

(Minutes of meeting held on Jan 10th 2018 in the village hall - the meeting opened at 19.30pm)

Present - Councillors Schroeder, Dobson, Whyman, Matthews and McKenna together with 4 members of the public.

1. Public Open Session

1.1 A member of the public asked two questions:

- Will there be an opportunity to speak at the planning agenda items 16 and 17.
- Could an error in the minutes be corrected?

2. Apologies

2.1 District Councillor Peter Richards

3. Declarations of interest

3.1 Councillor Dobson declared an interest in the funding of the website in that his son Simon is the webmaster.

4. To approve the minutes of the November 8th and December 10th meetings

4.1 In response to the member of the public, Councillor Whyman suggested that the word 'contested' was added to the 32.1 section of the Nov 8th minutes. Councillor McKenna proposed that this was done and this was seconded by Councillor Matthews. The vote was four to one in favour.

4.2 Councillor Dobson proposed accepting the Dec 10th minutes and this was seconded by Councillor Whyman. All were agreed.

5. Audio recording of Parish Council meetings

5.1 Councillor Schroeder suggested that all meetings of the Parish Council should now be recorded. This would be a help to the clerk and they would be destroyed once the minutes had been agreed.

5.2 Councillor McKenna thought recording a good idea, Councillor Whyman had no issue with it, Councillor Matthews had no objection and Councillor Dobson had no problem.

5.3 The clerk thought that it could be useful but only if any queries were made to him well before the meeting that agreed the minutes.

5.4 Councillor Schroeder proposed getting another council's procedure for recording meetings and this was seconded by Councillor Dobson.

5.5 **It was resolved that:** Councillor Schroeder drafts a procedure for recording meetings and brings it to the next meeting.

6. Number of councillors on Hampton Lucy Parish Council

6.1 Councillor Schroeder reported that Aston Business School recommends five to seven councillors for councils with an electorate of less than 500. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) suggests a minimum of seven.

6.2 The clerk has contacted SDC about the procedure for increasing the number of councillors.

6.3 Councillor Dobson thought it was a good idea but wondered how we could justify this since there had been no large increase in the number of electors.

6.4 Councillor Whyman felt that five councillors had worked well for many years and although it might be useful when electing the Chair, it could be difficult to fill the places.

6.5 Councillor McKenna felt that an increase could not be justified.

6.6 Councillor Matthews agreed and said that Hampton Lucy was not really large enough.

6.7 Councillor Schroeder felt that it might be useful in elections for Chairman but that it would also increase the clerk's workload.

- 6.8 Councillor Schroeder proposed keeping to five councillors. This was seconded by Councillor Whyman and all were in favour.
7. **Nominations for the Royal Garden Party**
- 7.1 Councillor Schroeder reported that Sue Main, the previous Chair, had twice been nominated already. Since the nomination is for years of service, he suggested that this time there be no nominations. All were in favour.
8. **County Councillor Anne Parry**
- 8.1 It's been a fairly quiet few weeks with the exception of Highways keeping the roads well gritted and moving free. WCC is in the process of refilling all the grit bins in preparation for the next swathe of snowy and icy conditions and therefore if the bins in Hampton Lucy have not been refilled, they will be as part of the actioned programme.
- 8.2 Councillor Matthews said that there was no gritting bin at Hatton Rock. Councillor Parry replied that it was up to the Parish Council to buy a gritting bin and then WCC Highways would fill it with grit.
- 8.3 As a member of the Adult Social Care and Health OS Committee I have also been involved in a task and finish group looking into the provision of GP services across the county. Whilst South Warwickshire is better catered for in this respect, the doctors' services continue to be stretched particularly at this time of year and are being impacted by missed appointments and unnecessary visits to surgeries for minor ailments which can routinely be handled by the local pharmacy. The Hastings House practice in Wellesbourne and other Stratford based practices are not immune to these issues and residents are urged not to miss appointments or block valuable surgery time unnecessarily.
- 8.4 Councillor Schroeder asked if the 'Grapevine' would be a useful means of publicising any advice on health and surgery visits. Councillor Parry replied that people needed to use their pharmacy more often and that the Grapevine ought to get an official statement from the Health Authority before publishing any advice.
- 8.5 The next few weeks are going to be very busy looking at budgets which are being debated and voted on at Full Council on 6th February. There will be an inevitable increase to the county's element of the council tax with a particular focus on funding the increased demand for Adult and Children's Social Care plus increased financial pressures on SEN transport. Further details will be circulated following the budget meeting on 6th February but there is a planned 2% increase which will be ring-fenced to cope with the increased demands and costs in respect of adult social care.
- 8.6 As a local authority we do have the facility to increase the Council Tax by a further 2.99% to cope with other increased costs concerning public sector pay rises and a significant rise in children going to SEN schools with increases in transportation costs.
9. **District Councillor Peter Richards (absent, email sent)**
- 9.1 **Community Infrastructure Levy** - At full Council on 11th December the District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Policy was presented for approval and received unanimous support. This policy will now come into force from 1st of February and all development (save for some exceptions), from single dwellings to full housing schemes, will be subject to the CIL charging structure. For small developments (up to 10 units) the charge will be £75 per sqm, for developments over 10 units the charge will be £150 per sqm.
- 9.2 **Transport Strategy** - On 15th December, following an extensive consultation process and a full review of all comments made during that process, the second Draft Stratford on Avon Transport Strategy was published. This draft will now be subject to approval from our Cabinet in February, followed by full Council approval later that month. It will also require approval

from the County Council's members in March before it will become enshrined in policy. The main themes of the Strategy remain largely unchanged with some further explanation on key aspects such as relief roads and congestion, alternative transport and park and rides. A copy of the strategy and its accompanying report can be found at the following web address:

<https://askwarks.wordpress.com/2017/02/10/stratford-upon-avon-area-transport-strategyconsultation>

- 9.3 The Budget** - Stratford DC are now entering their budget setting phase and a great deal of work has gone into reviewing our finances for the year to come. This year Central Government have recommended an increase of 2% to your Council Tax. However, Stratford DC will be recommending an increase of just 1%, half the recommended amount and half the rate of inflation. That equates to an increase of £1.36 on a Band D property (less than 3p per week). Stratford DC has been able to maintain a relatively low level of Council Tax as a result of years of prudent financial management, which has built up a large proportion of reserves. Those reserves are being put to good use in 2018 to maintain that low level of tax. This small increase will help to fund the following; **1.** The need for action over Affordable Homes in the District through exploration of an Affordable Homes Housing Company. **2.** Preventing homelessness through implementation of the Homelessness Act 2017 including additional capacity for the Citizens Advice Bureau, which prevented 69 families from becoming homeless in 2017; and **3.** Temporary Housing for residents who are deemed homeless. The introduction of Universal Credit made the process of housing families more onerous than under the Housing Benefit regime and so more finance has been made available to ensure families have temporary housing when it is needed.
- 9.4** The Council have also identified a number of better ways of working, ideas that were presented during our Strategic Review last year. These will begin to be implemented this year and will save the Council money in the longer term.

10. Navigation on the River Avon

- 10.1** Councillor Schroeder reported that a letter had been sent (see minutes of December 20th) to Councillor Saint, the Leader of Stratford District Council (SDC), Councillor Howes, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with copies to our MP Nadhim Zahawi and Councillor Anne Parry, our County Councillor. Only our MP has acknowledged receipt of the letter.
- 10.2** Councillor Matthews said that a strategy was needed if SDC ignored the letter i.e. what is the position of the Parish Council?
- 10.3** A riparian owner (DT) said that he had a long conversation with Councillor Peter Richards about there being no legal right for navigation. He then outlined the history behind claims for navigation rights. Councillor Richards will not support compulsory purchase and the riparian owner confirmed that he will not allow access across his land. Apparently, Councillor Richards was surprised by the previous investigation into this. Councillor Richards had claimed that Warwick Castle was supportive of navigation but this seems unlikely. The National Trust is certainly against it.
- 10.4** Councillor Schroeder said that the Parish Council had written to all the riparian owners but hadn't realised that DT also owned land in Hampton Lucy. He confirmed that part of Charlecote Mill is actually in Hampton Lucy not wholly in Charlecote.
- 10.5** Councillor Dobson felt that the Parish Council should go to the press because SDC is spending council tax payer's money on something that is not practical.

11 Neighbourhood Plan update

11.1 Councillor Schroeder said that there was not much to report and that there was a meeting with the consultant on Jan 11th. The public consultation would be later in the year.

12 Neighbourhood Plan Group membership

12.1 It would be preferable for there to be a second councillor on the neighbourhood plan group.

13 Parish Field, Spinney and Allotments licence

13.1 The licence has now been signed and rent has to be collected from the allotments by the village hall.

13.2 The clerk consulted the rule book and reported that it was not the responsibility of the clerk to collect rent from allotments. He suggested a 'peppercorn' rent like the Parish Council pays to the Elizabeth Creake Trust.

13.3 Councillor Matthews took the licence away to have a closer look at the wording.

14 Village Hall update

14.1 There had been a meeting in November and Councillor Matthews reported that there was a proposal to revamp the village hall, removing the stage, having a servery from the kitchen and to upgrade and modernise the building. The steering group would like more help from the Parish Council in finding out what events could run throughout the year. Could the hall be used more effectively?

15 Gritting bin for Hatton Rock

15.1 Hatton Rock needs a gritting bin as the road can be quite dangerous in winter. Councillor Dobson proposed that the Parish Council buy a bin for £150 from WCC Highways. This was seconded by Councillor McKenna, all were agreed.

15.2 **It was resolved that:** The clerk to purchase a gritting bin from WCC Highways for Hatton Rock.

16 17/02992/FUL - Glamping pods, Grove Fields.

16.1 Derrick Clarke thanked the planning committee for the site visit.

16.2 Councillor Whyman had no problem with the proposal and although Councillor Matthews felt that the photographs did not do the plans justice, she also thought that three was the maximum number. Derrick Clarke confirmed that when the trees were in leaf, the pods would not be seen and more trees had been planted in the area.

16.3 Councillor Schroeder had no problem with the plans in a rural community, it was well sited and he supported the application.

A member of the public complained that they were not allowed to speak first although this had been established at the beginning of the meeting.

16.4 The member of the public went on to say that glamping was fine but the neighbourhood plan questionnaire had talked of increased traffic along Fulbrook Lane and into Grove Fields. The communication with SDC was also queried.

16.5 Councillor Dobson had no comment, Councillor McKenna felt the plans were good and viable; Councillors Matthews, Schroeder and Whyman supported the plans.

16.6 Councillor Whyman proposed supporting the plans and this was seconded by Councillor McKenna. All were agreed.

17 17/01594/FUL Avon Lodge Ryon Hill, 5 bedroom dwelling (from July 2017)

- 17.1** Councillor Schroeder pointed out that a letter had been received from the planning officer who was now minded to reject the application but wanted to know if the Parish Council supported it or still had a view of no objection. Should it be no objection or ask for it to go to the planning committee? Councillor Matthews thought it should go to the planning committee for the final decision. Councillor Whyman felt that the planning officer was undecided on whether to support or reject the plans. Councillor Schroeder agreed.
- 17.2** A member of the public (consultant for the architect) explained that the previous planning officer was in support of the application but the new planning officer was undecided.
- 17.3** Councillor Schroeder said that there had only been minor changes to the plans and he would still favour 'no objection'.
- 17.4** A member of the public had asked the Parish Council to review its decision because she personally would reject the plans because in her view this is 'not a truly outstanding or exceptional design' and in any case, SDC usually asks for an expert independent opinion. The development is on a hill and very prominent. It will extend the urbanisation of the road and does not enhance the setting.
- 17.5** Councillor Schroeder stated that the Parish Council did not have the expertise or knowledge that SDC has and so there was no reason to change the original decision of 'no objection'. Councillor Dobson felt that the Parish Council should not change its view and Councillor McKenna said that she would have supported the original structure but would prefer that the decision went to committee. Councillor Schroeder reiterated that the decision should be left to the planners and Councillor Whyman said that the amendments actually enhanced the building but would not change the original decision.
- 17.6** The member of the public said that sometimes officers make the decision rather than send it to committee.
- 17.7** Councillor Whyman said he was uneasy about changing the original decision and would rather leave it to SDC.
- 17.8** Councillor Whyman proposed keeping the original decision of 'no objection' and this was seconded by Councillor McKenna. Councillor Matthews suggested 'no objection' but that it was appropriate for it to go to committee. The vote was three in favour, one against with one abstention for this amended proposal.
- 17.9** **It was resolved that:** The clerk record a decision of 'no objection' but that it was more appropriate for the final decision to be made by the planning committee.

18 Housing Needs Survey

- 18.1** Councillor Schroeder proposed that the Parish Council should be interested in moving the plans forward for affordable houses. This was seconded by Councillor Matthews and all were in favour.

19 Playing Field inspection and repair bill

- 19.1** The clerk reminded the meeting that a second quote had been received just for repairing the two 'high risk' items. He suggested replacing the collapsed carousel picnic table with a family size picnic table, whoever carried out the work. This was agreed.
- 19.2** Councillor Whyman suggested that we could repair the ball shoot post ourselves. It was suggested that the clerk should contact Councillor Tweed from Snitterfield. The clerk confirmed that he had also contacted AMW, also recommended by the clerk from Snitterfield and Bearley.

20 Six month audit

20.1 Guy Wakeley has all the paperwork but the clerk has not yet heard from him.

21 Budget and precept (2018-2019)

21.1 The precept for next year needs to be £14 659.60 so that sufficient funds can be built up for playing field maintenance and to establish an election budget for the future. In addition, funds need to be recovered from the excessive and unexpected 2017 election bill of almost £2000 from SDC. In fact, 71% of the proposed £4228.60 increase in the precept from last year is due to the election costs in 2017.

21.2 Councillor Schroeder proposed accepting this draft budget with a precept of £14 659.60. This was seconded by Councillor Whyman and all were in favour.

22 Financial position

22.1 This was briefly discussed and it was suggested that Councillor Dobson and the clerk should perhaps look at revamping the budget spreadsheet so it is more easily understood. In addition, the financial position on the agenda could give more information.

23 Exchange of information with the public

23.1 A member of the public asked another three questions:

- Do we have to specify the number of affordable homes?
- How can a member of the public ask for the minutes to be changed? The clerk explained that he needs to be contacted well before the meeting so any potential alterations are shared with the councillors first. This avoids trying to alter the minutes during the meeting itself.
- Increasing the number of councillors - could the email from David Dalby at SDC be sent to her? The clerk suggested that this was not appropriate. Councillor Dobson suggested contacting David Dalby directly.

23.2 Councillor Whyman asked if there could be a better light outside the village hall. Councillor Matthews said that she would contact Eddie Hoare.

23.3 Councillor Schroeder reported that he was meeting with NFU Mutual to discuss speeding.

23.4 Councillor Whyman reminded the meeting that if any playing field equipment is bought in future, it needs to be something that lasts, preferably not wood.

Meeting closed at 21.30pm

John Dunkerton (January 17th 2018)

Dates of next meetings for 2018: March 14th, May 9th (Annual Parish Meeting), July 11th, September 12th and November 14th.