

**STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL**

*Clerk: Mrs Sarah Copley*

*Telephone: (01296) 613888*

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville**

**PRESENT:**

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

Clerk: Sarah Copley

<b>15/1 APOLOGIES</b> All Councillors were present.	
<b>15/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b> There were no declarations of interest. No requests for dispensation had been received.	
<b>15/3 OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS</b>  The new Head teacher for Stoke Mandeville Combined School, Eileen Stewart, attended to introduce herself to Councillors. She was accompanied by Valerie Brigden who was a school governor. The school is in need of governors and they made a plea to Councillors to consider taking on this role, which would have the advantage of providing an informal link between the two organisations.  Cllr Hunt suggested that the School and Parish Council meet to discuss common interests and concerns such as parking and HS2 on an annual or six monthly basis. This was welcomed by Mrs Stewart. Such a meeting would be arranged for April. There were a number of questions from Councillors and Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Brigden were thanked for attending the meeting.	
<b>15/4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  a) The minutes of the meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> December were agreed as a correct record subject to the insertion of "include" within Minute No. 14/192 and signed by the Chairman.  b) The table of actions was noted. The Clerk updated on two ongoing matters:  14/144 - The applications for registering Community Assets had been drafted and were with Cllrs Hunt and Rogers for their input. Bucks CC had noted from the Council's minutes that Bucks Sports & Social Club, Lower Road was one of the properties the Council had identified had requested a meeting. Cllrs Hunt and Rogers would attend this meeting with the Clerk. A date was still to be arranged.  14/193 – A laptop for use with the MVAS had been purchased, Weston Turville PC had agreed to contribute 50% of the cost. Clerks in the GALAF area had been invited to a meeting with Bucks CC to discuss the MVAS to be funded by the GALAF. Stoke Mandeville PC had been given two options – (1) to receive a contribution towards a second MVAS or (2) the GALAF would fund additional ground screws throughout the parish for use with the MVAS being shared with Weston Turville. Paul Hodson had confirmed that the MVAS could be used in all four wards of Stoke Mandeville. The Parish Council <b>AGREED</b> to accept the second option for additional ground screws.	
<b>15/5 CASUAL VACANCIES FOR STOKE LEYS AND STOKE GRANGE WARDS</b>  There had been an application for the Stoke Leys vacancy from Mr Stephen Pluckwell. It was unanimously <b>AGREED</b> to co-opt Mr Pluckwell to the Council.	

<p><b>15/6 FINANCE</b></p> <p>a) <b>Payment of Invoices</b> – the list of payments tabled was approved.</p> <p>b) <b>Bank reconciliation and finance report</b> – the bank reconciliation and finance report were noted.</p> <p>c) <b>Laptop for office</b> – As noted at the December meeting, the office laptop was in need of replacement and Cllr Rogers had provided advice on the type of laptop to be obtained. Following discussion it was unanimously <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk would purchase a suitable laptop and a copy of Microsoft Office Professional up to a total cost of £1000.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>15/7 DEVOLVED SERVICES</b></p> <p>The Local Area Technician from Transport for Bucks, Clifford Marshall, had met with the Clerk and the Chairman to review the grass cutting maps. Some areas had been missed out and Clifford had taken this back to BCC to get them included.</p> <p>Cllr Rogers reported on the workshop he had attended reviewing the legal agreement between Bucks CC and parishes and some discussion ensued.</p> <p>There had been a change to the amount of money being offered for the devolved services which had been queried by parishes. The amount the Council would receive in year one had been dropped to £9,218.</p> <p>Cllr Clark asked whether the Council would seek legal advice on the agreement before signing. After discussion the Clerk was asked to raise the matter with the Localities team at Bucks CC and BMKALC whether advice could be obtained and funded on behalf of all parishes accepting devolved services.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>15/8 PRECEPT 2015-16</b></p> <p>The draft budget for 2015-16 previously circulated was reviewed.</p> <p>It was unanimously <b>AGREED</b> to set the precept for 2015-16 at £97,023. This equated to a 6% increase on the Band D, which was broken down to 2% increase in running costs and 4% increase to cover the costs of devolved services over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The Finance and Governance Committee was asked to consider the impact on the Council in future years should there be no further grants for the devolved services. Members of the Committee and the Clerk were thanked for the work undertaken on the precept.</p>	Clerk  F&G
<p><b>15/9 HIGH SPEED RAIL 2</b></p> <p>a) <b>Meetings</b> - the Chairman advised that the following meetings were due to take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiltern Tunnel - Bucks CC meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February for affected parishes, JH, DS and MR would attend for the Council</li> <li>• Old Church Site – meeting with Kate Lawton of HS2 on 16<sup>th</sup> January, JH, DS and MR would attend for the Council</li> <li>• Meeting of Joint SMPC/SMAG Working Group arranged for 20th January 2015</li> <li>• HS2 visit to Buckinghamshire, date to be advised.</li> </ul> <p>b) <b>Petitioning</b> – Cllr Rogers advised that the Select Committee meetings would finish on 12 March due to the General Election and resume thereafter. Stoke Mandeville was likely to be heard after the election.</p> <p>Cllr Rogers said that at a recent meeting he had attended, HS2 had indicated that they would not be seeking to resolve the issue of using sidings to remove spoil from the line which had been raised in petitions. This would benefit surrounding parishes in reducing the number of lorries taking the spoil away by road. Cllr Rogers asked whether the Parish Council would consider jointly commissioning technical work to look at the feasibility of sidings with other affected parishes. This was unanimously <b>AGREED</b>.</p>	Clerk

<p><b>15/10 LEISURE COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December were noted and the recommendations therein discussed.</p> <p>b) It was <b>AGREED</b> to purchase a table tennis table for the QEII field. The Clerk to obtain formal quotes and apply for s106 funds towards this project.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>15/11 PLANNING COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January were noted.</p> <p>b) Application 14/03726/APP for the erection of one dwelling on 279 Wendover Road had been considered by the Planning Committee who had raised no objections. Since that meeting representation had been received from neighbouring residents who objected to the proposals. The Chairman of the Planning Committee requested that this be reviewed in light of the further information received. On consideration the Council raised no objections to the proposals.</p> <p>c) It was noted that formal approval had been given for the £5000 New Homes Bonus funding to amend speed limits in Risborough Road and Lower Road and agreed that negotiations with BCC should go ahead forthwith.</p>	
<p><b>15/12 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>a) Litter and dog bins on Hawkslade – Cllr Wood reported that complaints had been received regarding overflowing dog bins along the grassed area to the rear of Sheridan Close and that litter was being left near the new benches. Cllrs Wood and Adams had visited the area and seen no evidence of the problem at those times. Councillors were satisfied that there was currently adequate provision for dog waste and no requirement to install litter bins.</p> <p>b) Provision of street light for bus stop near nursing home on Risborough Road – a request had been received from a regular visitor to the nursing home to provide a street light at the bus stop. It was a dark stretch of road and the bus had failed to stop on more than one occasion. The Parish Council agreed that a light was necessary and the Clerk was asked to contact Transport for Bucks, the Fremantle Trust and AVDC in the first instance to find out if there were already plans to provide this, stressing the importance of safety of users and the vulnerability of those waiting at the bus stop.</p> <p>c) Felling of tree at junction of Lower Road and Marsh Lane – A number of complaints had been received from parishioners regarding the felling of the Ash tree. The tree officer had inspected the tree and found it to be in poor condition. A fungal bracket had been discovered at the base of the tree, which was a common infection of ash trees and caused white rot decay. The Clerk was asked to find out if Transport for Bucks planned to grind the stump out and whether provision had been made for a replacement.</p> <p>d) Roundabout at junction of Lower Road and Risborough Road – The new roundabout was not raised but painted onto the road and did not appear to be central to the three roads. This was causing cars turning right from Lower Road to Risborough Road to either drive across it or obstruct vehicles going straight on up Station Road. The Clerk would raise with Transport for Bucks.</p> <p>e) Road salting – complaints had been received from a resident regarding the lack of road salting in Anton Way which had resulted in the cancellation of the bus service due to icy conditions. Transport for Bucks had been contacted about this and their response was that Anton Way was not included in the primary salt routes. It was <b>AGREED</b> to :</p> <p>I. write to Arriva asking them to notify users of this service of the alternatives should the route be cancelled due to road conditions by placing a notice on bus stops</p> <p>II. In his capacity as County Councillor for the area, Cllr Adams would raise with BCC</p> <p>III. Cllr Starr would respond to the resident advising of the action to be taken.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>BA</p> <p>DS</p>

<p><b>15/13 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>A letter had been received from AVDC regarding funding available for lunch clubs, it would be passed on to the Monday Club which met at the Community Centre. Cllrs Rogers and Wood asked for a copy to pass on to other local groups.</p> <p>Notification of the s137 allowance for 2015-16 had been received, the amount was £7.36.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>15/14 POINTS OF INFORMATION</b></p> <p>There was a Neighbourhood Planning conference taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> February organised by Locality and Planning Aid England at Local Government House, London which was free to attend, Cllr Rogers asked to attend and feed back to the Neighbourhood Planning group.</p> <p>Cllr Clark urged the Council to check the boundary of any developments neighbouring Parish Council's land to ensure they are correctly registered.</p>	
<p><b>15/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting would be 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30pm.</p>	

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## Appendix 1 – Actions

	<b>Action</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>Update/Complete</b>
14/137	Bank mandate to add Clerk as a signatory and open an imprest account	Clerk	✓
14/144	Submit application to register community assets	Clerk	
14/178	Feedback from residents group on ETRO	MR	
14/180	Provide e-copy of census data	MR	
14/191	Consider options for future funding for the Community Centre	F&G committee	
14/191	Progress public consultation for speed limit change once formal approval of New Homes Bonus funding received.	Clerk / JH / MR	✓
14/192	Produce longer term financial forecast for Council	F&G Committee	
14/194	When received, advertise HS2 bill materials available for viewing by the public	Clerk	
14/195	Obtain quotes for supply and installation of 3 LED street lights	Clerk	
14/202	Apply to Land Registry with respect to allotments and Marsh Lane land	Clerk/JH	
15/6	Purchase laptop and Office software	Clerk	✓
15/7	Contact BCC and BALC re legal advice for parishes	Clerk	✓
15/8	Submit precept request	Clerk	✓
15/8	Consider impact on Council funds if funding ceases for devolved services	Clerk	
15/10	Formal quotes for supply and installation of table tennis table	Clerk	
15/11	Contact BCC and AVDC re light for bus stop Risborough Road	Clerk	✓
15/11	Contact TFB re replacement tree for Marsh Lane junction	Clerk	✓
15/11	Contact TFB re roundabout location	Clerk	✓
15/11	Contact Arriva re bus schedules for Anton Way	Clerk	✓
15/11	Forward funding opportunity to Monday Club and PW/MR	Cler	✓