

STOKE LODGE AND THE COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

7.00PM VIRTUAL MEETING OVER ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Andrew Alsop, Andrew Dyer, Bryan Hopkins, Rebecca Strong, Jon Butler, Brenda Stokes and Ward Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi

Minute

Agenda Item

9.20.1 Welcome and Apologies for absence

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillor Tracey Harrison-Ashe (who is currently on lockdown with a relative who has no Wi-Fi and so is excluded from the 6 month rule) and Councillor John Bowyer sent their apologies. Councillor John Blight was unable to join the meeting on Zoom due to IT issues. Ward Councillor Sarah Pomfret was invited, acceptance was received on her behalf, but she did not attend the meeting.

9.20.2 Declarations of Interest

None

9.20.3 Public Speaking Session

No members of the public added any comments during the meeting however one person (Kelli) joined in a listen only capacity.

Ward Members

Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi:

Provided an update on the road works in the area.

The Gypsy Patch Bridge works are ongoing. They need to remove 20 Lime trees as trenches need to be dug but they have committed to replacing them with as many trees, shrubs and plants as possible to mitigate the environmental impact. The trench works will be ongoing for 4 weeks from 21/09/2020.

There should be some assistance available with the cost of the play equipment (or other funding) but we need to engage with himself and Councillor Sarah Pomfret to arrange this and an application needs to be submitted.

Councillor Andy Dyer raised the issue of a faulty streetlight on Braydon Avenue which was reported 3 weeks ago but has not been fixed – Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi will investigate.

Councillor Andy Dyer asked why a length of metal barrier has been removed from the pavement where the closed end of The Common meets Brook Way. He is concerned

that without this barrier Motorcycles and Bikes will drive through not realising that the path leads straight onto Brook Way and could cause a serious accident. Councillor Jon Butler suggested that this is due to the fact that there have already been a number of Motorcycle impacts to the barrier which had rendered it unsafe so it was removed. This needs to be replaced. Chair Andy Alsop asked everyone to be vigilant and report number plates of any motorcycles illegally accessing Brook Way in this manner to him and he will report to the police.

Action Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi to investigate streetlight and barrier issues.

9.20.4 Minutes and Matters Arising of Meeting on 09 July 2020

Matters Arising

- Payment for pavements still have not been progressed and we have been unable to obtain corrected bill for settlement despite chasing it. The remaining works will not be completed yet due to all contactors being diverted elsewhere.
- Tree trimming has been completed this week.
- Bus Shelter real time clock to be with South Glos in October we will get a completion date once received.
- Lease on the common needs to be addressed – we will attempt to purchase again but failing that will try for longer/more favorable term lease.

Councillor Jon Butler proposed and Councillor Andrew Dyer seconded; and upon being put to a vote it was unanimously resolved to:

Approve the minutes as an accurate record.

9.20.5 The Hut

Andy A (chair) met the committee of The Hut on site 2 weeks ago and he informed them we are unable to take over responsibility for it until the proper legal documentation is in place. They are to produce a document of transfer to the Parish Council in the first instance.

The Hut is currently being used by numerous different groups and Andy will provide us with the document of current activities (although this may change due to new COVID restrictions from 14/09/2020). Andy would like to employ someone local to look after the day to day running of this and has already spoken to someone who is interested.

Councillor Jon Butler advised that the legal documentation from The Hut needs to include a covenant stating that the land and building is solely for the use of the local community and can never be sold.

9.20.6 The Pavilion

- Wheatpatch have started to operate again on a very reduced basis and are unsure how viable it is – we will be issuing a new letting agreement effective from 1st October as we

- have agreed not to charge them until then to enable them to reestablish themselves.
- Almondsbury Youth Football Club would like keys to the Pavilion to enable them to let themselves in and out. It was agreed that we would do this on a trial basis.
 - Ongoing works – The main gate and barriers are to be refurbished soon. Garages have been repaired. Repairs to the concrete in the skate park have been completed.
 - Playground Inspection report has been received and there are lots of issues – clerk to send report to all – once all have read we need to decide whether to complete the remedial works to make it safe or close the playground subject to it being replaced (as already agreed).
 - CCTV – we have some quotes which are acceptable but there is a problem with the digging out required for the cabling to the building – a survey will be required before we can consider further. The antisocial behavior does seem to have vastly reduced.
 - PAT testing – Chair Andy Alsop is meeting the electrician at The Pavilion 11/09 to get this done and to discuss the replacement of the lights in the toilets.
 - The Green Shelter – Chair Andy Alsop and Councillor Jon Butler to attend the site to see what need to be done to facilitate removal.

9.20.7 Patchway People Funding Request

Councillor Jon Butler proposed that we should join forces with the Patchway People magazine so we can update our residents on matters. There are also Stoke Gifford Journal and Bradley Stoke Journal to be considered.

Action – Councillor Jon B will obtain costings for Patchway people and clerk will approach Stoke Gifford Journal and Bradley Stoke Journal and report at next meeting.

9.20.8 Hungry Horse Public House (Brenda)

Councillor Brenda Stokes expressed concern that the Public House has remained closed following the loosening of restrictions. Is this to be a permanent situation? The worry is that this would be another facility lost to the local community. Is there anything we can do? Councillor Jon Butler searched for any recent planning requests but there were none in the public domain so we need to check if a pre-application has been submitted. We could also contact the brewery to establish their intentions if nothing comes of this.

Action - Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi to submit freedom of information act request to South Glos to establish if a pre application has been submitted.

9.20.9 Stoke Lane Traffic Calming (Rebecca)

Rebecca has investigated the difference between the standard of the plans for Stoke

Lane and those from Severn Beach – there were found to be significant differences between how they are done and whether they are checked and approved (ours were not). She feels strongly that there should be a consistent approach to this.

We are unsure why the issue of traffic calming on Stoke Lane continues to be raised despite the previous rejection of the scheme.

Rebecca has raised an e-petition for the Removal of Councillor Sarah Pomphret on the grounds that she is not serving the community in the manner for which she is employed. Rebecca has received a phone call from the Standards department at the council stating that removal cannot be achieved and should not be sought in this way. Rebecca is investigating it from a breach of code of conduct point of view instead. The e-petition has not been removed in the meantime.

Chair Andy Alsop stated in the strongest possible terms that the council as a whole feel very let down by the Ward Councillors in this matter as there was no conversation or consultation before this was submitted. In general there is little or no communication between the Parish Council and the Ward Councillors and this has to change.

Councillor Franklin Owusu-Antwi countered that Bradley Stoke North is one of the largest wards, they are involved with many meetings and are extremely busy. Until recently they have not been aware of exact meeting details and cannot be expected to simply remember them. With regards to the traffic calming in general he stated that the safety of the public is their main priority and they receive requests/complaints from different sources which will not always agree – they must then decide which course of action to follow.

Action - Clerk to continue to ensure that Ward Councillors are invited to all meetings and relevant documentation is provided.

9.20.10 Parish Council Finance Update

- Invoices over £500 – none
- Bank statements

Councillors were provided with bank statements for the accounts.

Councillor Andrew Dyer proposed and Councillor Jon Butler seconded; and upon being put to a vote it was unanimously resolved to:

Approve the bank statements.

- Bank Reconciliation

Councillors were provided with copies of the Bank Reconciliation.

Councillor Bryan Hopkins proposed and Councillor Rebecca Strong seconded; and upon being put to a vote it was unanimously resolved to:

Approve the bank reconciliation for this month.

9.20.11 Planning Applications

A Property in Standish Avenue has applied to demolish garage and construct dwelling – this seems to be reasonable and there is already precedent set in this respect.

9.20.12 Future Meetings

At present all future meetings will be held online for those Councillors who can use it.

Dates of future meetings

- 8 October 2020
- 12 November 2020
- 10 December 2020

9.20.13 Any items the Chair considers urgent

Audit – all information is with the auditors and we are awaiting a reply.

Chair Andy Alsop reiterated how let down the Parish Council feel by the Ward Councillors.

Councillor Andrew Dyer advised that the trees in the area will need further work but our usual tree surgeon won't cut trees by power lines unless the lines are sleeved. There are also trees overhanging the pavement near the school – Chair Andy Alsop will arrange for this to be dealt with.

Councillor Jon Butler asked Franklin Owusu-Antwi if there is any update regarding planning for the property next door to his which remains unoccupied. There is no update at this time.

I confirm that the minutes are a correct record of the meeting.

Signed:



Date:

10-10-20