

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOKE GOLDING PARISH COUNCIL

The annual meeting of Stoke Golding Parish Council was held in the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 19th April 2018.

Present: Parish Councillors Mrs R Terheege (Chair), Mrs S Beale, Mr C Pegg, Mrs R Fisher, Mrs N Smith and Parish Clerk Mrs Theresa Case, and members of the public.

Cllr Terheege opened the meeting at 8.00pm and thanked everyone for coming.

1. Formal Apologies for absence: County Councillor Ivan Ould, Cemetery Administrator Ray Tunks and Cllrs Mitchell and Goodsell.

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting

The Chairman stated that the minutes are published on the Parish Council Notice Board and the Stoke Golding Village website and the Stoke Golding na Dadlington Co-operative website. It was confirmed that the minutes of the APM meeting held on 20th April 2017 were unanimously **AGREED**.

3. Reports for the year ended 31st March 2018

a) Chairman's Report :

The village is just recovering from the snow storms that hit the country. My thanks to community minded villagers who helped with spreading the salt and snow clearing of the highways and pavements.

The village is fortunate in having many residents who volunteer their time to support the village in many ways from sports/activity groups, the many charity groups and committees and teams of volunteers who support the Parish Council. The Neighbourhood Plan Advisory committee continues with its marathon task. I thank you all.

The Parish Council (like many organisations) has been hit by an extreme amount of additional work for data protection and security reasons, this has led to the purchase of a lap top and encryption software for the sole use of the Parish Council and to the adoption of numerous policies which are published on the Stoke Golding Village Website. GDPR will take effect from 25th May 2018 and will apply to County, District and Parish Councils, small businesses, clubs and committees. It will ensure that personal data is not kept unnecessarily.

This year marks the centenary of the end of the first world war. The Parish Council would like to thank the charity of Thomas Barton for funding the memorial benches now in place at the Hinckley Road cemetery.

Those using the recreation ground will see the new roundabout has now been installed and is now usable, unfortunately, the ground is very wet, so hopefully this warm weather will dry it out. The roundabout is wheelchair friendly.

Remedial work has been carried out on the pavilion electrics to ensure this facility is safe and available for the present. A Committee called 'Sport in Stoke Golding' has been set up to consider options for a new pavilion and obtain appropriate funding; they will report back to the Parish Council in due course.

The Parish Council has also recently renovated the pathways at St Margaret's churchyard.

In addition, there is an on-going programmes of grave memorial repairs at Hinckley Road Cemetery and tree maintenance at the cemeteries and the recreation field.

There have been issues with the Mar City and Morris Homes sites, in relation to the safety of the play area at the Mar City site, also highways and drainage at both sites. Some of these are ongoing and some resolved, but the Parish Council continues to monitor these and to encourage HBBC to enforce action. For safety reasons the long overdue work to complete roads at the Mar City site is due to be carried out over the school summer holiday. At the Morris Homes site work to complete the play area and pathway to Sherwood Road should start shortly, once building work is complete and it is safe to do so. The Parish Council have asked for a different range of play equipment, rather than duplicate what is already available at the recreation field.

I would like to welcome all the new residents to the village. You will find a vibrant village and I hope you will participate in the many activities. Information is available via the excellent village magazine, village and co-op websites, Parish Council newsletters, noticeboards and the annual village meeting.

b) Financial Report – Parish Clerk :
End of Year Budget Report – April 2018
2017/18

The total reserve in the NATWEST bank going into 2017/18 was £49,344.30: £2717.60 is required for agreed works that have not yet been invoiced, £9,000 remains of the solar panel farm donation which is ring fenced for the pavilion project, there is £1,519.97 ring fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan remaining and £985.26 maintenance grant remaining for the gym equipment. This leaves £35,121.47. A reserve of £20,000 enables claims for the Parish and Communities Initiative Fund for the large projects in the future, as payment is only received once work is complete and invoices paid. This leaves a working reserve of £15,121.47 that is not allocated to be carried forward to 2017/18.

The precept for 2017/18 was £35,495.00. Cemetery income was down from previous year and income from pitch hire was down slightly.

Small projects and emergency work has been approved in this year at the total cost of £3,101.71, but with £1,008.77 funded by the Charity of Thomas Barton. Total cost to the Parish Council was within the budget allocated.

Additional ground maintenance work has been approved at a cost of £1,994.50, which exceeded the contingency budget due to additional work that has now been included in the contract for the next year.

Works to trees/hedges at the cemeteries have been approved in this year at the cost of £3,344.50 which is within the budget allocated.

Works to trees/hedges at the recreation field and around the village have been approved in this year at the cost of £1,672.00 which is within the budget allocated.

The following medium/large projects have been approved in this year at the total cost of £19,620.30, but with £13,246.40 funded by EIP grants, PCIF grant, Tesco Bags of Help grant, 106 monies and donations from the Charity of Thomas Barton: Grave memorial repairs, replacement roundabout, WW1 and WW2 benches, PC laptop, PC noticeboard, churchyard pathways and pavilion shower repairs.

106 maintenance monies of £16,094.00 have been received.

A government grant of £3800 was received towards the cost of the NP and the unused amount was repaid.

£1,089.03 of the admin budget ring fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan remains unspent.

The total reserve in the NATWEST bank going into 2018/19 was £67,497.07: £12,885.50 is required for agreed works that have not yet been invoiced, £7,000 remains of the solar panel farm donation which is ring fenced for the pavilion project, there is £1,089.03 ring fenced for the Neighbourhood Plan remaining and £829.82 maintenance grant remaining for the gym equipment. The sum of £16,094.70 has been ring fenced for maintenance of recreational facilities. An agreed PCIF grant for £5,938.50 is still outstanding. This leaves £35,536.52. A reserve of £20,000 enables claims for the Parish and Communities Initiative Fund for the large projects in the future, as payment is only received once work is complete and invoices paid. This leaves a working reserve of £15,536.52 that is not allocated to be carried forward to 2018/19 .

2018/19 Budget

The Precept will increase by 2% to £38,482.00. There is an increase in the PC admin budget to cover the annual cost of the Microsoft Office subscription, increase in price of hall hire and provision of training. Clerk's salary has also increased. The price of subscriptions has increased. The cost of village hall maintenance and pavilion maintenance have been adjusted to share the cost of the trade waste and the recreation ground water supply. Provision of salt has been reviewed and decreased.

Cemetery income and expenditure is estimated based on the actual costs over the last four years. Recreation ground fees will be based on Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council fee structure. Provision has been made for the final phase of grave memorial repairs. Budgets have been allocated for small projects and emergencies, works to trees at the recreation field/village, works to trees at the cemeteries and planting in the village and cemeteries. As usual the ground maintenance budget will cover the cost of the ground maintenance contract, playground safety inspections, planters and Christmas tree arrangements. There will be a £1000 contingency for any necessary works which are not included in the contract. The overall cost of ground maintenance has increased due to a review of the contract specifications, although the budget for the Xmas tree and the contingency have been reduced.

Projects

There is currently no estimated cost for the pavilion refurbishment or rebuild. Morris Homes will provide 106 funds of £25,824 provision and £21,120 maintenance. The £10,000 from the solar panel farm has been ring fenced for this project with £1000 already allocated to Sport in Stoke Golding (SISG) for initial admin and consultation fees.

Reserves

The government external audit ensures that all reserves are appropriate. In addition to any allocated reserves the Parish Council may hold the equivalent of twelve months expenditure in general reserve.

c) Planning Report - Parish Clerk:

Since the 1st April 2017 the Parish Council has consulted and offered comments where appropriate on 28 planning applications. These were for four erection of new buildings, nine extensions and alterations to dwellings, seven works to trees, four building of a garage, one for relocation of a play area, two variations of condition to previous applications and one change of use.

d) Cemetery Report: Cemetery Administrator - Mr. Ray Tunks:

STOKE GOLDING CEMETERY REPORTS - Year 2017/18
THE OLD CEMETERY, HINCKLEY ROAD, STOKE GOLDING

In Hinckley Road Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2017 – March 2018) there has been three full burials and six burials of ashes. Some of these were in pre-purchased plots. Permission was granted to erect four memorials.

Approval was given to add wording to four memorials.

These transactions resulted in £3034.50 going into Parish Council funds.

THE NEW CEMETERY, WYKIN LANE, STOKE GOLDING

In Wykin Lane Cemetery in the last 12 months (April 2017 – March 2018) there has been four full burials.

Permission was granted to erect three memorials and three grave plots and two cremation plots were purchased.

These transactions resulted in £5283.50 going into Parish Council funds.

Both cemeteries continue to be maintained by the Parish Council to a good standard.

e) Village Hall Management Committee - Mrs. R Fisher:

It's been a fairly uneventful year in the life of the village hall. We welcomed Mark Styles to the Management Committee last spring and in January I notified the committee that I would be retiring in May, but then changed my mind a month later. So, I'm here to stay for the time being.

We have held four excellent and very varied Stoke Arts events this season, with one still to come. We began with The After Hours Quintet jazz band, followed by Box Tale Soup's production of 'The Wind in the Willows', then Phantom of the Opera – a classic silent film with original music by Minima and lastly 'Ministry of Biscuits' - a musical comedy set in post-war Britain. Our final event on Saturday 21st April will be 'Truth and Truffles' and we hope it will do for chocolate sales what Ministry of Biscuits did for pink wafers and custard creams.

This time last year we had decided to put on hold an upgrade to the heating system as it was working well, however the boiler broke down in December and this resulted in a complete replacement of the whole heating system. The hall is now a much warmer place to be in.

We employed a contract cleaner for a year, but that contract has been terminated and we now have a new Premises Officer and maintenance man who is also cleaning for us.

As always, my thanks go to fellow members of the Management Committee who work very hard to keep the hall running smoothly and provide such an excellent village facility.

f) Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee – Roy Mitchell:

- Following the first part of consultation process which included the suggestion days and the village wide questionnaires, which were analysed by the RCC, the Advisory Committee has been turning the views expressed, into draft policies and aspirations that will be included in the Plan. To date they have produced draft documentation that covers: Employment, Business and Local Economy; Leisure and Wellbeing; Environment, Heritage and Areas of Open Space; and Community Infrastructure and Facilities. These documents have been looked at and commented on by those members of the community who attended the Advisory Committee meetings and have been amended as appropriate. Future meetings, which will be widely publicised, will cover Housing. If you wish to be informed and have a say you are welcome to attend. The final plan should reflect the views of the majority of our community not specific individuals or groups, and this is achieved through the consultation process including these meetings.

4. Observations from the County Councillor Ivan Ould:

None.

5. Observations from the Borough Councillor, Reg Ward:

Borough Cllr Ward began by praising the Parish Council. He reported on the following issues:

- HBBC re-organisation has resulted in better focus and reduced cost.
- Prevention Strategy across all agencies.
- Planning – strengthen viability at application stage and 106 requirements.
- Strategic Growth for all districts. Proposal will not benefit Hinckley. A5 expressway is more important than improved A46 due to pressures from North Warwickshire developments.
- Blaby rail terminus could be overwhelming for HBBC.
- HBBC – already a number of large warehouses when small and medium would be better. Mira investment enterprise zone still growing.
- Still waiting for Barwell and Earl Shilton SUE which are needed for the 5 year housing supply.
- HS2 - politicians are pushing for high profile when smaller, better targeted projects would be more cost effective.

6. Observations from:

a) The Charity of Thomas Barton: The following report was read by Paul Spokes:

The interest from the investment portfolio of the Charity continues to fund the many projects in the village which the Charity undertakes.

During the year the Charity has provided funds for the following:

Village Web Site Expenses

Donation to Gardener for Old Cemetery Maintenance

Best Kept Front Garden Competition Prizes

Donation to Village Garden Society Show

St Martin's School Awards Scheme

Village Christmas Lights

Christmas Lights Switch-on incl. Refreshments, Band and Sleigh

St Margaret's Church Lighting Costs

Cricket Field Covers

Contribution to St. Margaret's Church and Methodist Church Flower Festivals

Provision of New Village Christmas Tree

Repair of Village Sign

WW1 and WW2 Benches for Cemetery

Re-Printing of Village History Leaflets

Printing of 'Images of the Past'

Support for Projects at St. Margaret's School.(Book Club, Dosing Project, Road Safety)

Grant to Badminton Club for Equipment

Grant to Football Club for Shirts

Repair of Cemetery Sign

Over £21,000 has been spent on village projects since the last report.

The Charity will also consider applications for a grant from *any organisation or suggestions for projects* that meet the criteria of the Charity namely that it is:

'For the general benefit of the inhabitants of Stoke Golding for which provision is not made out of rates, taxes, or other public funds'

b) The Mistress Hester Hodges Foundation: The following report was read:

During the past twelve months the trustees have held two meetings.

Sadly after several years, AJ stepped down from the committee. We thanked her for her commitment to Hester Hodges over the past years. We welcomed two new trustees both from Stoke Golding.

18th May 2017

The accounts up to 31st December 2016 had been audited and were presented and accepted.

The interest from the shares totalled £429.11

50% of the monies was given to St Margaret's Primary school and following recent practice, the money was used to purchase Bibles for Year 2.

16th November 2017

There were two applicants for educational grants. £214.56 was available. Both students were granted £100 each.

c) The Stoke Golding Boys' Charity: The following report was read:

The income of the charity after payment of expenses will be distributed to boys and young men of Stoke Golding under the age of 25 years. The amount available this year will be £6000. It was felt that this year the trustees will extend the timescale to the end of May in order to try and increase the number of applications received by using traditional methods. Provisions will be made for all houses in Stoke Golding to receive a copy of the notice normally only seen in the 'Stoker' and on the village noticeboard.

d) The Women's Hall Charity: The following report was read by the Clerk:

Funds from the sale of the Womens Hall were invested in shares. Dividends and interest this year were £243.34. There was no expenditure. The current amount available to spend is £664.58.

7. Parishioners Questions:

Cllr Terheege thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.