

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Sarah Copley

Telephone: (01296) 613888

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2015
at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville**

PRESENT:

Cllrs: B Adams, R Butler, A Clark, B Ezra, J Hunt (Chairman), M Rogers, S Pluckwell, D Starr, R Swinney and P Wood

Clerk: Sarah Copley

District Cllr C Paternoster, County Cllr C Adams and Mr S Ezra, Chairman of Stoke Mandeville Village Community Association [SMVCA]

15/16 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES All Councillors were present. The Chairman welcomed new Councillor for Stoke Leys ward, Stephen Pluckwell. Cllr Pluckwell had signed his declaration of acceptance and completed the register of interests.	
15/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION There were no declarations of interest. No requests for dispensation had been received.	
15/18 RESIGNATION The Council noted with regret the resignation of Stephen Watson at the end of January due to increased work commitments. As there was less than six months until the election there was no requirement to fill the vacancy.	
15/19 OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS a) SMVA - Mr Ezra presented a report on the condition of the Community Centre's heating system, explaining the problems which currently existed and research he had carried out on the improvements necessary to bring it up to standard. As the Parish Council owned the building, in accordance with the Lease SMVCA requested permission to undertake an upgrade to the heating system. Final costs were yet to be received but early estimates were c£10,000. SMVCA would be using the same contractor used by AVDC to upgrade the heating systems in their community centres. The Chairman thanked Mr. Ezra for attending the meeting and making Councillors aware of the proposals (see Minute 15/25) b) County Cllr Chris Adams reported that : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bucks CC were increasing council tax by 1.99% in 2015/16.• Hampden Fields planning application appeal had been dismissed by the Secretary of State due to deficiencies in the road system. He also stated in his report that development must avoid coalescence between Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville c) It was noted that AVDC were not increasing Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year.	
15/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting held on 13 th January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. b) The table of actions was noted.	
15/21 FINANCE a) Payment of Invoices – the list of payments tabled was approved. b) Bank reconciliation and finance report – the bank reconciliation and finance report were noted.	

<p>c) Grass cutting for QEII field – it was noted that the cost for cutting the grass at the playing field would be £4,164.05 for 2015/16, the Council unanimously AGREED to this cost. As this was the third year since the service was last tendered, the Council would need to review the contract and get quotes from three suppliers for 2016 - 2019.</p> <p>d) Banking Arrangements – it was noted that the Clerk’s Imprest account had been set up and debit card received. The balance of the account would be maintained at £300.</p> <p>e) Internal Audit – it was AGREED to re-appoint HASE Ltd as internal auditors for 2014/15.</p> <p>f) Charity Grant – the Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity had approved the Council’s request for a grant of £11,000. The Council recorded thanks to the Charity for their continued support and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Chairman.</p>	
<p>15/22 RESILIENCE PLAN</p> <p>Cllrs Clark and Wood presented a report on the steps the Council needed to take in order to produce a Resilience Plan. After discussion it was unanimously AGREED that:</p> <p>a) A working group would meet to progress the plan, the working group would comprise of Cllrs Clark, Wood, Ezra and Butler and Cllr Clark would chair it. The Clerk to book a room for the first meeting.</p> <p>b) A subscription to Survey Monkey would be taken out at a cost of £399.</p> <p>c) The Clerk would contact Bucks CC to advise them of the Council’s intention to produce a Resilience Plan.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>15/23 HIGH SPEED RAIL 2</p> <p>a) Chiltern Tunnel</p> <p>Cllr Rogers gave a presentation on the Peter Brett Associates’ latest report which had been commissioned by the Chiltern District Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, High Wycombe District Council, Bucks County Council and Chiltern Conservation Board and other conservation groups.</p> <p>The current position of the tunnel’s northern exit still stood at Mantles Wood [Lt Missenden] as defined by HS2 Ltd, being 13km in tunnel and 12km outside. A change in European legislation had meant that tunnels to be over 20kms did not need an intervention gap and could have an underground fire point. It was noted that the new proposal from PBA put the north portal to the east of Nash Lee Road facing Stoke Mandeville village. In addition a large construction site was proposed to be built alongside the Aylesbury-Marylebone Chiltern line at the rear of the Triangle Business Park. The intention being for the use of transporting large equipment and materials and for the removal of spoil should rail be the selected method of transport for this purpose.</p> <p>A number of questions were raised by Councillors when it was noted the extended tunnel as proposed by PBA would cost an approx additional £400m.</p> <p>There followed considerable debate during which it was stated that the report from Peter Brett Associates did not contain sufficient information in order to show that Stoke Mandeville would not be adversely affected by the proposed extension of the bored tunnel.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that currently this was a proposal on behalf of the Consortium to be submitted to HS2 Ltd making a case for the extension of the bored tunnel through the Chilterns. Should the case be supported there would be further public consultation on the Environmental Statement as an Additional Provision. She stated that the Council had already over the past eighteen months looked at a number of proposals from other organisations for an extended tunnel which Councillors had opposed.</p>	

	<p>It was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Butler that the Council should not support the report. Further discussion ensued during which the proposal was withdrawn by the proposer and seconder.</p> <p>A further proposal was submitted by Cllr Rogers seconded by Cllr Starr in that the Parish Council :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. remain resolutely opposed to HS2; 2. continue to represent its residents and secure the best possible mitigation for the Parish; and 3. the Council reserves its position with regard to the Peter Brett Associates' report until the Additional Provisions Environmental Statement in this respect is received. <p>The Motion was carried with one abstention.</p> <p>b) Joint working group with SMAG</p> <p>The report of the joint working group meeting held on 20th January was noted. Cllr Starr had sought estimates for commissioning photographs to be used in the Petitions of the Parish Council and SMAG. It was AGREED to provide up to £300 for commissioning photographs of the area as soon as possible and before trees and hedgerows came into leaf.</p>	DS
15/24	<p>EAST WEST RAIL</p> <p>Cllrs Hunt and Rogers had attended a consultation event hosted by East West Rail to discuss the level crossing on the Chiltern's Risborough line in the Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville area. There were no proposals for the closure of crossings in the Parish. Councillors from Marsh & Kimble PC were present at the meeting and were engaging with EW Rail concerning the crossing at Marsh Lane.</p>	
15/25	<p>LEISURE COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Heating system at the Community Centre – following the presentation given by SMVCA Chairman, Steve Ezra, the Parish Council unanimously AGREED to grant approval to SMVCA proceeding with the upgrade to the heating system. Further details concerning costs were requested by the Council. b) Land at Hawkslade – the Clerk reported that Joe Houston (Leisure Services at AVDC) had contacted the Council to find out if it would be interested in the transfer of AVDC land to the Parish Council. This would have the benefit of the Council being able to provide leisure facilities in the area. It was AGREED that the Leisure Committee would meet with AVDC to explore the proposal further. c) Pollyanna Pre School had requested permission to put up two signs name on the exterior of the Centre, one by their new door (A2 size) and another A4 size sign on the front of the building directing visitors to their door. It was unanimously AGREED to permit this. 	Clerk
15/26	<p>STAFFING COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January were noted. 	
15/27	<p>ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The minutes of the meeting held on 27th January. b) MVAS – Cllrs Rogers and Swinney would meet on 26th February to try out the MVAS and software before it is installed for the first time. Cllr Clark asked if a sign could be purchased to attach to the MVAS so that it is clear it was in the ownership of the Parish Council. The Clerk would look into costs. c) Devolved Services – there would be a meeting on 24th February which Cllr Rogers would attend. d) The quote from Amersham Town Council of £220 to re-site the bench opposite the hospital and to install the new bin for the skatepark was discussed and it was unanimously AGREED to accept this. 	MR/RS Clerk Clerk

15/28	FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE It was noted that the Finance and Governance Committee meeting had been rearranged for Thursday 12 th February at 8pm.	
15/29	ENGAGEMENT WITH STOKE MANDEVILLE COMBINED SCHOOL Cllr Hunt reminded councillors that the school was looking for non-parent governors with HR or finance skills and encouraged everyone to promote that request. It was AGREED to arrange a meeting between the Council and School Governors for April.	Clerk
14/30	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting were discussed and it was AGREED that a presentation be given on Neighbourhood Planning.	MR/JH/ Clerk
15/31	CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE a) A response had been received from Transport for Bucks (TFB) regarding the position of the roundabout at the junction of Lower Road, Station Road and Risborough Road. They were aware of the issue and had received approaches from the public. The roundabout would be moved to a more appropriate location as soon as the weather allowed in Spring. b) The PCSOs for Hawkslade had confirmed that they had added the parking issues on Hawkslade raised at the last meeting to their patrol plan and would be contacting residents. c) There would be a burial in the Swallow Lane burial ground on Thursday 19 th February. d) A response was still outstanding from Bucks CC regarding a streetlight for the bus stop at the nursing home on Risborough Road. The Clerk had also contacted Freemantle Trust regarding this and they confirmed they had also raised this with TFB.	
15/32	POINTS OF INFORMATION Cllr Adams said that he had contacted TFB regarding salting for Anton Way, they confirmed this is not a primary salting route as it is a residential road. With regard to the issue of bus operators notifying residents of changes to routes due to icy road, Cllr Adams had referred this to Cory Cashman of Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group. Cllr Clark reported that the Paralympic flame would be lit at Stoke Mandeville stadium for the next games and would be funded by international sponsorship not local taxation.	
15/33	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the next meeting would be 10 th March 2015 at 7.30pm.	

Signed _____

Date: 10th March 2015

Appendix 1 – Actions

	Action	By whom	Update/Complete
14/144	Submit application to register community assets	Clerk/MR/JH	
14/178	Feedback from residents group on ETRO	MR	
14/180	Provide e-copy of census data	MR	
14/194	When received, advertise HS2 bill materials available for viewing by the public	Clerk	
14/202	Apply to Land Registry with respect to allotments and Marsh Lane land	Clerk/JH	
15/11	Contact BCC and AVDC re light for bus stop Risborough Road	Clerk	✓ Awaiting response
15/21	Write thank you letter to SM&OP Charity	Clerk	✓
15/22	Arrange date for Resilience Plan working group to meet	Clerk	✓
15/22	Arrange subscription to Survey Monkey	Clerk	
15/22	Advise Bucks CC of PC's intention to produce a resilience plan	Clerk	✓
15/25	Write to SMVCA confirming approval to proceed with heating upgrade	Clerk	✓
15/25	Write to Pollyanna giving permission for signs	Clerk	✓
15/27	Meet to look at operation of MVAS	MR/RS	✓
15/27	Instruct Amersham TC to carry out work as quoted	Clerk	✓
15/29	Arrange meeting with school for April	Clerk	
15/30	Neighbourhood Plan presentation for Annual Parish Meeting	MR/JH/Clerk	