

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

MINUTES

Wednesday 5th April 2023

Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall ~ 7.00 pm

Attendees: Cllr B. Stone ~ Chairman Cllr J. Wallace ~ Vice-Chair
Cllr K. Mansell Cllr G. Blackman
Cllr K. Copping Mrs J. Allen ~ Clerk

Members of the public: Six (6)

PUBLIC SESSION ~ NOT PART OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Part A. Public Discussions

None.

Part B. Public Discussions on any agenda items

Several concerns were raised, which included but were not limited to:

- A report of a large dog running loose in Middle Stoke, which appeared to happen on a regular basis.
- Reports of cars travelling too fast through Middle Stoke to access the airfield, which also had very strong and unsavoury smells coming from them.
- Reports of large containers travelling through Middle Stoke to access the airfield.
- Reports of offroad bikes travelling through the village, performing wheelies and without any formal identification plates.

The members discussed the complaints raised where it was agreed that the offroad bikes, loose dogs and suspected drug use should all be reported to the Police. The use of an application called 'Country Eye' was recommended, where it was reported that not only could loose dogs be reported by the 'animal welfare' section, but that reports in regards to offroad bikes and drug use could also be submitted anonymously.

Cllr J. Wallace spoke to inform the meeting that she was aware of a similar issue in Hoo with offroad bikes, which she understood the Police were in the process of trying to tackle.

Cllr B. Stone also spoke to recommended that the villagers complain about the speed of the vehicles traveling through the village to Medway Council and appeal to them to apply a 20 MPH speed limit.

Finally, a conversation concerning the Coronation Event ensued, where a member of the Stoke Community Project spoke to request a £300 donation from the Parish Council towards the event. The members agreed to discuss this matter later in the meeting, where they also spoke of accessing the tables and chairs from the Village Hall for the event and moving them down to the Lower Stoke Car Park on the morning of Sunday 7th May.

The public session closed at 7.15pm and subsequently most of the members of the public left.

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The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone officially opened the main part of the meeting at 7.15pm and thanked the Councillors and the remaining members of the public for attending.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Min 7527:22 An apology for absence was received from Cllr P. Egan, who was on annual leave.

2. **To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Min 7528:22 None.

3. **Minutes from the previous Parish Council Meeting**

a). To receive and approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023.

Min 7529:22 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st March 2023, were circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr J. Wallace and seconded by Cllr K. Mansell, that the minutes be approved as a correct record. This motion was carried as it was unanimously agreed.

4. **Disclosure of any other business of an urgent nature**

Min 7530:22 None.

5. **The Rivermead Inclusive Trust**

a). To discuss the consultation letter from the Rivermead Inclusive Trust concerning the use of the old Stoke Primary Academy building.

Min 7531:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to remind the meeting that a consultation concerning the use of the old Stoke Primary Academy school building by the Rivermead Inclusive Trust was taking place on Wednesday 19th April at 6.00pm in the Village Hall, where he understood that the school were asking for any comments to be returned to them by Friday 28th April.

The Vice-chair, Cllr J. Wallace also spoke to acknowledge that there had been a lot of positive feedback from the village already concerning the Rivermead Trust's expansion into the site.

Concerns were raised about the maintenance of the grounds, including both the swimming pool and the orchards. It was understood that should the new trust take over the building then they would be responsible for all areas of the site.

6. **Ward Councillor report**

a). A report by Ward Councillor George Crozer – Annex A

Min 7532:22 Cllr J. Wallace read passages from Ward Councillor G. Crozer's report that provided an update on the flooded manhole cover on the A228 / Grain Road, the lack of adult health and social care on the Peninsula and the repairs to the Grain flyover.

Please refer to Annex A for a copy of this report.

The conversation digressed to the local elections, where Cllr J. Wallace informed the meeting that there were a few blank application forms left on the table by the door for any residents wishing to apply to become a Parish Councillor.

7. **Planning**

a). Applications

Min 7533:22 Cllr B. Stone spoke to acknowledge that there had been no new planning applications submitted since the last meeting.

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He did however speak of other developments that had been identified around the village which included a building being constructed in a field and a property called 'The Shant, where more caravans had appeared on the site along with the beginnings of a brick-built dwelling being constructed in the corner of the grounds.

b). Decisions

c). Appeals and Other Matters

Min 7534:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to inform the meeting that there had been no further planning decisions made and that there were no appeals or other matters.

8. Finance

a). Bank balances

Min 7535:22 Cllr B. Stone referred the members to the bank statements contained within their meeting packs, where after careful consideration the bank balances were deemed as acceptable.

b). To agree the financial performance against the budget for March 2023.

c). Accounts paid since the last meeting to be ratified.

Min 7536:22 The Councillors carefully reviewed the Parish Council's financial performance and made note of all the BACS payments made since the last meeting, where it was unanimously agreed that the budgets and payments were acceptable.

d). Accounts for payment.

Min 7537:22 It was proposed by the Vice-Chair Cllr J. Wallace and seconded by Cllr K. Mansell, that the payments as per listed below be approved, this motion was carried as it was unanimously agreed.

Payee	Reference	Payment Method	Amount	Notes
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£536.13	March February 2023 Wages
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£35.00	Use of home office – March 2023
Vodafone Telephone & Broadband	Min 1451:18	DIRECT DEBIT	£36.61	Broadband & Telephone line rental for March 2023
Colin Davis	Min 1992:20	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£69.00	Litter picking and Cleaning INV: 3683
Gravesham Trophy Centre	Min 7525:22	PAID BY CARD	£107.75	Thank you presents INV: 9186
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£7.99	Reimbursement for Sign coverage
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£231.54	Reimbursement for Tools and Expenses for Lower Stoke Car Park Upgrades
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£34.99	Reimbursement for Cycle Rack

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Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£119.85	Reimbursement for Barrells and Plant Pots
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£226.95	Reimbursement for Road Paint
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£11.37	Reimbursement for signage
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£13.50	Reimbursement for bolts for bench
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£102.00	Reimbursement for bench
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£75.00	Reimbursement for Aggregate
Mr P. Egan	Min 7320:22	PAID BY BACS	£13.68	Reimbursement for reverse only signs
The People's Pension	Min 1775:20	DIRECT DEBIT	£43.16	Both Employer & Employee Contributions for January 2023
TOTAL			£1,664.52	

e). Payment requests to be discussed for approval and payment.

Min 7538:22 The members discussed the Stoke Community project's request for a £300 donation towards the Coronation Event.

Whilst the payment had not been listed on the agenda for formal consideration it was agreed to approved the grant in principle which the Parish Council would then formally ratify it at their next meeting.

9. Grant applications

a). To consider an application for a grant for the Village Hall to repair the leaking roof.

Min 7539:22 The Clerk Mrs J. Allen spoke to inform the members that she had received a call from Mrs J. Turner of the Village Hall Committee, to request a grant from the Parish Council toward essential repairs to the leaking roof. Following this telephone conversation, Mrs J. Allen advised that she understood the roof was leaking in several places and because of this the total cost for the repairs was currently unknown.

Cllr B. Stone spoke in response, and in his capacity as the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, to advise that the contractor he has arranged to inspect the roof and carry out any subsequent repairs had failed to show, as a result of this he was currently sourcing a replacement contractor.

The members spoke collectively about the general condition of the Village Hall, where Cllr J. Wallace enquired if there might be any grants available to help preserve and update existing community assets.

It was concluded that the members would look further into any possible grant funding available and that they would contact several companies located in local industrial estate to appeal for additional funding.

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10. Management of the Council's land and property

a). To review the play park inspections for:

- i Allhallows Playparks Road Playpark
- ii Heron Way Playpark
- iii Upper Stoke Playpark

Min 7540:22 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to inform the members that there had been no change in the condition of the playparks from the last meeting. She did however comment that the playparks were looking tired and outdated so she felt that they did need quite a lot of money spending on them to bring them up to date.

b). To receive an update on the long-term upkeep of the Button Drive, Heron Way & Upper Stoke Playparks.

Min 7541:22 Cllr K. Mansell advised that she understood the Button Drive needed a deep clean and that the Heron Way Playpark needed re-painting.

She closed her report in confirming that she understood that some of these tasks were included in Cllr P. Egan's long-term plan, where they acknowledged that he had designated £50 from the Parish Council's budget to spend on the playparks each month.

c). To receive an update on the installation of three Platinum Jubilee trees.

Min 7542:22 Cllr B. Stone reported that he was now in receipt of two (2) new oak trees.

He advised that he understood that one of these trees had been earmarked to be planted in Upper Stoke, close the noticeboard, whilst the other had been agreed to be planted in Lower Stoke, within the confines of the Button Drive recreation ground.

The members spoke in detail were to plant the second oak tree in Lower Stoke, where Cllr K. Copping recommended that the members avoided planting it at the back of another resident's property.

It was agreed that Cllr B. Stone & Cllr K. Copping would meet to determine the best location for the new tree.

d). Defibrillators

Min 7543:22 The members referred to a quote Cllr K. Mansell had sought for a new defibrillator for Upper Stoke, which equated to £795.00 for the device (with additional unknown costs for a cabinet and its installation).

A discussion ensued in regards to the best location for the defibrillator, which would allow for a power source to maintain a constant temperate within the cabinet itself. They spoke collectively of looking into a cabinet that was run by solar power, where after careful consideration, it was agreed that a more permanent power supply was required.

They identified that an outer wall of St Peter & St Paul's Church would be the best location for the new device, where Cllr B. Stone offered to speak to the Vicar on behalf of the Parish Council for ask for permission to site one there.

Cllr J. Wallace also spoke to inform the members that she would speak further to Ward Councillor G. Crozer to ask if he could look further into Medway Council's priority fund.

11. Highways & Transportation

a). Footpaths

Min 7544:22 No report.

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b). Lighting

Min 7545:22 No report.

c). Highways and verges

Min 7546:22 No report.

d). Pot holes

Min 7547:22 Cllr B. Stone spoke to acknowledge that various potholes around the village had been recently filled, where further potholes were identified which included a large, deep pothole that was located close to the roundabout heading towards High Halstow.

Cllr K. Copping also spoke to recommend the use of the Country Eye app to report any pot holes to Medway Council.

e). Fly tipping

Min 7548:22 No report.

f). Grass cutting

Min 7549:22 Cllr K. Copping spoke to report that the length of the grass within the recreation ground(s) was of reasonable length.

A discussion ensued in regards to overgrown weeds and shrubs, which were reportedly obstructing the view of the road heading from Lower Stoke towards Allhallows. Accordingly, the Clerk was deployed to report this matter to Medway Council and to ask for the vegetation to be cut back.

g). Leaking manhole cover on A228 / Grain Road

Min 7550:22 The Clerk Mrs J. Allen spoke to report that she had written to the engineer who was investigating the leaking manhole cover on the A228 / Grain Road to ask for a further update, where she was now waiting for his response.

h). Button Drive recreation ground outer fencing

Min 7551:22 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen informed the members that she was speaking with the property owner who had lodged the original complaint.

i). Repairs to noticeboard in Middle Stoke

Min 7552:22 The members referred to a quote that had been circulated by Cllr K. Mansell to repair the noticeboard in Middle Stoke, which equated to £250.00 and included:

- Supplying and Fitting x3 plywood capping panels
- To treat the whole wooden structure with x2 coats of Sadolin wood preserver
- To finish metal uprights with SmoothRight metal paint, where appropriate

After careful consideration it was proposed by Cllr J. Wallace to accept the quote received, this proposal was seconded by Cllr K. Copping and was agreed with 5 members voting in favour and one member abstaining.

12. Communication

a). Update on the Parish Council's new webpage and associated email addresses

Min 7553:22 No report.

b). Social Media Page

Min 7554:22 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen spoke to inform the members that she had responded to a one-off post on social media, where she had been left surprised that her innocent suggestion had been completely taken out of context.

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Despite complaints that the Parish Council never responds to enquiries on Facebook page she informed the members that she would no longer be responding to enquiries via this method and as such she would be asking members of the public to raise their enquiries either via either telephone or email communications instead from now on.

c). Parish Council owned tablets

Min 7555:22 The Clerk Mrs J. Allen spoke to remind the members who were not reapplying in the next local elections, to surrender their tablets to her, if they had not done so already.

13. Village Hall

a). To receive an update on the status of the Village Hall

Min 7556:22 Please refer to the conversation held in item 9, ref: **Min 7538:22** .

14. External Contractors

Min 7557:22 The members acknowledged that there were no outstanding requests for contractor works. The Clerk however was reminded to source three (3) quotes to replace the matting in the Button Drive playpark.

15. Stoke Community Project

a). To receive a report from the Stoke Community Project concerning their latest projects.

Min 7558:22 The Vice-Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to report that the Stoke Community Project had held their Easter Party in the garden of the Nags Head Public house during the month of April, which had been very successful.

With permission from the Chairman, a member of the public also spoke to inform the Parish Council that the Stoke Community Project had recently hosted a quiz night too that had raised over £300.

16. Feedback to Public Questions

a). To receive a response/update on the last public questions raised, following the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 25th January 2023.

Min 7559:22 It was acknowledged that there had a been a lot of negative feedback concerning planning application MC/23/0106 at the last meeting, where in response to this the Clerk had written to Medway Council on behalf of the Parish Council to lodge the members objections.

17. Lower Stoke Car Park Layout

a). To receive an update on the new layout of the Lower Stoke Car Park

Min 7560:22 The members spoke collectively about the new layout of the Lower Stoke Car Park. A lot of positive feedback was received however, Cllr J. Wallace also spoke of a few Negative comments she had overhead regarding the angled bays, the centre parking spaces and a grab bag that had reportedly been left in the car park for some time and had been taking up a parking bay on its own.

The Vice-Chair also reported a news thread she had read on social media concerning a 'bump' in the car park between two vehicles, one of which had been parked in the centre bays.

18. Village Events

a). Kings Coronation May 2023.

Min 7561:22 The Vice-Chair, Cllr J. Wallace informed the members that Medway Council had granted permission for the road closure to as part of Stoke's Coronation Celebrations.

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Accordingly, she informed the members that the corner of the High Street where the highway met the Grain Road would be closed for the event. She also advised the meeting that she would be leafleting the cars parked in the car park again a day or two before the event, to remind them that the car park would be closed on Sunday 7th May.

A discussion ensued in regards to what the Parish Council were going to give out as a gift to the children of the village as a momentum of the day, where the members spoke of magnets, teaspoons and keyrings.

After careful consideration, and some speaking of their memories of the late Queen's Coronation, it was decided that the Parish Council would provide a personalised mug for the children instead.

A vote took place and Cllr J. Wallace spoke to proposed that the Parish Council set a budget of £400 to purchase 150 mugs, this proposal was seconded by Cllr G. Blackman and was unanimously agreed.

It was decided that once the aforementioned mugs had been manufactured that they would be sent to the Chairman, Cllr B. Stone who would pass them onto the Stoke Community Project to distribute.

19. **Correspondence**

Min 7562:22 None.

20. **External Committee Updates**

a). **KALC**

Min 7563:22 No report.

b). **Rural Liaison.**

Min 7564:22 No report.

21. **Any other business**

Min 7565:22 None.

22. **Date of next meeting**

Min 7566:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to inform the members that the next meeting would take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 24th May, where the Annual Parish Meeting would take place ahead of the Annual Parish Council meeting that same evening.

23. **Close of meeting**

Min 7567:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone closed the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked both the Councillors and the members of the public for attending.

Before the meeting hall was cleared away the members of the Parish Council presented both Cllr B. Stone and Cllr G. Blackman with a gift each, following their decision not to seek re-election at the next Local Elections.

It was recognised that Cllr B. Stone had been in post for over 30 years and that the last 20 years he had served as Chairman. It was also acknowledged that Cllr G. Blackman had served 16 years as a member of the Parish Council.

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The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 24th May 2023	7.00pm	The Village Hall
Annual Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 24th May 2023	7.45pm	The Village Hall

ANNEXES

ANNEX A

6a). Ward Councillor report

A report by Ward Councillor George Crozer

Min 7532:22

02/03/2023 (Middle Stoke)

Wrote to Matthew Palmer Medway council to follow up on flooding issues on A228 BT manhole and flooding issues in Middle Stoke

06/03/2023 Peninsula

Met with head of health and adult social care to receive brief about department and ongoing work. Raised problems on the Peninsula with adult health and social care and received sympathetic response. I was advised also of changes to laws around deprivation of liberty changing to liberty protection safeguarding changes to take affect in the next two years.

09/03/2023 Peninsula general (GP Access in Medway)

Attended Heath and Adult Social Care O&S committee.

The Committee to send interim report to Cabinet about GP Access in Medway. My **Comment:- There is much that is good in the report there is also mention of Healthy Living Centres, please read comment 28/03/2023 re Elms practise visit**

Cllr Potter submitted Members petition about lack of GPs in Rainham and called for and was granted a review of the GP services in the Rainham area. Director of operations reported that a new Neighbourhood Nurse has been appointed for the Hoo Peninsula.

The independent chair of Kent & Medway Safeguarding board presented a report in which he warning and outlined the safeguarding problems in Medway with gang members acting as carers were taking control of vulnerable peoples benefits and ultimately lives. Normally occurring with residents place by outside authorities,

Further report presented highlighted the concerns around hypertension and suggesting placing blood pressure monitoring devices in coffee shops and restaurants as a way of identifying potential problem patience. Council performance plan was presented suggesting vaping is fast taking over from smoking problems and is becoming a problem in itself.

A review of Medway's risk register was summarised pointing out that CQC will be carrying out assurance reviews into Medway's performance in adult social care CQC will initially concentrate on the data that will soon move to visits to look at specific scenarios.

A review of Medway's Better Plan pointed out that the plan it's not just for older people and will provide support for unpaid carers like Carers first Rochester, (charity) It noted over 22,500 people

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in Medway give care for a relative or a friend compared with 7 million nationally. The better care fund is controlled for Medway by Medway council not by Kent.

24/03/2023 Hoo Stoke High Halstow

Received enquiry from resident of Stoke Road Hoo re-flooding and mud on the road outside Spring Field cottages. Visited sites taken pictures. Have written for update on issues. Further arranged to see Head of Frontline services 04/04/2023 for departmental briefing and to raise issues of flooding at Stoke Road Hoo and Middle stoke and A228 Stoke and state of repair of A228 beyond High Halstow to Isle of Grain.

28/03/2023 Peninsula Elms Practise (GP Access in Medway)

My Comment cont from above) 09/03/2023: During the Health and Adult social Care Overview and Scrutiny a comment was made that it was important to get the opinion of Medway GPs about GP Access in Medway. It was further reported that it had been extremely difficult to see any Medway GPs and that the GP comment in the report was in fact from a very experienced GP from outside the area. I therefore wrote to arrange to speak with the two Peninsula GP practises. Only the Elms has responded so far. You can see below that reservations were expressed around Healthy Living Centres. (HLC) I have yet to visit a healthy Living Centre so have taken those comments on board.

Government has set aside £300m from the National Lottery to establish a network of “health living centres” around the country. Its aim is to improve health through community action and particularly to reduce inequalities in health in deprived areas. Healthy living centres will take various forms and may exist as partnerships and networks rather than as new buildings. They are based on a recognition that determinants of poor health in deprived areas include economic, social, and environmental factors which are outside the influence of conventional health services.

I spoke again the Chair of the Heath & Adult social care O&S who was of a similar opinion remarking that it is difficult to get a GP appointment at some centres because they were not located well and GPs are reluctant to take up space there.

I am sure that a centre that offers a variety of Services aimed at improving the health and well-being of residents is a good thing. But the model must be right for the area. Certainly, further work needs to be undertaken for the peninsula to find the right solution to account the remoteness of some of our villages.

I with the Elms medical practice this afternoon (28/03/2023) and spoke to a partner, the practice manager and the business development manager.

During 2017 the practice was at full strength having five partners. Today 2023 there are 2GP partners and two sessional doctors. Among those supporting the practice there is a social practitioner, a mental health practitioner, an advance nursing practitioner, two clinical pharmacist, a paramedic, a physician associate, and a first contact practitioner. The partners have just finished an expansion program at the practice and have built several new consulting rooms. They hope to recruit new staff with differing specialities. It is also planned to begin training new doctors at the centre and they hope to take on the first trainee later this year.

When asked, the Partner expressed some reservation around Healthy Living Centres and pointed out that a HLC is outlined in the Hoo development Framework. He considered that the GP practise model supported by primary Care network (PCN) is best placed in Hoo and a better option to

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provide the best GP service for the Peninsula. The practice is part of a primary care network with the St Werburgh Practise and High Parks this allows funding from the NHS to provide extra staff that is shared by the network.

DRAFT