

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 26th January 2016.**

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Rogers (Chair), J Hunt, S Pluckwell, D Starr, P Wood

Mr J Reed (co opted)

CLERK: Sarah Copley

E16/1	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Cllr Garrett.	
E16/2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor Rogers reminded the Committee that he is a School Governor for Stoke Mandeville Combined School.	
E16/3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 th September 2015, previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The actions from the previous meeting were noted.	
E16/4	LITTER a) Cllr Rogers had recently undertaken an inspection of Stoke Leys Ward and reported that there was a lot of litter, particularly between ASDA and Kynaston Avenue and towards the bus stop on Lower Road opposite the Sports and Social Club. He proposed to organise a community litter pick for the area on the weekend of 5/6 March as part of "Clean for the Queen" and would do a leaflet drop to local residents as well as asking ASDA to get involved. The Committee agreed this was an excellent initiative and it was AGREED to recommend that all councillors get involved to include other areas of the parish. The Clerk would obtain rubber gloves, litter pickers and black sacks for volunteers to use and ensure the Council's insurance policy would cover this activity. b) Additional Litter Bins Cllr Rogers proposed that additional litter bins are purchased to be sited by the bus stop opposite the Sports and Social Club and near the crossing by ASDA. He would approach ASDA to see if they would fund one near the crossing. It was AGREED to recommend that the Council fund a post mounted bin for the bus stop at a cost of £49 plus £50 if a post was also needed. It was further agreed to recommend that a litter bin be provided by the benches on Hawkslade, this would be a 90 litre bin rather than post mounted bin. The Clerk would get an updated price from Broxap.	
E16/5	STREET LIGHTS It was noted that the next tranche of lights would be upgraded to LEDs at the end of February by Sparkx. These lights to be upgraded are in Ligo Avenue, Coombe Close, Meadow Park, Dorchester Close, Walnut Close and Carters Ride. It was agreed to write to residents to let them know the work would be taking place.	Clerk
E16/6	DEVOLVED SERVICES The Committee considered the concerns raised by a local resident about the frequency of grass cuts which meant that habitat for bees and other insects was being affected. After discussion it was AGREED that no change be made to the frequency of the grass cuts as there was general satisfaction from the population with the current level of service and an area of verge near the hedgerow was being left to grow naturally.	

	The Committee recommended that Councillors be asked to report any issues relating to the devolved services contract to the Clerk, eg roads that need weed control treatment, moss on pavements.	
E16/7	<p>ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>There were currently 4 vacant plots and no one remaining on the waiting list. A request for a plot had been received from someone who had recently bought a house in the village but not yet moved in. The Committee AGREED to this request.</p> <p>Cllr Rogers asked that the Committee consider letting a plot to the Stoke Mandeville Combined School who had expressed an interest. This was AGREED and it was further agreed to recommend to the Council that no charge was levied to the school for this.</p>	
E16/8	<p>STREET FURNITURE</p> <p>a) Provision of dog waste bin for Hampden Road Cllr Starr had not been able to visit the site to consider the suitability for a dog waste bin, he would report back at a future meeting.</p> <p>b) Other issues The Council's risk assessment stated that street furniture would be inspected annually and a written record kept of the inspection. The Clerk would produce a form to log the inspection and the Committee recommended that all councillors be allocated a list of equipment to be checked.</p> <p>Provision of a bus shelter for Hawkslade was discussed and the Clerk was asked to get detailed costs for a canopy shelter for consideration.</p>	Clerk Clerk
E16/9	<p>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS</p> <p>a) Speeding Concerns Hawkslade</p> <p>A resident had written to the Council expressing concerns about speeding traffic on the estate, particularly in Hillier Road. The Clerk provided information regarding 30mph stickers that go on wheelie bins. After discussion it was AGREED to recommend that the Council purchase 1500 stickers at a cost of £540 for distributing in roads that were used as 'rat runs' or where residents were concerned about speeding.</p> <p>b) Speed Limit Reduction for Risborough Road and Lower Road</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the final bill for the speed limit reduction had been received and a claim submitted for the New Homes Bonus grant.</p> <p>Transport for Bucks had advised that the new speed limit and signs would be installed by the end of February.</p> <p>c) Other Issues</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the condition of road side verges where cars were being parked on them or driven across them. Research would need to be carried out on whether there were any bylaws in place for grass verges and what could be done to prevent verges being damaged in this way.</p>	Clerk / MR
E16/10	<p>BURIAL GROUND</p> <p>a) Cllr Hunt reported on her visit to Chalfont St Peter with the Clerk to find out more information about setting up a new burial ground.</p> <p>The Council's land at Marsh Lane had now been vacated and it was suggested that it may be suitable for a burial ground if permission for change of use could be obtained. It was estimated that it could accommodate up to 800 plots.</p> <p>The land and boundary fencing was in poor condition and would need some remedial works to tidy it and make it secure. The following steps were agreed:</p> <p>i) The Clerk would investigate the process to apply for change of use from allotment use to burial ground.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) Aylesbury Town Council would be asked to quote for clearing the land, cutting back hedging and installing a gate and new fencing where needed. iii) The land would need to be tested for its suitability as a burial ground. <p>b) Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two of the most recent graves had sunk in the recent wet weather conditions and the grave digger had been out to rectify this. • One of the memorial stones and kerbing of a longstanding grave was leaning over to one side and the owner of the plot had been contacted to ask them to remedy this. • Cllr Hunt reported on an issue with dogs being seen running loose in the burial ground. It was AGREED to recommend that the Council purchase a sign for the gate reminding people to keep dogs on a lead and pick up after them. 	
E16/11	<p>TREES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The survey of trees on the Council's land had not yet been carried out, the working group would arrange a date in early spring. b) The sapling trees and hedging received from the Woodland Trust had been in the care of Cllr Hunt for three years were now ready for planting out. It was agreed that these could be used to fill in the hedging around the land at Marsh Lane and that Aylesbury Town Council be asked to quote for planting these. <p>The Clerk had contacted Transport for Bucks for permission to plant the two Oak trees from the same source on the green at the top of Marsh Lane to replace the tree that was cut down the previous year.</p>	DS/PW/ JR
E16/12	<p>ANY OTHER ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP advised that there was still an issue with cars being parked in Misbourne Close blocking the garages. He had contacted the local PCSO for advice who had referred him to Bucks CC to look into the possibility of residents parking bays. • Best Kept Village – when entering this year it was agreed that a covering letter be included with the application to make clear the Council's stance with regard to graffiti on the skate park. 	
E16/13	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Environment Committee would next meet on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm.</p>	

Signed: _____ M Rogers _____

Date: 22nd March 2016