

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

Chairman Cllr S Henley

Clerk – Mrs L Carter

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 19th April 2021 at 8.00pm on Zoom.

Present: Cllrs S Henley (Chair), D Lane, J Hillyard, T Sanderson, T Teague, C Newitt and A Brodie
Parish Clerk – L Carter
7 Members of the Public

1772. Apologies for absence.

None given, all Councillors present

1773. Declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

Cllr Newitt declared an interest in item 1777, Cllr Hillyard in item 1791 and Cllr Brodie in items 1779 and 1791

1774. Minutes

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Council dated 10th March 2021.

1775. Matters arising from previous minutes for update only.

None not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

1776. District Councillors

No representative available due to Council elections and change in membership.

1777. Planning applications received.

New Applications – None

Previous Applications

DA/2021/0154 The Dovecote, Main Street, Church Stowe, NN7 4SG - No decision

DA/2021/0018 Home Farm, Francis Row, Upper Stowe, Northamptonshire, NN7 4SL

DA/2021/0018 Home Farm, Francis Row, Upper Stowe, Northamptonshire, NN7 4SL

The two applications For Home Farm would be determined at the DDC meeting on 21st April. The Clerk would speak for the Parish Council in support of the application.

Members discussed the response from the Area Planning Officer to the letter regarding discrepancies in the way that applications were dealt with and felt that it was unsatisfactory as the current approach could create precedents which would cause future issues. The Clerk would draft and circulate a response.

1778. Planning Approvals– Review of past planning applications.

DA/2015/1164 – Land adjoining Sheepfold Grange, Main Street, Upper Stowe.

DA/2015/0195 – Land at Stowe Hill, Watling Street, Weedon

DA/2018/10034 – Land at Main Street Church Stowe

1779. Highways Matters

The Clerk reported that Northamptonshire Highways had confirmed that the gullies were due for cleaning in April.

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

The suggestion of signage 'SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING' made by a parishioner in Upper Stowe had been discussed by the clerk with Highways and the advice was that the village could erect its own 'correx' signs at the village gateways if it was felt that there was a problem, but that the only official signage available related to schools. Due to the absence of suitable sites for such signage this was not taken forward.

In response to a request from a parishioner members had suggested requesting the Highways Authority put in place a weight restriction on Main Street to deter HGV's from using the parish roads, except for deliveries, particularly in light of recent concerns regarding HGV's at The Old Dairy Farm.

The Clerk reported that, in order to have such a limit, it would need to be demonstrated that the following criteria could be met:

1. A minimum reduction of 30 HGV movements per day, representing at least 50% of the observed movements, would be achieved.
2. A restricted area can be defined which does not transfer the problem to other communities and has sensible and practicable terminal locations
3. An alternative route exists for diverting HGV's that does not pass through environmentally sensitive areas, does not create a major increase in distance for lorry operators, avoids dangerous junction or other suitable locations and will not result in increased road maintenance costs.
4. Structural damage to buildings, walls and vehicle regularly occurs.

In addition, the Parish Council would have to meet the legal costs of the Road Traffic Order (currently approx. £4,000) and also the cost of the signage defining the restricted area. As such a restriction would not apply to vehicles delivering to, or originating from, businesses within the restricted area, it was felt that this would not address the problem.

In response to concerns raised by residents of Upper Stowe members then discussed whether to look again at the question of a 30mph speed limit through the parish. It was agreed that this would be investigated by the clerk who would report back to the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to write to Farthingstone Grain Store regarding HGV's travelling through Upper Stowe.

1780. Statement of accounts/accounts for payment.

- i. Statement of account at Lloyds Bank – Councillors **NOTED** that the Year End balance at 31st March was **£3,339.55**
 - ii. Councillors **APPROVED** a payment to:
NCALC Subscription/Internal audit £344.88
- TOTAL £344.88**

1781. Footpath Report

It was NOTED that the footpaths were generally the same as previously with some obstructions, but there was a a particular issue with dog fouling. The clerk agreed to contact the dog warden to discuss how best to deal with the issue on the path adjacent to the churchyard in Church Stowe.

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

1782. Community Defibrillators.

No issues to report.

1783. Community Litter Pick

The community litter pick had gone very well, with DDC collecting the resulting bagged waste from Upper Stowe. One resident commented that there was an estate agent's board left lying on the road side. The chairman suggested that he phoned the number on the board and asked them to arrange collection.

1784. Historic Memorials

Cllr Sanderson reported that the RADAR memorial would be a Way Point on the forthcoming Vintage Bike Rally.

1785. Village Benches

Work on bench at Old School Room was still to be completed but the bench on Main Street (leaving Church Stowe towards Upper Stowe) had been repaired and would be treated when the weather improved.

1786. West Northamptonshire Council.

The new council was established on 1st April 2021 with shadow councillors. Elections would take place on 6th May 2021 when all Councillors would be elected. Details at www.westnorthants.gov.uk

1787. Broadband

Previous issues raised by residents had all been passed on. The Clerk was asked to chase for the verge re-instatement works to be completed.

1788. NCALC.

Recent information had related to mourning for HRH The Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

1789. Elections

Councillors had been provided with a copy of the Statement of Persons Nominated showing that, with just seven candidates, they were all elected unopposed. (this was subsequently confirmed by West Northamptonshire Council).

1790. CPRE

Nothing to report.

1791. Complaints.

A number of complaints had been received regarding the development of a grain store at the Old Dairy Farm. The Parish Council had received no planning application and was not consulted on the development. The work had been carried out as Permitted Development but concern was expressed that the resulting unsanctioned Change of Use, if allowed by a retrospective planning application, would set an irreversible precedent.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department enquiring about enforcement action and the status of the development.

1792. Charity Trustee

The Parish Council **CONFIRMED** the appointment of Jo Dickson as its nominated Trustee for The Arnold's Charity for the next four years.

1793. Matters for information

Stowe Nine Churches Parish Council

The Chairman expressed her thanks to Cllr Tony Sanderson who would step down after this meeting as he had moved out of the area and was no longer eligible to be nominated as a Councillor. His work on the memorials had been particularly appreciated as had his support for the work of the Parish Council – his input would be missed.

1794. Future Meeting dates

The meeting dates for the remainder of 2021 would be:

24th May, 5th July, 16th August, 27th September, 1st November and 6th December.

DRAFT