

C/07/19/1-21

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st JULY 2019
AT STANSTED VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE ROAD, STANSTED,
AT 8.00 pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Harry Bott Chairman
Cllr Thomas Brooker
Cllr Jack Saunders
Cllr Daren Sefer
Cllr Kevin Sparkes
Cllr Yvonne Tisson
Mrs Roxana Brammer Finance Officer
Mrs Melita Gandolfo Clerk

In attendance Cllr Harry Rayner Kent County Council
Mr Alan Bullock Stansted School Project Steering Group
Mr Tom Sheldon
3 members of the public

Item *Action point*
Minute no 2019/2020/

1 APOLOGIES

149 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Falconer, on holiday, and accepted by the Council.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ALTERATIONS TO THE REGISTER

150 None.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th MAY 2019

151 It was proposed by Cllr Sparkes, seconded by Cllr Sefer and agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2019 be signed as a true record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

152 There were no matters arising.

5 SOUTHBEATS MUSIC FESTIVAL

153 Cllr Bott reported that the Southbeats Music Festival had been granted a licence for one year. Cllr Bott said he would be forming a committee of local parishes, to monitor noise and nuisance levels and other considerations for future reference should Southbeats plan events in future years. Proud Events, the organisers, had suggested a meeting with Parish Councillors, and this would be held at 4 p.m. on Friday 12th July at the Hilltop Hotel.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow KCC Cllr Harry Rayner to speak.

Cllr Rayner said that opposition to the festival had failed to achieve refusal of the licence, due to lack of strong factual evidence. Opposition was based on supposition rather than fact. Testimonials, factual information, and photographic evidence needed to be collected to use in opposition of licence applications in future years.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rayner and reconvened the meeting.

6 STANSTED SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

154 i Steering group update

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Tom Sheldon and Alan Bullock to speak.

Mr Sheldon said that the final meeting of the Steering Committee would be held on 2nd July as the project was nearly complete.

Mr Sheldon said that he would arrange to have the building revalued for insurance purposes, for £1 million.

It was noted that the alarm at the school was connected directly to a call centre.

It was noted that under the terms of the lease, 15 parking spaces were to be allocated to Grange Park School, 13 in the area at the back of the village hall and two at the front.

Mr Sheldon emphasised the importance of improving and maintaining communication between the school and the Parish Council. It was agreed that a communication committee be formed, comprising Cllr Bott, Cllr Tisson, and the Clerk, to hold regular meetings with the school. Cllr Falconer would also be asked to join on her return from holiday.

Mr Bullock said that the external painting was complete, and satisfactory progress was being made on the car park, with a manhole being completely rebuilt.

Cabling had been installed for lighting and the electrical works would shortly be finished. A control system to satisfy the requirements of all car park users was being devised.

Mr Bullock said that the increased layers of hardstanding playground around the school building have resulted in loss of any threshold, which contributed to recent flooding in the school, and may result in future flooding. Mr Bullock will meet with school staff to discuss this problem.

Mr Bullock said that the required remedial brickwork previously identified could be done by small works contractors, and was likely to cost in the region of £5,000. Mr Bullock had obtained one quote and was seeking two more.

Cllr Bott proposed and Cllr Tisson seconded that the quote obtained by Mr Bullock be accepted.

Cllr Bott thanked Mr Sheldon and Mr Bullock and reconvened the meeting.

It was noted that the Open Day held at the school, and attended by members of the Parish Council, local residents and many former pupils of the school, had been a great success.

155 ii **Car park sign**

Parish Councillors had seen a drawing by Gerry Glidewell of the proposed sign, at a cost of £375. It was proposed by Cllr Bott and seconded by Cllr Sefer and agreed that this sign be ordered, with dark green background and cream lettering.

156 iii **Flooding in school building**

Recent exceptionally heavy rainfall had resulted in parts of the school being flooded and the carpets soaked. As the carpets were a fixture, this was landlord responsibility. A loss adjustor had attended but Cllr Bott had agreed an emergency payment of £700 so that the carpets could be deep cleaned and dried as a matter of urgency. It was proposed by Cllr Tisson and seconded by Cllr Sparks and agreed that this payment be ratified. An invoice for the work had not yet been received.

7 RECENT FLOODING IN THE PARISH

157 Flooding had occurred in the Parish, and especially in Malthouse Road, as a result of the exceptional rainstorms. KCC Highways members were discussing the problems and possible solutions.

8 WORLD WARS COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

158 It was understood that good progress was being made on the booklet and the website. John Mattick planned to give an update at the September meeting.

9 PLANNING

159 a **Applications**

None at time of Agenda.

160 b **Decisions**

The decisions as listed on Appendix A were received.

C Enforcement

161 i **Lucy's Barn Campsite, Ash Lane.**

Richard Edmonds from TMBC Enforcement had stated that the Camping and Caravan Club would be issuing a licence which would allow up to five caravans / motorhomes on the site at any one time plus 10 tents, and as such the use would be permitted development requiring no further consent. It was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain whether the licence had in fact been granted, and if it would be possible to oppose the granting. No update had been received from Enforcement.

162 ii **Littlefields, Plaxdale Green Road, Stansted**

This is still under appeal.

163 d **Appeals**

None.

164 **e Any Other Planning Issues**

There were no other planning issues.

10 FINANCE

165 **a Bank Balances**

The bank balances as listed on Appendix B were noted.

166 **b Payments made since Last Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Sparkes and agreed the payments made since the last meeting as listed on Appendix B be approved.

167 **c Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Sparkes, seconded by Cllr Sefer and agreed the accounts for payment as listed on Appendix B be paid (cheques 943-948).

It was agreed that the cheque 944 to M Gandolfo (reimbursable expenses) included £41.92 from the Chairman's allowance to pay for a gift bought for a retiring long serving councillor.

In addition to the cheques listed on Appendix B, it was proposed by Cllr Sparks, seconded by Cllr Sefer and agreed that the invoice from Rialtas Business Solutions for finance Software be paid – cheque 949 - £962.04.

168 **d Training – The Dynamic Councillor**

It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Tisson would attend this course.

11 GRANT APPLICATIONS

169 There were no grant applications.

12 MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S LAND & PROPERTY

a Recreation Ground

170 i. General maintenance – Cllr Sefer offered to replace the flag; this offer was gratefully accepted.

171 ii. Hire of Ground – it was noted that:
 - A family had booked for a hog roast on the field in August.
 - Stansted Fete would be taking place on Saturday 7th September.

172 **b Play Park**

Nothing to report

173 **c War Memorial and garden**

Chalk and flint deposits washed from the roads onto the triangle by the recent floods had been cleared by KCC Highways.

4

174 d **Telephone kiosk**

The Clerk had asked Gerry Glidewell for a quote for repainting the Union flag phone box in Plaxdale Green Road and was awaiting a response.

175 e **Church Bank**

Cllr Bott agreed to arrange for the seat to be repainted over the summer.

176 f **Brownes Bequest**

It was noted that the coppicing would be required in the autumn.

177 g **Registration of Land**

The Clerk had received an estimate from solicitors Rix and Kay of £2,000-£3,000 plus VAT for registering the War Memorial and garden and Church Bank as village greens. Extra costs could be incurred if more work was required. It was proposed by Cllr Bott and seconded by Cllr Sefer that the Clerk should instruct the solicitors to proceed.

13 **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**178 a **Public Rights of Way**

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Mr Roy Barry to speak.

Mr Barry said that in some places crops had been flattened by the torrential rain, obscuring the footpaths. Mr Barry thanked Cllr Saunders for re-marking out footpaths that had been obscured.

Mr Barry said that the surface of Byway MR200, Wise's Lane, had been damaged by floods in places, resulting in deep gullies that were dangerous for horses and walkers. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this to TMBC / KCC.

It was noted that the line of footpath MR218 was still partially obstructed and unclear, and it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue this further.

It was understood that the owner of Thriftwood Campsite was applying for a diversion of MR210 through his land.

MG

The Chairman thanked Mr Barry and reconvened the meeting.

179 b **Encroachment**

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow KCC Cllr Harry Rayner to speak.

Cllr Rayner said that he was due to attend a meeting with Andrew Loosemore on 15th July and would pursue the matter of encroachment on Wrotham Hill Road.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rayner and reconvened the meeting.

180 **c Blocked storm drains**

It was understood that KCC Highways were looking into storm drains in Malthouse Road and Plaxdale Green Road.

181 **d Village Green at Hatham Green Lane**

It was noted that cars were often parked on this area of green, by people using the adjacent stables and by residents. It was suggested that a low chain fence could be set up, but it was thought this would be expensive. Cllr Brooker agreed to give an estimate for low posts around the area.

TB

182 **e Other highways or transport issues**

It was noted that the new bus service had started to Sevenoaks, and was being well supported.

14 **VILLAGE HALLS**

183 **a Stansted Village Hall**

Nothing to report. Cllr Mrs Tisson agreed to be the Stansted Village Hall liaison person.

184 **b Fairseat Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

15 **POLICE MATTERS**

185 It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Tonbridge Police to ask our PCSO to improve links with our community by attending village events on a regular (if possible monthly) basis – Parish Council meetings, Village Markets, Cloisters coffee mornings.

16 **DEFIBRILLATORS**

186 Cllr Mrs Tisson said that the installation date for the three defibrillators was 12th August. She showed samples of colour A5 explanatory leaflets with an estimated cost of £80 plus VAT for 500. It was proposed by Cllr Sefer, seconded by Cllr Sparkes and agreed that these be ordered, also leaflets advertising defibrillator training at an estimated cost of £17 plus VAT.

17 **REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS AND CLERK**

187 There was nothing to report.

18 **CONSULTATION**

188 No documents received.

19 **CORRESPONDENCE**

189 None.

20 REPORTS & CIRCULARS

190 None received.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

21 Cllr Tisson asked if speed limits or deterrents could be imposed in the villages. Following discussion, it was concluded that it was very unlikely that any action could be taken apart from notices requesting careful driving.

191 i The poor state of two of the parish notice boards was noted. The Clerk will investigate replacements.

192 ii

The Chairman suspended the meeting for the Public Session.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Osborne said that there had been a sewage leak from a manhole cover on the recreation ground. Workmen had attended but there was still residue on the field and the area was still coned off. The Clerk would contact Thames Water.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.50 pm

SignedChairman

On the day of 2019

