

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 18th November 2014.**

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Rogers (Chair), D Starr and P Wood.

Mr J Reed (co opted)

CLERK: Sarah Copley

E14/82	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Cllr J Hunt.	
E14/83	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
E14/84	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 th September 2014, previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
E14/85	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT It was noted that the grounds maintenance contract expires at the end of March 2015. The current specification was discussed and a number of amendments suggested, the contract would be for four years with an annual review. The new specification would be recommended to the Council. The contract would then be put to tender and advertised.	
E14/86	DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL The draft specification produced by Cllrs Roger and Hunt and the Clerk was discussed. It was agreed to seek quotes for services based on this specification. Aylesbury Vale District Council had already provided a quote to parishes for some of the devolved services which was noted. There would be a workshop hosted by Bucks CC on 4 th December. Cllr Rogers and the Clerk would attend.	
E14/87	STREET LIGHTS a) Upgrade of street lights After discussion it was AGREED to recommend to the Parish Council that three lights be upgraded to LEDs to assess the impact of the new lights on local residents and pedestrians. It was considered these could be placed in Station Road or Orchard Close. Cllr Rogers reported on the SALIX financing that is available to public bodies for energy saving projects. The loan would be interest free and paid back from the savings made by the project. It was AGREED to recommend the Council consider applying for this finance. b) Results of street light testing Aylesbury Mains had tested all street lights owned by the Council earlier in year and provided reports for each. The Clerk reported that of the 243 street lights, 15 had tested with a high loop impedance and referred to UK Power Networks. UKPN had subsequently re-tested the lights and certified that they were all within their safety limits. c) Street light inventory UK Power Networks had requested an up to date inventory of street lights. Aylesbury Main had provided a full inventory as part of the work they carried out and this had been supplied to UKPN. There were 5 extra lights on the latest inventory to that which they held and they had requested to know the date they should use. It was AGREED to reply asking them to use their enquiry date. d) Faulty Light in Orchard Close	

	<p>Light number one in Orchard Close had no power to it. It had been thought it was due to a Thames Water contractor cutting the cable when they had dug a hole in the pavement, however they had provided photographic evidence that it was not them.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that there was another light which also had no power to it, in Risborough Road.</p> <p>Both lights had been reported to UKPN who had advised that both lights had a private feed to them and that the Council would need to instruct their own contractors to repair it.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to get quotes to repair both lights.</p> <p>e) Any other issues</p> <p>Cllr Starr reported that two street lights had vegetation overhanging them, one was outside the Limes on Station Road and the other in the alleyway between Station Road and Brudenell Drive. The Clerk was asked to get a quote to cut back the overgrowth.</p>	
E14/88	<p>MOVEABLE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN</p> <p>The Local Area Technician had advised the ground screws for the MVAS sites on Lower Road and Risborough Road were due to be fitted later that month.</p> <p>At the last Parish Council meeting it had been reported that the GALAF were funding an MVAS for Aylesbury, including Hawkslade, Stoke Grange and Stoke Leys wards. County Cllr B Adams had identified sites in Hawkslade. The Clerk had contacted County Cllr B Roberts who said that sites had not yet been agreed for Stoke Leys and Stoke Grange and that he would welcome suggestions from the Parish Council. The Clerk would ask ward parish councillors for their input.</p>	Clerk
E14/89	<p>BENCHES</p> <p>Amersham Town Council had made the changes requested by AVDC to the concrete bases for the benches on Hawkslade.</p>	
E14/90	<p>LITTER / DOG WASTE BINS</p> <p>a) It was noted that there had been no further complaints regarding the overflowing bins by the shop at Hawkslade.</p> <p>b) Cllr Wood reported that there was an issue of dog mess on the verges and front gardens of properties on Anton Way. It was agreed to include an item in the next parish magazine.</p>	
E14/91	<p>NOTICE BOARDS</p> <p>The condition of the notice boards was discussed and it was identified that three were in poor condition and should be considered for replacement. These are located at Hawkslade Community Centre, outside Stoke Mandeville School and outside the shop on Station Road. It was AGREED to recommend to the Parish council that all three be replaced with an oak board, the same as those at Dalesford Road and Lower Road. The Clerk would find out if there was a discount if all three were ordered together.</p>	
E14/92	<p>BUS SHELTERS</p> <p>There were no issues raised for existing bus shelters.</p> <p>Suggestions for use of s106 funds had included a request for a bus shelter for Hawkslade. It was thought that it may be possible to put one at the bus stop opposite the shop and Community Centre. The Clerk would liaise with Transport for Bucks regarding the process for new bus shelters.</p> <p>It was also noted that there were no shelters for Stoke Grange and that the Council could also consider funding one for the stop on Dalesford Road.</p>	Clerk
E14/93	<p>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS</p> <p>a) A local resident had reported that the crossing on Station Road did not always make a sound when it was safe to cross. This had been reported to TFB who advised that in Bucks, the audible units are only active between 07:00 and 19:00 so as not to disturb local residents at night. All sites are fitted with rotating cone tactile units under the push button units to assist visually impaired users and these operate 24 hours a day.</p> <p>b) The wording "no access" had been removed from the Private Road sign erected in</p>	

	Chestnut Way. Rights of Way team at BCC would arrange for a footpath finger to be installed there.	
E14/94	CHURCHES AND BURIAL GROUND a) Amersham Town Council had carried out maintenance work at the burial ground in Swallow Lane, they had also removed the dead branch from the tree overhanging from the churchyard. Cllr Starr reported that the site was looking very neat and that a good job had been done. The Clerk was asked to write to Amersham TC expressing the Council's appreciation. b) Mr Reed reported that the old Church site was also looking very neat and tidy.	
E14/95	ALLOTMENTS The Clerk reported that the recently vacated plots had now been re-let.	
E14/96	ANY OTHER ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION) A resident had contacted the Council to enquire why a cherry tree had been removed from the car park in Orchard Close. The Clerk had queried this with Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust who confirmed they had removed it as it was diseased. The resident had been advised.	
E14/97	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The Environment Committee would next meet on Tuesday 27 th January 2014.	

Signed: _____

Date: 27th January 2014