

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6 JULY 2021 AT 7.30PM (by Skype)

Present:	Stevie Bezencenet – Chairman (SB) Sean Fry (SF) – Vice-chairman Adam Sedgwick (AS) Martin Nielsen (MN) Vivienne Klimowicz (VK) Rosemary Emeny (RE) Nigel Warren-Thomas (NWT) Linda Goodman (LG) Fred Grosch (FG)
Apologies:	SCC councillor James Finch (JF)
In attendance:	James Dark, Parish Clerk (JD), BDC councillor Melanie Barrett (MB) (7.30-7.45)

SB opened the meeting by welcoming three new councillors (NWT, LG, FG).

21.7.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See above

21.7.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None.

21.7.3 PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

21.7.4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2021 and 19 May 2021 were approved. (These would be signed at a date agreed by the Chairman and Clerk). An amendment was agreed to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2021.

21.7.5 REPORTS OF/REQUESTS TO BDC & SCC COUNCILLORS

21.7.5.1 District Councillor's report

The written report was noted and oral updates provided.

SB left the meeting temporarily at 7.40pm; SF took over as Chairman

MB said she would send proposed dates/times to the Clerk for a meeting on issues relating to the Neighbourhood Plan and BDC's consideration of responses to planning consultations. This meeting would be between senior BDC planning officers and parish councillors.

Action: Clerk to circulate proposed dates/times to parish councillors and inform MB of the preferred option and councillors who would be attending.

SB returned and resumed as Chairman at 7.45pm

21.7.5.2 County Councillor's report

The written report was noted.

21.7.5.2.1 Speed Survey results

AS presented a summary of the results of the speed survey carried out by SCC. He noted that the survey showed non-compliance throughout the sites monitored and that the results supported the parish council's view that action is required to improve compliance with the 20mph limit. He recommended that the parish council present this evidence to SCC, ask whether

SCC has views on how compliance could be improved and whether SCC would support the parish council's initial view that installation of speed humps should be considered. Councillors highlighted that there are areas within the 20mph zone where lack of pavements means pedestrians face particular risks from traffic.

Action: It was agreed that the Clerk should ask JF to provide dates for a meeting with SCC highways so that:

- The parish council could present its view that action is required to ensure compliance with the 20mph limit
- SCC could focus on advising what can be done (rather than what can't)
- Councillors could request a commitment from SCC to work with the parish council on an acceptable solution.

It was noted that JF had commented in his email with his written report for the meeting that speed monitoring could take place in September, despite the survey having been carried out.

Action: Clerk to ask JF for clarification on why he is suggesting speed monitoring in September.

SF confirmed that Speedwatch activity is now permitted within the 20pmh zone and that the extent of this would depend on recruitment of further volunteers.

21.7.5.2.2 Crossfields paths

RE reported that JF had not responded to requests for repairs to an uneven path on Crossfields which is causing difficulties for residents. Discussion indicated that this was likely to be a Babergh District Council responsibility. It was further noted that vegetation was overhanging the path from private homes.

Action: Clerk to contact MB to request repairs from Babergh District Council; VK and RE to approach householders requesting that vegetation is cut back.

MN noted that overhanging vegetation is causing obstruction on a number of paths and footpaths throughout the parish. SB agreed to include this in her report for the LSPN.

21.7.5.2.3 Pot holes

RE reported on pot holes on Butt Road, the sporadic repairs and the dangers created for road users. It was noted that very large sections of the road are in poor repair, raising questions over whether SCC had assessed the condition of the road properly.

It was further noted that pot holes in Thorington St have been marked for repair but not attended to within the period indicated on the SCC website.

Action: SB to photograph potholes on Butt Road and send to JF with a request that SCC highways repairs them. The request would make clear the poor condition of the road and the dangers it presents.

21.7.5.2.4 Observance of 18t weight limit

Correspondence with a farmer on breach of the 18t limit was noted. SF reported that the Government would be devolving powers to impose fines for breaching weight limits to county councils, should county councils apply for it. It was considered that the parish council and SCC could use this sanction as a deterrent for persistent offenders.

Action: Clerk to contact JF to ask if SCC will be applying for powers to impose fines on HGV drivers for breach of weight limits.

FG reported considerable issues with HGVs using inappropriate routes in Thorington St, which are not captured by the 18t limit unless routes include the centre of Stoke village.

21.7.6 FINANCIAL MATTERS

21.7.6.1 RFO's report

Members received the RFO's report and were satisfied it was a correct record of the PC's financial position.

21.7.6.2 Orders requested for payment

It was agreed to approve orders totalling £3,022.19, plus a loan repayment of £278.47 to the PWLB. These orders were included on the RFO's report. Before these orders were approved the Clerk reported a typing error on the name of two payees. In addition it was agreed to approve an order of £30 to SALC for councillor training which was received after the issue of the RFO's report.

21.7.6.3 Internal Audit Report

The report was noted and the recommendations discussed.

Action: Clerk to bring proposals relating to the auditor's recommendations on GDPR and the asset register to the September meeting.

21.7.7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

AS recapped on key issues as an initial introduction for new members. These included the clash between Babergh District Council's Local Plan and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and interpretations of whether NHP or Local Plan site allocations should take precedence. This would be a key issue discussed in the meeting with BDC officers referred to in 21.7.5.1.

AS also provided an update on technical reports available to the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Action: AS to arrange a briefing pack for new councillors

SF reported that the parish council had the option to provide an electronic statement to the Local Plan inquiry by 13 August as well as attending a hearing.

Action: It was agreed that AS and SF would produce and submit the statement.

FG, NWT and LG asked to join the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Action: SB to inform the NHP Group Chairman and arrange for an invitation to the next meeting to be sent to FG, NWT and LG.

21.7.8 COUNCILLORS' AND CLERK'S REPORTS

21.7.8.1 Report from planning and environment committee

MN (the Chairman) reported on key issues discussed at the planning and environment committee meeting which preceded the full parish council meeting. This focused on Hastoe's application to develop housing on land adjacent to Goldenlonds, the Bramford-Twinstead power line proposal, and the rejection of the planning application for Beacham's Farm.

MN also provided new councillors with an introduction to the work of the committee. It was noted that the 30 minutes available for committee meetings on months where there is also a full parish council meeting leaves limited time for discussion of issues. Therefore, it was agreed that on these months the committee's agenda would focus mainly on planning issues with appropriate environment issues being included on the agenda for the full parish council meeting.

It was agreed that there was space on the committee for any new councillors who wished to sit on it. SB asked NWT, LG and FG to contact the Clerk if they wished to sit on the committee.

21.7.8.2 Appointments to outside organisations

RE agreed to report to the parish council on Recreation Ground management matters.

NWT agreed to act as the parish council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Action: Clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee secretary that NWT would be acting as the council's representative and ask for details of the committee's remit and forthcoming meetings to be sent to NWT.

21.7.8.3 The Angel

21.7.8.3.1 Licensing application

NWT reported on BDC's hearing on the Angel's new licence application. NWT confirmed that

permitted opening hours would be reduced compared to the current licence, as applied for. The Angel manager had also outlined the intention to limit use of the gardens to drinks (not meals) and plans for planting to act as a noise barrier. The manager also considered that the business plan for fewer covers at higher prices would mean less competition for scarce parking spaces in the village. However, the manager had said he could not provide definite assurances on the hours when the garden would be in use

21.7.8.3.2 Application DC/21/03156

This item was transferred from the planning and environment committee agenda. The works being carried out and adjustments to the works were noted. After consideration of the issues it was agreed that the council would not object to the application and so no response to the consultation was necessary.

21.7.8.4 Recreation Ground

RE reported on works to improve the facilities and fundraising. Both activities were progressing well.

21.7.8.5 Grit bins

Following discussions with the Recreation Ground Management Committee Chairman, the Clerk advised against use of plastic wood for grit bin repairs/construction. Therefore it was agreed that these works should be carried out using wood.

Action: NWT agreed to investigate the condition of bins, whether a carpenter would be available to carry out the works and inform the Clerk. Clerk to provide NWT with bin locations.

21.7.9 CLERK AND CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on a request from BDC's sustainable travel officer for information on potential cycle/walking schemes and gaps in bus connectivity.

Action: SB to respond to BDC with assistance from VK.

21.7.10 TO AGREE ITEMS FOR REPORT IN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

- Vegetation overhanging paths and footpaths

Due to limited time, this discussion was curtailed and SB asked all councillors to contact her after the meeting with any potential items.

21.7.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7.30pm – venue TBC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.