

**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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: M Duncan, D Kennedy, D Starr and P Wood  
Mr J Reed (co opted)

**CLERK:** Sarah Copley

<b>E13/46</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Apologies were accepted from Cllr Hunt and Mr Jones.	
<b>E13/47</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NOT REGISTERED</b> There were no declarations of interest made.	
<b>E13/48</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2013, previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
<b>E13/49</b>	<b>CAR PARKING</b> <b>a) Stoke Mandeville Village</b> Parish Councillors had met with representatives from Chiltern Rail, the meeting was also attended by District Councillor Carole Paternoster. Chiltern Rail advised that the issue is not limited to Stoke Mandeville, they had procured the services of an independent parking consultant who had advised the only effective solution was to put in parking restrictions or a resident parking scheme. The issue was discussed and it was considered that a solution was needed that did not penalise residents.  Suggestions by Councillors included a "rent your driveway scheme" and that the Parish Council approach local taxi firms to see if they would be willing to offer a daily/weekly rate for commuters that would be a cost effective alternative to driving to the station, particularly for commuters who could share a taxi. These suggestions would be recommended to the full Council. <b>b) Stoke Leys</b> Cllr Duncan reported that car parking was still a huge issue in the area. A date was yet to be set by Bucks CC for the public meeting.  Bucks CC Sport Club had agreed that their car park could be used by visitors to the hospital. Cllr Duncan said people tended not to use this carp park after dark. It was suggested that Bucks CC be approached to install better lighting in the access road to the car park.	
<b>E13/50</b>	<b>STREET LIGHTS</b> <b>a) ASDA lighting</b> Following the representation made by residents of Roblin Close at the previous week's Council meeting, Cllr Wood had visited the area to establish the extent of the problem. The lights from ASDA are very bright and shine across the road into houses. Cllr Duncan had contacted ASDA contractors who had now agreed to fit baffles to the lights to direct the light down. They also confirmed that the shop floor lighting was dimmed in the evening. <b>b) Older Street lights</b>	

	<p>The Clerk reported that Sharps had advised the Council that 32 older style street lamps needed to be upgraded as they use mercury vapour bulbs which will be obsolete in two years time. The Clerk had contacted Bucks CC and a contractor for advice. Both confirmed that the lights would need to be changed but offered differing opinions on what they should be replaced with. Bucks CC recommended replacing with LEDs, but Cllr Duncan raised concerns about this. He had been contacted by residents complaining about the upgraded LED lights in the Kynaston Avenue/Winterton Drive area which caused disturbance to residents as they were so bright and shine into bedroom windows.</p> <p>After discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> that Aylesbury Mains would invited to attend the January meeting of the Environment Committee to provide advice and information on the types of street lighting available.</p> <p>The Clerk also reported that she had been advised by both Aylesbury Main and Bucks CC that a program should be in place to test all the Council's street lights for electrical integrity on a regular basis. Street light columns over 25 years old should also be tested for structural stability. It was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend to the Parish Council that a rolling 4 year program be drawn up.</p> <p>It was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend to the Council that a small working group is formed to work on these issues.</p>	
<b>E13/51</b>	<p><b>BENCHES</b></p> <p>a) <b>Benches for Hawkslade</b> Cllr Wood proposed that three benches were purchased to be sited on the footpath area where Hawkslade borders open farm land. It was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend that the Council funds this, either through use of s106 funds or from the Parish Improvement fund. The Clerk would obtain costs for the provision and installation of the benches.</p> <p>b) There were no other issues raised relating to benches.</p>	Clerk
<b>E13/52</b>	<p><b>LITTER AND DOG BINS</b></p> <p>a) It was noted that the replacement bins for Risborough Road would be installed on 27<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>b) The Parish Council had agreed to fund the relocation of a dog waste bin in Orchard Close. Cllr Starr reported that he had visited the area with the Clerk but that there was not an alternative suitable location which would not affect another resident in a similar manner. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to make enquiries into the possibility of replacing the bin with a different type of waste bin which used a shute mechanism, thus ensuring the bin is not left open.</p>	Clerk
<b>E13/53</b>	<p><b>STREET FURNITURE – NOTICE BOARDS</b></p> <p>a) The quotations received for a replacement notice board for Dalesford Road were considered. After discussion, it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend to the Council that the quotation from Signs of Cheshire was accepted. Although it was the second cheapest quote received, it provided the best solution with aluminium posts and a magnetic board.</p> <p>b) The Clerk provided a report on the condition of the other notice boards in the parish. After discussion, it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend to the Council that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the broken locks on the notice board by the Post Office on Station Road are replaced, and</li> <li>• the Council considers replacing the notice board opposite the hospital in the next financial year.</li> </ul>	
<b>E13/54</b>	<p><b>FOOTPATHS</b></p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that footpath 3 by Stoke Mandeville Hospital was again strewn with</p>	Clerk

	litter. The Clerk would report to the Rights of Way team.	
<b>E13/55</b>	<p><b>BURIAL GROUND</b></p> <p>a) A draft specification for the works required at the burial ground was circulated and it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend to the Council that this was given to any parties interested in quoting for the work.</p> <p>The Council's intention to carry out this work had been notified on the parish notice boards, the Council's website and in the Bucks Herald column for Stoke Mandeville. After discussion, it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend to the Council that before any work is undertaken, a public notice be placed in the Bucks Herald. The cost for this would be approximately £140 depending on the size of the notice.</p>	
<b>E13/56</b>	<p><b>ALLOTMENTS</b></p> <p>It was noted that the wooden posts would be installed around the grass verge at the entrance to the allotments to prevent cars being driven across the neighbouring driveway on 27<sup>th</sup> November. The Clerk would notify the residents of the neighbouring properties.</p>	Clerk
<b>E13/57</b>	<p><b>MEETING DATES FOR 2014</b></p> <p>The meeting dates for 2014 were <b>AGREED</b> as:</p> <p>28 January, 25 March, 20 May, 22 July, 30 September and 18 November.</p>	
<b>E13/58</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The Environment Committee would next meet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014.</p>	

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014