

Draft Minutes of Stoke Golding Parish Council

Minutes of the 364th meeting of Stoke Golding Parish Council held in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 2nd March 2016.

Attendance: Cllrs R Terheege (in the chair), S Beale, C Pegg, R Fisher, P Goodsell, Parish Clerk Theresa Case, County Cllr Ivan Ould, Borough Cllr Reg Ward, Richard Mugglestone and residents.

Cllr Terheege opened the meeting at 7.00pm

364/1 Apologies for Absence: Cllr Mitchell.

The meeting moved to item 364/11 on the agenda.

Richard Mugglestone of Midlands Rural Housing (MRH) addressed the meeting. Midlands Rural Housing (MRH) is a specialist rural housing organisation. Our aim is to help those who live and work locally to access housing which is affordable. MRH is carrying out independent strategic enabling work on behalf of local authorities across Leicestershire following the departure of the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Housing Enabler. Principally this involves working with the Borough Council's housing and planning teams, Parish Councils, and local communities to carry out Housing Needs Surveys (HNSs). HNSs are designed to establish the local housing needs, particularly affordable housing needs, of people in a Parish (i.e. those who have strong connections such as living, working or having family in the parish). The evidence gathered in such surveys is used to inform Local Authority housing strategy and policy and to ensure that resources are being effectively targeted. MRH will carry out surveys independently following procedures that are recognised by The Homes and Communities Agency and local authorities. The gathering of survey results does not indicate that a specific site will be developed.

A discussion followed. Concerns were raised about how this survey would be perceived by residents and that it may also undermine the Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee would need to be consulted and Richard Mugglestone offered to attend one of their meetings. There was no legal requirement to utilize the services of the contracted firm. The representative will return to HBBC to assess the situation in view of the Convent and Sherwood Road developments and the SAD statements that nil housing is needed in SG.

Borough Cllr Ward gave an explanation of 'low cost housing' – i.e. when the land, possibly brown field, was sold to a developer at a lower price than most and the advantage then passed onto subsequent buyers. In Northamptonshire this is resulting in some housing being taken up by people from London who can no longer afford housing there. It was unclear as to the constraints put on the owners - be they private or housing associations as to at which point properties lost their 'low-cost' status and were available at open market prices.

The agenda returned to item 364/2 on the agenda.

364/2 Declarations of interest on items on the agenda: Cllr Goodsell declared that she was an adjoining landowner to Laburnum Cottage.

A report by County Cllr Ivan Ould was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting:

Local Issues – Individual Casework

February built on January with 10 new individual casework requests in addition to the six still on going.

Local Issues – Parish Council Areas

For some of the 13 Parish areas, there are a number of on-going issues:

Barlestone –The date for a meeting between the Parish Council and Barlestone Primary School that also involves my attendance is 17th March at 2.00p.m.being sought at present. Nic Thomas, Principal Planning Officer for HBBC has still not responded to my e-mail about the most recent application for 5 pitches on the Good Friday site.

Higham on the Hill – A resident has contacted me over speeding traffic in the 20m.p.h. zone. The fundamental issue is that the enforcement agency is the Police, and if they won't respond to requests, the only other way is by a Community Speedwatch programme. I shall be taking this possibility up with Higham Parish Council. Another resident contacted me on a different issue where I hope I was helpful.

Market Bosworth – I have signed off specific parking restriction proposals for different areas of Market Bosworth. My wife and me attended the tree planting of 2 Himalayan Cherries in the Country Park that we had sponsored as part of the ongoing work in the Arboretum. I also met the volunteers, one who came from Fleckney and none of whom were from within the Market Bosworth Division. The new landing stage on the lake looked very attractive.

Shackerstone – I am discussing with the Chief Executive, John Sinnott, regarding the continuing unavailability of the Leicestershire Round Public Right of Way at Shackerstone Railway Station. The current situation is unacceptable and unsatisfactory.

Sheepy – Debris in the River Sence has been the focal issue over the last month, and the refusal of the Environment Agency to engage in preventative work. I am looking forward to attending the meeting at the School regarding a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Stoke Golding – Issues surrounding development at Laburnum Cottage continue to be prevalent. My wife and I enjoyed our evening in the Village Hall regarding the latest cultural offering and are looking forward to the next event.

Sutton Cheney – Measures to alleviate flooding in Shenton has been discussed with officers from County Hall.

Twycross – In addition to the issues from last month, all of which remain unresolved, I have been in direct communication with our M.P. David Tredinnick, regarding the proposed route of HS2. Some parish councillors may recall that there was a third engineering option that would bring the route south of Twycross Zoo, through Gopsall Park, and out at Shackerstone. In the light of press statements from Andrew Bridgen, M.P. for Northwest Leicestershire, there is a fresh need for clarification regarding the route.

Witherley – Issues over the removal of bus stops without any consultation with either the Parish Council or me are causing great local concern and are currently under discussion. Technically the A5 is not in Leicestershire where it passes through the Market Bosworth Division but comes under Highways England and Warwickshire County Council.

These are the current highest priorities for each parished area. They do not include individual casework. I attended 7 parish council meetings in February.

County Hall Meetings:

In February I attended the following meetings:

1st: chaired Children's Social Care Panel

2nd: attended Strategy Co-ordination Group, Cabinet Briefing, and Lead Member meeting for Children and Families.

9th: attended the Strategy Co-ordination Group, Lead Members meeting regarding health issues, followed by a monitoring meeting on the 5 Inclusion Partnerships, and another meeting specifically about 1 school.

12th: attended an emergency cabinet briefing meeting.

16th: SCG, followed by Cabinet Briefing, followed by a Lead member's Meeting.

17th Full County Council for the budget meeting.

19th : Transitions Meeting for young people aged 18-25 who have special educational needs.

22nd: Attended a two tree planting event in the Country Park. (My wife and I have sponsored the planting of two Tibetan Cherry trees in the Arboretum), followed by School Forum in the afternoon.

23rd: Lead Members meeting on community safety, followed by the annual conversation of the Children's Centres in Loughborough.

29th: Interviewed by Radio Leicester regarding the First Response service. Attended an all member briefing on HS2.

London/Regional Meetings

10th February I was an invited speaker at a national conference regarding the Government's Troubled Families programme. We call this service 'Supporting Families' here in Leicestershire and are currently placed third in England for our success rate.

11th February I was asked to represent the County Council at a meeting in Nottingham with the Immigration Minister regarding the issues around successful integration of Syrian refugees. This was on an East Midlands basis.

24th February I chaired a conference in London regarding the provision of new school places.

Local Meetings

Friday 5th the police and Crime Commissioner held a meeting for partner agencies at the King Power Stadium regarding a campaign to eradicate child abuse. I was asked to represent the County Council and to sign off the agreed pledge.

County Council Budget:

In summary, the County Council will be raising council tax by 3.99%, as allowed by Government rules. 2% of this is specifically for adult social care.

The opposition groups failed to propose any amendments, and that says it all!

Cabinet:

This took place on Friday 5th February and covered the following items:

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Strategy for Adult Social Care

Closure of Greengate Children's Home

Zouch Bridge replacement

The following items were discussed at the meeting:

LCC budget as above

Environment agency – no flooding reported in the Market Bosworth region

Fair funding for schools

Laburnum Cottage – Cllr Ould has been lobbied on this matter and wishes to be kept informed of progress

Borough Cllr Reg Ward reported on the following:

1. Budget increase will be £5per household and £24 for brown bin. Take up expected to be 40%.

2. Empty private properties to be identified to refurbish then let/sell.
3. Small brownfield sites to be identified to provide low cost sites for small developers.
4. Barwell SUE negotiations still continue, 106 agreement still to be agreed.
5. Council Tax band D expected to be £1522, average is £1537.

364/3 To confirm the minutes of the 363rd meeting of the Parish Council

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2016 were proposed by Cllr Beale and seconded by Cllr Pegg and unanimously AGREED that the Chairman signed the minutes of the 363rd meeting as a correct record of the meeting. The Chairman signed the minutes.

364/4 Matters arising

Crime Report– 1 anti-social behaviour near Hall Drive.

Detailed statistics for Bosworth, Ratby, Groby, Markfield and Stanton area for 2015 show most common crimes reported are anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime and burglary. 72% of crime reported needed no further action, 18.05% are under investigation and of those charged 2.99% are dealt with by the police, 4.19% are sent to court and 2.91% are dealt with by the court.

Bench Press - Wicksteed have carried out the proposed modification at no cost to the PC and apologise for the inconvenience.

364/5 Reports of elected officers of the council and the clerk.

To receive and consider the following and resolve upon any action or recommendations thereon:

a) Financial Progress Report

The Financial Report was proposed by Cllr Fisher and seconded by Cllr Pegg and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to approve the report and it was signed by the Chairman. Quarterly verification of the bank statements was carried out by Cllr Beale on 12 February.

b) Reports by council representatives and clerk

A report by Cllr Mitchell was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting:

Current Position relating to Land Adjacent to the Convent Housing Development.

Ownership

The land is currently owned by the successors to Mar City Developments

Current Position in relation to Planning Application

11/00219/REM Mar City Planning Application for Convent Site –

Extract from Officers Report to Planning Committee – Reserved Matters

Management of Play and Open Space, Allotments and Wooded Area

The S106 agreement which was agreed at outline stage covered the management and maintenance of the equipped and unequipped play and open space. In respect of the allotments and wooded area, the future management and maintenance of these have been discussed with the agent who has stated that the Parish Council have verbally confirmed that they will take on the management of these. However confirmation of their commitment has not been received in writing. This issue does not however need to be resolved as part of this application. It has been agreed that any landscaping which falls outside of the boundaries of individual plots will be owned and maintained by third parties.

Current Position in relation to Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Document

This document is in the final stages of approval and should be adopted by HBBC in July to become council policy.

The Site Allocations Document shows the following:-

1) The area for a play area (planning approved) and the allotments and woodland are outside the settlement boundary

2) The play area, allotments and adjacent woodland have been classified as open spaces

Constraints on Development for Housing

1) The site is outside the Settlement Boundary

2) Open Spaces are protected from development by Council Policies

3) Stoke Golding has met its Core Strategy requirements. No more housing required up to 2026.

4) The emerging Stoke Golding Neighbourhood plan is likely to identify the allotments, wooded area and playground as Community open spaces in line with the council Document.

5) The Neighbourhood Plan forecast for approval in 2019 will last to 2031 or 2036 in line with HBBC current possible planning timescales.

On this basis it is unlikely that, in normal circumstances, permission will be given for development of this area.

It was agreed that a letter should be written to Mar City seeking clarification on the status of the community land. ACTION: Clerk to draft a letter and forward to Cllrs Pegg and Goodsell for approval.

c) Playground Inspection Report - no concerns.

364/6 Planning Application Matters:

Planning application procedures were discussed and reviewed as follows:

New applications -

The White Swan, 47 High St, SG – display of 2 x illuminated fascia signs, 3 x non-illuminated fascia signs and 1 x illuminated hanging sign. ACTION: Clerk to check detail of how signs are illuminated and report back.

Permissions granted –

St Margaret's C of E Primary – erection of cycle shelter and associated works.

47 Wykin Lane – two story rear extension and erection of porch.

Basin Bridge Farm, Basin Bridge Lane – construction of 5MW solar farm with associated infrastructure.

4 Greenwood Road – single storey front and rear extension.

Refusals – none

Withdrawn – none

Amended –

Laburnum Cottage, SG – erection of 5 dwellings and formation of access (outline-access and layout).

David Goodsell spoke on behalf of the Heritage Group. Both the Heritage Group and the PC are opposed to the amended application. The PC is not in favour of adopting additional land that will be of little practical value to the village and will increase pressure on the ground maintenance budget. ACTION: Clerk to circulate updated comments for approval and submit to HBBC.

364/7 To approve what reports will be required for the Annual Parish Meeting

APM Agenda reports to be in by Friday 11th March 2016. ACTION: Clerk to contact those responsible.

364/8 To authorise a sum of petty expenditure for the year beginning April

A sum of £500 was agreed. PROPOSED: Cllr Pegg. SECONDED: Cllr Beale.

364/9 Ground maintenance – review of contract and performance

Cllr Pegg has carried out a review of performance and found all work to be satisfactory. It was agreed that the PC should continue with the three year contract for ground maintenance. The following additional work was agreed: extra cuts to Bennett Close and St Margaret's Churchyard, spring topping to wildflower meadow and repairs to guttering. PROPOSED: Cllr Pegg. SECONDED: Cllr Beale. Three quotes for additional work were received and will be held on file to be considered in the next contract year. The review of the ground maintenance specifications was discussed and a copy will be circulated to all councillors for approval at the next meeting. Cllr Pegg will meet with Daniel Britton on 3rd March to discuss potential funding for work to Church Walks. At Wykin Lane cemetery moss killer will be applied to a test area of the pathway. A quote has been received to remove black algae from the block paving. ACTION: Clerk to gain further quotes to be considered at the next meeting. Cllr Goodsell reported that ironwork around a family plot at St Margaret's churchyard is unsafe. It was agreed that the PC should carry out necessary work to make safe. ACTION: Clerk to inform the vicar, liaise with David Goodsell and make necessary arrangements.

364/10 Review of internal controls

The review was carried out by Cllr Beale and the clerk on the 12th February.

364/12 Pensions – automatic enrolment duties

The staging date for the PC to comply with new pension regulations was 1st February. A declaration of compliance has been submitted and PC's employee has been informed on their rights.

364/13 Site allocations Document main modifications

Following the examination hearings of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document in September and October the planning inspector has proposed a number of 'main modifications'. The Borough Council has now published these modifications which confirm that the remaining residual housing need for Stoke Golding is nil and no further sites have been put forward for development.

364/14 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Mitchell has reported that one consultant has given a presentation. This will be circulated with the minutes. Presentations from two other consultants will be given on 16th March. Depending on the outcome a consultant may be recommended for approval at the PC meeting in April. Higham on the Hill PC have formally approved NP area option 2 at their meeting on 22nd February. The minutes of this meeting will be formally approved at their next meeting on 11th March. Once this is done the formal submission document can be approved at the PC meeting on the 6th April and those minutes will be approved on 4th May and the application for NP Area Designation can be submitted to HBBC.

364/15 Play equipment

Following a discussion it was agreed that Cllr Fisher should obtain prices for an outdoor table tennis table. This could be funded from 106 monies.

364/16 Sport in Stoke Golding

Cllr Pegg has been in contact with the Cricket Club and Adult FB Club and should have development plans this week. He will then be able to meet with Graham Chilvers and Prohelp. Drainage issues were discussed. Cllr Goodsell suggested along with the pavilion project all drainage work should also be completed. Cllr Pegg noted that the ceilings in the pavilion still need to be repaired. ACTION: Cllr Pegg to get quotes.

364/17 To resolve upon the monthly schedule of payments

The schedule of payments was proposed by Cllr Pegg and seconded by Cllr Beale and unanimously Agreed. The Chairman signed the schedule. The cheques were signed by two signatories. Payments were made as follows: February 2016 – printing of NP postcards, mole catcher and March 2016 – electricity to pavilion, clerk's salary, office expenses, water supply to cemetery, litter bin collection, 3 x ground maintenance new dog waste bin and printing of cemetery guidelines.

**364/16 To receive and consider such communications as received by the Chairman of the council
Written**

106 Report –for information only.

Environmental Improvement Programme – potential projects request.

Resident's safety concerns – ACTION: Clerk to forward road safety concern to LCC Highways and reply to resident. Possibility of a ramp at the post office was discussed with Liz prior to the meeting and unfortunately is not possible due to access to Church Walks and the siting of the BT phone box.

SLCC changes – ballot by 18th March 2016.

Public Space Protection Order – consultation.

Adult FB Club – pitch condition (discussed in 364/16).

Street naming for land off Hinckley Road - .suggested names were Rylands and Ridgeway. The field name is Ryelands and the field had an ancient ridge/furrow system. ACTION: Clerk to reply. Names to be subsequently made public via the Co-op website and Stoker magazine.

HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday commemorative medal.

Resident's proposed planning application – info only.

364/12 To consider items needed to be brought to public's attention - None

364/13 Any other business

Cllr Mitchell has reported that one of the VAS batteries needs replacing at a cost of £59.00. Cllr Fisher requested £40 for anew sign for the wildflower patch at Bennett Close. These were agreed. PROPOSED: Cllr Beale. SECONDED:Cllr Pegg.

Thanks had been received from a resident for the new trees on Sherwood Road.

Cllr Terheege will attend the next Parish Forum meeting on the 23rd March.

David Goodsell had been liaising with Cllr Pegg and Dave Marriot regarding planting of cowslips.

Cllr Terheege closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Next meeting:- Methodist Church Hall, Wednesday 6th April 2016 at 7pm