anna Coles for her assistance in this matter.</p>	
E15/24	<p>CATALOGUE OF TREES</p> <p>Mr Reed kindly offered to undertake to catalogue the trees on the Council's land.</p>	JR
E15/25	<p>ANY OTHER ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION)</p> <p>It was noted that Bucks CC had issued a report on the Council's application for a speed limit review for Risborough Road and Lower Road. The Clerk had queried part of the report relating to the section of Lower Road being considered for a speed limit reduction as it differed in the report and the next steps for the consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Pluckwell suggested that a 20mph limit may be appropriate past SM Combined School – the MVAS data may show whether a review of the speed limit by the school was needed.</p>	
E15/26	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Environment Committee would next meet on Tuesday 26TH May 2015</p>	

Signed: _____

Date: 26TH May 2015

Actions

Ref	Action	By whom	Update/Complete
E15/5	Approach BCC regarding transfer of village green	JH	
E15/10	Identify potential sites for new cemetery	ALL	
E15/11	Include review of allotment tenancy agreement on next Environment Committee agenda	Clerk	√
E15/18	Arrange repair of streetlight 1 in Swallow Lane	Clerk	√
E15/22	Quote to repair bench at corner of Risborough Road/Lower Road	Clerk	√
E15/22	Enquire about use of s106 funds for a bus shelter	Clerk	√
E15/24	Catalogue trees on Council land	JR	