



Parish Council Meeting Minutes

held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 19.30, in the Club Room, Village Centre.

Present: Cllrs Jeanette Davies, Patrick Foote (Vice Chair), Ed Makgill, Glenda Mew, Dave Peart, Gwen Randall.

In attendance: Parish Clerk Maxine Owen

Members of the Parish: 5

Meeting start: 19:30

171. Introduction led by the vice-chair: General Welcome.

172. Dark Skies Issue: A member of the public (MOP) wished to draw the Parish Council's attention to the light pollution coming from the patio area of the George Inn in St Mary Bourne. The MOP believes it is in serious breach of the Dark Skies Policy in force in the parish. The bulbs around the patio area have recently been replaced for new brighter ones, and are generally switched on at about 6pm until about 20 minutes after closing time. The MOP is concerned that the new bulbs are much brighter and detrimental to the environment and wildlife. The understanding is that the Dark Skies Policy states that light pollution should not encroach onto someone else's property. The MOP advised that he had approached the owner of the George, who claimed that he had checked with other neighbours, and claimed they had no issue with it. The MOP advised that the owner had come back to him to say that he was happy to change the bulbs to dimmer ones, but that it would have to be at the MOP's own expense. This was deemed unreasonable by the MOP, who has now written to BDBC about the issue. MOP stipulated that he did not require any action from the PC at this stage, he was just sharing what had occurred and how he felt.

ACTION: Speak with Pub Owner and investigate issue & PC to decide whether enforcement contact should be made to BDBC – Cllr Foote

Recent Lake Meeting: MOP advised that he was happy with the recent work in the Lake Surround. Things are looking a lot better. He stated he thought the Lake meeting on 26th September 2023 was well organised, informative, and the transparency was good. He was looking forward to more of the same and getting involved as things progress. Cllr Foote thanked him for the feedback – it is nice to hear positive things from the electorate.

173. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Bridget Culley; Cllr Phil Jeffrey; Cllr Oliver Madge

174. Declarations of interest: None

175. Receive reports from Borough & County Councillors:

No Borough or County Councillors attended, but Cllr Thacker sent his apologies and a report which the Clerk read out. The full report is available on the PC Website as an appendix to these minutes, or a copy can be sent by contacting the Clerk on clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk or by phoning 07845 570154.

In summary the report gave an update on:

1. HCCs financial planning this Autumn where they are expecting to have to deal with a budget deficit of £132M by the end of 2025/26 Financial Year, and that this will reduce services that HCC are able to provide.

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Signed *Oliver Madge* Date 14 Nov '23



2. The proposed transformation of in-house nursing and specialist care for our aging population and where the investment is heading. 3. A brief update on Countryside Services and how to find information on the work they are doing in parishes. 4. Detail of an increase in monthly payment to households hosting Ukrainian families.

Cllr Randall stated that she thought it was a shame Cllr Thacker hadn't attended the meeting as she would have liked to ask him about the Transport Services in our area. The clerk advised that if Cllr Randall wished to put something together to be sent to Cllr Thacker from the Parish Council it could be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

176 Minutes of Full Council meeting held 12th September 2023

176.1 Approved by: Proposed: Cllr Peart, seconded Cllr Davies

176.2 The Clerk asked for updates from everyone on any outstanding actions they had, and advised that the Action List would be updated and re-circulated. The Clerk advised that a record of all completed actions is also kept.

ACTION: Publish Action List from meeting to Parish Council – **CLERK**

177. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023 (AGAR)

177.1 The Clerk advised that the External Auditors had now sent through the final certificate for the 2022-2023 AGAR and that the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit has been published on our website. It is a legal requirement for the Parish Council to publish the last 5 years. There was a comment from the Auditors which the Clerk advised she deemed unfair, as she has exactly followed their instructions, all councillors had complied in their responses, and still it was implied as an issue. The second comment about decimal places was entirely founded, and the Clerk agreed to look more carefully at the exact instructions in future.

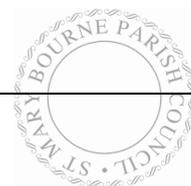
178. Finance:

178.1 Bank Balances on 03/10/2023
Account A: £128,174.98
Account B: £337.43

Total in All Accounts	Earmarked Reserves
£112,512.41	£23,000.00 CIL £9440.00 Lottery Grant £6,852.23 Greenham Trust Grant Play Area £7,000.00 Riverbank Project £4000.00 Tree Work in Recreation Ground £24,000.00 3 Months running costs at Approx £8000 per month.
	TOTAL: £74,292.23

One of the Councillors enquired as to what the £9440 Lottery Grant was. The Clerk clarified that it was the Grant for the Hide for the Lake Surround – a project now not going ahead. It was agreed that the Clerk would check the terms of the grant, and whether it should be returned or could be used for something else.

ACTION: Check terms of the Grant from Lottery – Clerk



178.2 Payments & Receipts for Approval made in **September 2023**

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
DD	04/09/2023	Southern Electric	£23.82	
DD	08/09/2023	Scottish Water	£39.49	
BACS	15/09/2023	SM Tarrant	£430.08	Litter Picker
BACS	15/09/2023	Premier	£810.00	Lengthsman Cluster
BACS	15/09/2023	Starboard Systems	£345.60	Scribe Accounting Software
BACS	15/09/2023	SMB Village Centre	£130.00	Office Hire
BACS	15/09/2023	Scofell Landscapes	£823.99	Grounds Maintenance
BACS	15/09/2023	Sumo Services Ltd	£1470.00	Topographical Maps
DD	26/09/2023	ICO	£35.00	Information Commissioner
BACS	26/09/2023	Sovereign Housing	£1.00	Batsford Car Parking Licence
BACS	26/09/2023	BDO LLP	£504.00	External Auditor FY22/23
BACS	26/09/2023	Eclipse Pest Control	£130.00	
BACS	26/09/2023	Cllr Davies Expenses	£61.89	Bulbs
BACS	26/09/2023	Cllr Madge Expenses	£167.54	Padlocks/Mobile Phone/Mtgs
BACS	27/09/2023	Contour Fencing	£420.00	Oak Post install at Village Hall
TOTAL			£5392.41	

Receipts £103.22 Bank Interest
 £500.00 Rent from Ninny's for September 2023
 £450.00 Greenham Trust – Play Area Project
 £20,363.00 Precept 2nd Payment
 £1112.44 Electricity Rebill to Ninny's House
 £819.53 Q3 Fishing Licence

179 Planning: (Any queries please email: planning@stmarybourne.org)

179.1 – Summary List Of applications since last meeting shown below:

Response Date	App Reference	Address	Type	Consultee Response
26/10/23	23/02465/FUL	Medhurst, Stoke Ln, SMB	Demolition & Replacement	To be decided
18/10/23	23/02405/FUL	Egbury Fm Barns	Demolition & Replacement	Objection
17/10/23	T/00414/23/TCA	3 Bourne Meadow, SMB	Work on Trees	No Objection
05/10/2023	23/01946/LDEU	Green Pastures, Breach Fm	Lawful Development	Objection
26/09/2023	T/00384/23/TCA	I Homestead, Stoke	Work on Trees	No Objection
26/09/2023	T/00350/23/TCA	Garston, Stoke	Work on Trees	No Objection
26/09/2023	T/00362/23/TCA	Swampton House, SMB	Work on Trees	No Objection

179.2 Two applications have been shared on social media since the last meeting.

23/02405/FUL – Egbury Farm Barns
 23/02465/FUL – Medhurst, Stoke Ln, SMB

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179.3 The Clerk clarified that any Planning Application through from BDBC would be circulated to the Planning Committee and recorded for administration purposes by the Clerk in a spreadsheet. All Planning Applications (with the exception of Applications to do work on trees) would be listed on the SMB PC Facebook Page for the community to see and included in the Parish Council Article in the Hill and Valley. All applications notified to the PC since the previous meeting will be listed on the Agenda and in the Minutes. Because of the timing of some of the applications, the Parish Council may have already made their consultee response to BDBC.

Two applications were discussed and decided:

23/01946/LDEU Green Pastures – Cllr Peart agreed to put together a statement for submission to BDBC. Stating Objection and reason for the Objection.

23/02405/FUL – Egbury Fm Barns – Cllrs agreed that this should still be an objection from the Parish Council using the same reasons as previous applications at this site. Details to be submitted to BDBC by the clerk.

ACTION: Write statement to be submitted for Egbury Farm Barns – Cllr Peart

ACTION: Submit Consultee responses as agreed at the meeting - Clerk

180 Highways & Footpaths: (Any queries please email: highways@stmarybourne.org)

180.1 **Hedges & Trees:** Cllr Foote advised that most of the roads in the parish are reduced in size by the hedges either side being too wide and too high, and he is in the process of contacting each owner to remind them of the job they are obliged to do which is to keep their hedges at roadside in check. Cllr Foote advised he had spoken to the owners of Danebury House, and they had confirmed that their hedge would be dealt with shortly. The hedges would gradually be brought down to the right size over a few years – a gradual process which allows the hedge to recover each time.

Cllr Foote has also noted at the top of Spring Hill lane is a dead tree which needs attention. Cllr Foote advised that he had driven round the parish with Tom Owen (Local Arborist) to identify roadside trees which may need attention, either from the landowner or Highways depending on exact situation of the tree, and has now has a list, and will continue to work through contacting people to get things sorted.

One of the councillors advised that the hedge belonging to the school was overgrown onto the Test Way, and that the school should be contacted.

Speed Indicator Device: Cllr Foote advised that he had contacted the Clerk of Longparish after reading the article in the September Hill & Valley on how they use the device in their parish. Whether this is good project for the near future for the Parish Council was discussed, as it is something of concern to many of the electorate. There was a discussion about which is better 30 mph or 20 mph for example, and it was decided that further research and a comprehensive project is probably the way forward. Cllr Foote will make further investigations and report back to the council for a decision next month on how and who will take this forward if agreed.

ACTION: Contact the school about their overgrown hedge – **Clerk**

ACTION: Continue to work with landowners to get roadside hedges cut – **Cllr Foote**

ACTION: Put together a case for the Speed Indicator Device project – **Cllr Foote & Clerk**

180.2 **Lake Walk Gate:** Previous to the meeting Cllr Madge had advised the Clerk that current agreement was that the landowner strimmed one side of the path, and the parish council were responsible for cutting the other. The landowner had offered for their gardener to cut both sides, but he would want to do that on a ride-on vehicle to avoid the dog mess in the grass that was often there. To do this a new gate to allow vehicular access would be required, and Cllr Madge suggested that the PC could make a contribution to this. At the meeting it was discussed that the gates were installed and are maintained by HCC (even though this is not part of the Test Way), so their permission would need to be sought, the gate would need to be easy

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to use still by walkers, and a better understanding of the costs involved were required before a decision could be made.

ACTION: Investigate costs and permissions required – **Cllr Madge**

181 Flood Emergency Group (FEG): (Any queries please email: flood@stmarybourne.org)

181.1 Cllr Makgill advised that the torrential downpours of 20th September highlighted where rainwater flood would still cause issues this winter. The grips on Bourne Hill need clearing, Cllr Makgill had done some, but the rest will be added to the Work Order for the Lengthsman due 12th October. The drain at the War Memorial is full of silt. It was agreed that as a priority the specialist grip at the bottom of Stoke Hill needed attention, and the grips on Egbury Road. The next Lengthsman visit is in December, and before then a check of ALL grips would be made in the Parish, and a clearance plan made.
Cllr Makgill expressed his frustration with HCC Highways, they are hard to contact and not responsive to emails. Cllr Makgill is trying to build relationships with the relevant people in HCC with not much success at present. Issues are being reported with Cllr Thacker & Kit Malthouse included.

ACTION: Review Grips Map and plan instructions for next Lengthsman visit – **Cllrs Makgill, Foote and Clerk.**

182 Lake: (Any queries please email: lake@stmarybourne.org)

182.1 Cllr Peart advised that The Lake Working Group/Committee held an Open meeting on 26th September 2023 which was well attended and very positive. The minutes of this meeting are available on the PC website.

In summary everyone at the Lake meeting agreed that there needed to be an agreement in place that would plan for the long-term welfare of the flora and fauna in the lake surround while protecting the fishing. People are keen to be part of looking after the area. The Fishing Syndicate members present had offered to clear the weed in the lake. Unfortunately, Maggie Skelton (Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust) was unable to attend on the night but promised to come to future meetings to give advice. People interested in being part of volunteer working parties gave their contact information on the night, and the Lake Committee are hoping to have a Working Party one weekend in late October, early November.

Cllr Davies advised that she had completed the planting of the first batch of purchased bulbs.

183 Recreation Ground: (Any queries please email: rec@stmarybourne.org)

183.1 Without Cllr Madge present there was no general update on the Rec.

183.2 The Clerk updated the PC on the Change of Use Application for the Cricket Pavilion (23/01463/RET), stating that BDBC Planning Department had advised that because of the number of comments both objecting and in support of the application the Application would need to be considered by BDBC Planning Committee. Due to a backlog of applications our application would be unlikely to be considered by them until December 23 or January 24. The PC would be advised of the date of the relevant Planning Committee Meeting once our application has been scheduled.

183.3 The Kathleen Innes Memorial Bench has now been renovated and reinstalled along the Lake Walk. The renovation was managed by Mike Thomas, and the Parish Council would like to thank him for his time and effort, and fantastic skills, and also thank other people involved – Paul Goulden, Hurstbourne Forge, and Andover Shot Blasters, who either gave their materials and services for free or at cost. Thank you! The Councillors all agreed it looks beautiful.

The Clerk requested approval to reimburse Mike for the costs incurred. All agreed.

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ACTION: Liaise with Mike Thomas to make payment - **Clerk**

184 Other Business

- 184.1 **SLCC:** The Clerk requested approval to join the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks), and explained some of the benefits of doing so. All councillors agreed this was a good idea. The Clerk would join for a year's membership and then review.
- ACTION:** Organise membership of SLCC- **CLERK**
- 184.2 **BDAPTC:** Cllr Foote advised he had attended via zoom the latest meeting of BDAPTC (Basingstoke District Association of Parish & Town Councils) and summarised as follows: The meeting would have been much more beneficial face to face, and because of the change in representation at BDBC since the elections in May, many of the BDBC Councillors used the meeting as a forum to share their future plans. Cllr Foote did state that it seemed that BDBC is well funded as a town and therefore an authority, probably due to the original set-up of the new town 50 years ago. BDBC have retained ownership of lots of land which now brings income in. They are not facing the same problems as HCC. The BDBC Councillors present stated they would continue to fund public conveniences and small car parks, like the one in Whitchurch. They advised Speed Cameras were now the responsibility of HCC, not BDBC. A councillor from Kingsclere asked about Grant Funding of projects, and it was confirmed that there are lots of grants available, and they are keen to match-fund with organisations like Greenham Trust. The development at Manydown was discussed and the councillors present seemed determined to get the development built, but there were still lots of obstacles such as drainage, and the infrastructure requirements are not finalised. If the development goes ahead it will relieve much of the pressure on rural communities having to allow development. The full minutes of the BDAPTC should become available on their website shortly.
- 184.3 **Handyman Update:** Clerk advised that a MOP had been found who was happy to help with the list of jobs around the parish. The hourly rate he requested was agreed by the councillors as acceptable, but it would be preferable to get him to quote for a complete job so the costs don't run away. This could be managed by the Clerk with the agreed hourly rate.
- ACTION:** Speak with MOP and agree way forward and which specific jobs to do - **Clerk**
- 184.4 **Bonfire:** Cllr Davies asked whether it might be possible to revisit the idea of having a Bonfire on the Rec. It is something that was quite an event in the past. The idea was discussed and dismissed as the insurance implications for the PC would make it unviable, and it would also damage the grass on the Rec. There are other local events such as the one at the PYO which people can attend.
- 184.5 **Microphones at Village Hall Meetings:** Cllr Davies advised that at the recent Lake Open Meeting in September where the Main Village Hall was used, there had been feedback from some of the audience that sometimes it was hard to hear what was being said. It was discussed as probably not necessary for any Clubroom Meetings, but that options should be investigated.
- ACTION:** Check whether there is a system available to use already in the hall. – **CLERK**
ACTION: Investigate options to purchase a small system – **Cllr Davies**
- 185.6 **Barrier onto Rec by Shop:** The Clerk presented a quote for the latest repair to the barrier onto the rec by the shop. Discussion about the cost was had, comparing it to the Oak post repair by the entrance to the Village Centre Hall, and suggested that Contour Fencing should be contacted to find out how much replacing the whole barrier would cost. Cllr Foote reminded everyone that without the barrier the area is vulnerable to trespass with vehicles, and that any decision should be made quickly so a repair can be made.
- ACTION:** Contact Contour to check price compared to whole barrier repair - **Clerk**

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185.7 **Covenant on the Pavilion:** Cllr Randall raised an issue stating that she thought there was a covenant on the Recreation Ground and on the Pavilion and that the land was still owned by the Portsmouth Estate. None of the other councillors believed this is the case, but the Clerk will investigate. Any further discussion on this item will need to be deferred until the next meeting as it was not put forward as an agenda item for this meeting and really should have been.

ACTION: Investigate status of ownership of the Recreation Ground - **Clerk**

185.8 **Play Area SMB:** Cllr Foote advised the council that the Clerk had expressed concern about some repairs needed in the SMB Play Area, and had shown Cllr Foote & Cllr Madge. Some repairs may need to be done before the Play Area Project is ready to purchase new equipment. There is probably a similar issue at the Stoke Play Area too. Cllr Madge will speak with Laura & Amelda. Clerk will investigate spare part options in the meantime. Update next meeting.

ACTION: Speak with Laura & Amelda – **Cllr Madge**

ACTION: Investigate options for spare parts & repair - **Clerk**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 19:30

Meeting end: 21:00

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