

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 30th September 2014**

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

Mr J Reed (co opted)

CLERK: Sarah Copley

E14/63	APOLOGIES There were no apologies received, all present. Mr Robin Jones (co-opted committee member) had resigned from the committee.	
E14/64	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
E14/65	UPGRADE OF STREETLIGHTS Mr Willie Moore of Aylesbury Mains attended and gave a very informative presentation on the different types of street lights available and their merits. Mr Moore's recommendation was to use LEDs on highways and PLL lights in residential areas as these gave greater pooling. Mr Moore also explained about other energy saving options, such as dimming lights between midnight and 5am, which increases the life of the light and reduces the power usage.	
E14/66	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 th July 2014, previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Mr Reid reported that the "no access" sign is still in place in Chestnut Way, the Clerk would report to BCC Rights of Way team.	Clerk
E14/67	DEVOLVED SERVICES FROM BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL Cllrs Hunt and Rogers and the Clerk attended a meeting hosted by Bucks CC for parishes around Aylesbury who are considering taking on devolved services. Aylesbury TC are going ahead and willing to act as a cluster lead. The Parish Council had confirmed that it was interested in taking on devolved services subject to clarification on some matters. Due to the reducing level of funding available, it was recognised that it would be necessary to increase the precept to cover the costs of the services. The Parish Council needed to obtain quotes for the works, after discussion it was AGREED that Cllrs Hunt and Rogers would work with the Clerk to produce a specification for contractors to quote against and circulate to committee members.	MR, JH, Clerk
E14/68	MOVEABLE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN The Local Area Technician (LAT) had met with the Clerk to consider suitable locations for the MVAS ground screws on the roads identified by the Council. His recommendation was to site the ground screws opposite Stoke House on Risborough Road and opposite the allotment entrance on Lower Road. The LAT had suggested that the PC attached the MVAS to lamp posts in Station Road and Wendover Road as there was a kit available that can be used for this. The lamp posts would need to be inspected to ensure they were robust enough for this use. The committee agreed to the recommendations of the LAT. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council would also need to undertake a risk assessment for each MVAS location point.	

E14/69	<p>CONSULTATION ON BUCKINGHAMSHIRE DRAFT COUNTYWIDE PARKING GUIDANCE</p> <p>It was noted that Bucks CC were consulting on its draft countrywide parking guidance, a copy of the consultation documents had been circulated. The deadline for comments was 31st October 2014. It was AGREED that Cllr Rogers would put together a draft response on behalf of the Council and circulate to the committee for their comments.</p>	MR
E14/70	<p>STREET LIGHTS</p> <p>a) Two lights in Orchard Close had been reported as being faulty. Sharps were called out to repair them but it was a problem with the supply rather than the lights. Thames Water's contractors had dug a hole in the pavement outside no 9 Orchard Close and it appeared that they had cut through a cable. The Clerk had reported the issue to Thames Water asking them to resolve it.</p> <p>b) Cllr Hunt reported that three street lights were out in Risborough Road, the Clerk would ask Sharps to attend.</p>	Clerk Clerk
E14/71	<p>BENCHES</p> <p>a) AVDC asked for changes to be made to the installation of the new benches at Hawkslade as they were concerned that the slabs constituted a trip hazard. Amersham Town Council have been in contact with AVDC and have agreed a way forward, Amersham TC have advised the PC that they carry out the work free of charge. The Committee recorded their thanks to Amersham TC.</p> <p>b) The bench behind the Community Centre, Eskdale Road had now been repaired.</p>	
E14/72	<p>LITTER / DOG WASTE BINS</p> <p>a) The bin near the Co-op is repeatedly being used by a local resident for their household waste. AVDC empty the bin promptly when it is reported as overflowing and check the waste for anything that might identify who is dumping it in order for them to take action.</p>	
E14/73	<p>NOTICE BOARDS</p> <p>a) It was noted that the new notice board for Stoke Leys had been installed in August.</p> <p>b) The noticeboard outside the school had not worn well, it is impossible for the Clerk to change the notices alone as the props that hold it open had broken during windy weather so it needs one person to hold it open while another changes the notices. It was AGREED to approach the school about replacing the board with a more robust one.</p> <p>c) Cllr Hunt reported that a resident had recently almost been run over by someone parking outside the shop when they were looking at the notices on the board. The notice board was on private land by kind permission of the shop owner who had been made aware of the incident, the Police had also been informed. It was agreed to consider other options/locations for this board.</p> <p>d) The Clerk has sought quotations to replace the footpath map by the school as it was in poor condition. There had been difficulties in sourcing the map artwork. After discussion it was AGREED TO RECOMMEND to the Parish Council that the board be taken down as there was another footpath map at the Community Centre.</p>	Clerk
E14/74	<p>BUS SHELTERS</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that Amersham Town Council were due to repair the bus shelter on Wendover Road the following day.</p>	
E14/75	<p>HIGHWAYS</p> <p>a) Speeding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police had written to parish councils to advise that they will only take part in speed enforcement where there is evidence to demonstrate that speeding is and issue, such as Speed watch data. • A speedwatch exercise had been carried out in Station Road in August during which only one car was recorded as exceeding the speed limit. • Cllr Hunt reported that the bid for New Homes Bonus funding to reduce the speed limit in Risborough Road had been submitted the previous day. <p>b) Roadside Parking in the village – Residents of the village ward had contacted the PC with issues in various roads around the village where commuters park on a daily basis.</p>	

	<p>The Clerk had advised the complainants to contact the Police where the car is causing an obstruction as they would be able to assist in these circumstances. Cllr Hunt would include an article in the next parish magazine about this issue.</p> <p>c) Cllr Rogers reminded councillors that ASDA and the hospital has asked that they are notified if staff are parking in residential roads, Cllr Hunt would include this in the article.</p>	
E14/76	<p>RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS</p> <p>a) Overhanging vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complaint had been received about the overgrown hedging along Lower Road between the hospital and the garage. This had been reported to TFB who would contact the landowner. • A resident of Coombe Close had contacted the Parish Council about the area around the electricity substation, which he had kept clear of vegetation but was unable to continue doing. This had been reported to TFB who had added it to their work sheet. <p>b) Antisocial behaviour on footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints had been received from residents of Sheridan Close that trials bikes are being ridden along the grassed path area. This had been reported to the Police. 	
E14/77	<p>CHURCHES AND BURIAL GROUND</p> <p>a) There was dead branch in the tree in the boundary of the churchyard and burial ground, the tree was in church yard. The Clerk had contacted the Vicar who advised that care and maintenance of the churchyard has been passed back to AVDC. Ralph Branston, tree officer at AVDC had said that he would inspect the churchyard and trees. It was AGREED TO RECOMMEND to the Council that no action be taken as AVDC had responsibility for this area.</p> <p>b) Amersham TC would be meeting Cllr Hunt and the Clerk at the burial ground the following day to quote for the maintenance work to be carried out. The quote would be put to the Parish Council once received.</p> <p>c) There would be an open day at the Old Church Site organised by Bucks Archaeological Society on 19th October, they had been asked to provide the Council with copies of their public liability insurance and risk assessment. Volunteers were still needed and anyone interested should contact BAS direct.</p>	
E14/78	<p>ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>a) The Clerk reported that all invoices for rents had been sent out and most allotment holders had paid. A few had given up their plots and these were being re-let to people on the waiting list.</p> <p>b) A request had been received from a tenant to put up a fence around his plot using pallets, the pallets are 80cm high and would be dug into the ground. It was AGREED to permit this request.</p>	
E14/79	<p>ANY OTHER ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report from the Best Kept Village committee had been received, the Council had received a Certificate of Merit for the high score it had achieved. • Cllr Wood reported that there had been a spate of thefts on Hawkslade recently 	
E14/80	<p>MEETING DATES FOR 2015</p> <p>The meeting dates for 2015 were agreed as: 27th January, 24th March, 19th May, 21st July, 29th September, 17th November</p>	
E14/81	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Environment Committee would next meet on Tuesday 18th November 2014.</p>	

Signed: _____

Date: 18th November 2014