

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM

- Present:** Jeremy Bloomfield – Chairman (JB)
Stevie Bezencenet – Vice-Chairman (SB)
Adam Sedgwick (AS)
Martin Nielsen (MN)
Sean Fry (SF)
Vivienne Klimowicz (VK)
Isabelle Reece (IR)
Rosemary Emeny (RE)
- In attendance:** James Dark, Parish Clerk (JD), BDC Councillor Melanie Barrett (MB) (7.30-8.05), SCC Councillor James Finch (JF) (7.30-9.15), one member of the public
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19.11.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

19.11.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None declared.

19.11.3 CHANGE TO AGENDA

In view of the need to consider an unscheduled item on management of the Recreation Ground, it was agreed to postpone the following items to a full Parish Council meeting in December.

- GDPR
- Streetlighting project
- Cilca benefits
- Grit bins
- Dog refuse
- The Downs

In addition any response to the Electoral Review consultation would be completed before the December meeting and then ratified at that meeting.

19.11.4 PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public, an outgoing member of the Recreation Ground Management Committee, was present. Therefore it was agreed that the public forum should take place alongside the item on management of the Recreation Ground, following the District Councillor's report.

19.11.5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 3 September 2019 were approved and signed.

19.11.6 REPORTS OF/REQUESTS TO SCC & BDC COUNCILLORS

19.11.6.1 County Councillor's report

The written report was noted and verbal updates provided.

19.11.6.1.1 Requests to County Councillor

JF reported on actions that he agreed to at the September PC meeting.

Speedwatch – JF said he had asked for SCC to contact Suffolk Police to make the case for volunteers to be permitted to carry out Speedwatch monitoring of the 20mph zone. SF informed

JF of procedures Suffolk Police should follow if there are complaints from elected representatives including carrying out local surveys and enforcement.

Action: JF asked SF to send him the document and said he would raise this and wider Speedwatch issues with Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore.

Recreation Ground – JF’s intervention had resulted in SCC withdrawing its intention to give notice on the Recreation Ground lease. Members expressed their appreciation to JF.

20mph zone – JF said he had followed up the Parish Council’s request for SCC to re-mark 20mph roundels so that they are in the correct position. He reported that internal SCC matters meant it would be problematic for SCC to carry out remedial works. In response, VK again asked JF to arrange for an SCC officer to visit the parish and meet councillors so that SCC could understand the issues with the 20mph zone and the need to remedy them.

Action: JF said he would attempt to arrange this and also agreed to investigate options for funding remedial works with SCC officers.

The following further request was made to JF at the November meeting.

Pylons – MN asked JF to keep the Parish Council updated on meetings to consider potential Pylon mitigation measures in the AONB. JF agreed to do so.

19.11.6.1.2 Traffic and highways issues

VK reported that she had raised residents’ concerns over observance of the 20mph zone with the Focus School. The school had indicated that it would follow the issue up with its drivers.

19.11.6.2 District Councillor’s report

The written report was noted and verbal updates provided.

19.11.7 MANAGEMENT OF THE RECREATION GROUND

JB read out an email from the Chairman of the Recreation Ground Management Committee (a body independent of the Parish Council) informing him that “At the last AGM of the Recreation Ground Management Committee the Committee members all resigned but re-elected themselves temporarily for 1 month until 7th November”. The note went on to state that “As there will in effect be no RGM Committee as from 8th November we consider we must pass all decisions regarding the future management of the RG on to the PC as they are the landowners” and to propose an informal meeting to discuss handover. JB had received this notification on 5 November, the day of the Parish Council meeting.

Short notice enquiries by councillors indicated that the RGMC was removed from the Charity Commission register 26 October. The reason stated on the CC website was “ceased to exist”.

Members raised a variety of concerns, including:

- The principle of seeking to abolish the RGMC
- The short notice
- The proposal for an informal rather than formal meeting
- Whether the RGMC had followed correct procedures
- Complexities and potential restrictions over future management and ownership arrangements related to the Recreation Ground’s governance and conveyance documents
- Actions taken by the RGMC in the run-up to their mass resignations
- The implications for public liability insurance.

While recognising a number of potential difficulties, the meeting considered that it was desirable, and might be possible, to continue managing the Recreation Ground through an independent RGMC with minimal interruption. It was agreed that:

- This possibility should be investigated and implemented if feasible
- The Parish Council would provide this new committee with funding of up to £500 for

insurance if required

- The Chairman would consider whether to call an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council if the RGMC cannot be reinstated
- The Parish Council's insurance policy will be extended immediately to cover risks related to management of the Recreation Ground in case this responsibility passes to the Parish Council.

Action: JB to work with councillors and outgoing RGMC members to establish the feasibility of reconstituting the RGMC.

Action: Councillors to contact parish organisations which they are members of to request nomination to an RGMC.

Action: Clerk to arrange for extension of the Parish Council's insurance policy.

19.11.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

19.11.8.1 RFO's report

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

War Memorial

It was agreed to accept a donation from a resident for the outstanding cost of the refurbishment project. The clerk was asked to thank the resident.

Churchyard donation

In view of potential unbudgeted costs relating to Recreation Ground management, it was agreed to postpone this item to the January meeting.

19.11.8.2 Orders requested for payment

It was agreed to approve orders totalling £1,091.78, including orders for £160.00 received since the issue of the RFO's report. It was noted that JB had paid one invoice as online transfer was required.

Action: Clerk to contact Barclays to request information on setting up online banking.

19.11.8.3 BWP report

It was agreed that the BWP would meet in November and December so that a draft budget for 2020/21 could be presented and the precept agreed at the January Parish Council meeting.

Action: JB to circulate proposed dates for BWP meetings.

19.11.8.4 Internal Auditor

It was agreed to retain SALC as Internal Auditor for 2019/20.

19.11.8.5 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Updates to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed and approved.

19.11.9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was agreed that the next meeting of the NHP Group would take place on 11 November at 2.00pm.

19.11.10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Postponed items
- Recreation Ground update

19.11.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold an additional meeting on Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.