

STOKE BY NAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Stevie Bezencenet – Chairman (SB)
Sean Fry (SF) – Vice-chairman
Adam Sedgwick (AS)
Isabelle Reece (IR),
Rosemary Emeny (RE)
Martin Nielsen (MN)
Vivienne Klimowicz (VK)

In attendance: James Dark, Parish Clerk (JD), SCC councillor James Finch (JF) (7.30-9.00), BDC councillor Melanie Barrett (MB) (7.30-8.10), one member of the public (7.30-7.50pm)

20.3.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

20.3.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None.

20.3.3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020 were approved and signed.

20.3.4 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public notified the parish council of damage to his garden caused by tractors using the B1068 and asked whether the council could help prevent further repetition, including reviving its former liaison forum with farmers. It was recognised that similar damage had been caused in other areas of the parish. SB assured the resident that the parish council would consider the matter further and respond to him.

20.3.5 REPORTS OF/REQUESTS TO SCC & BDC COUNCILLORS

20.3.5.1 District Councillor's report

The written report was noted and verbal updates provided.

20.3.5.1.2 Garage sites owned by the District Council

MB reported that she had visited District Council-owned garage sites in Stoke village with parish councillors, and that BDC was carrying out a wider property audit. This included identifying whether garages are occupied and whether current usage (e.g. storage) is the best use of this land. It was noted that garage sites could be attractive locations for housing, and that considering this possibility should be taken forward in the parish council's Neighbourhood Plan work.

Action: MB agreed to report at the next meeting on tenancy arrangements for garages in Stoke village as an initial step in supporting this NHP work.

20.3.5.1.3 Monitoring and enforcement of planning consent conditions

MN updated MB on a planning application which illustrated the need for District Council departments to share information so that compliance with planning conditions can be monitored more effectively. It was suggested that BDC's enforcement team could develop a database of conditions so that relevant departments could assist the team with monitoring activity.

20.3.6.2 County Councillor's report

The written report was noted and verbal updates provided.

20.3.6.2.1 Highways and Traffic

SF reported that he had made the police aware of the Traffic Regulation Notice covering the 20mph zone, and as a result the police were prepared to consider (1) enforcement of the speed limit and (2) permitting the Community Speedwatch group to monitor the 20mph zone.

Following a further request that SCC should complete the roundels on the 20mph zone correctly, JF reported that the job is now on SCC's work list and that he hoped it could be merged with an upgrade to road marking for the school safety zone.

20.3.6.2.2 Withdrawal of Chambers bus services

It was noted that:

- The small number of trial services Chambers had agreed to restore to the 84 route, following a meeting with parish council chairmen and JF, did not serve Stoke by Nayland adequately
- Other parishes with smaller populations would be served more effectively
- The proposed bus stop on the A134 at Nayland appeared unlikely to be a suitable location for elderly or mobility impaired users.

In response, JF advised that the services restored following the initial meeting should be viewed as a first step and a review would be arranged with Chambers towards the end of April to assess use of these trial services. JF further reported that Nayland Parish Council wished to work with Stoke by Nayland on considering potential Community Transport services between villages and to stops on Chambers' new A134 route. JF said this could be a cost effective means of providing transport links. As part of this initiative, he suggested that there was a need to identify those people in the parishes genuinely dependent on public transport.

Action: SB to start the process of considering how Community Transport links may provide adequate provision.

Action: SB to keep in contact with JF on dates for the April review session.

20.3.6.2.3 SCC school transport policy

It was noted that that the parish council had not received a reply to its letter requesting fair treatment for low income families under SCC's new school transport policy. It was further noted that Chambers had cited SCC's new policy as a factor in its withdrawal of local buses.

Members reiterated to JF the impact the new policy will have in the parish including:

- Additional cost to families
- Risk of school transport cost rises to SCC
- Reduced opportunity for children from low income families to attend TGS
- Perverse transport changes that disadvantage the parish (e.g. SCC-funded provision on the 84 bus to TGS for pupils in Nayland and Leavenheath either side of Stoke village, but not for children in Stoke.)

Members further advised JF that the new policy created risks to community cohesion going forward including:

- Making Stoke village a less attractive place to live for low and middle income families
- Fewer pupils attending the village primary school as a result
- Weaker arrangements for pupils transitioning to secondary school
- Putting the viability of the remaining bus services in Stoke at risk.

JF agreed that the new policy does not make sense in Stoke by Nayland. He reiterated that he had argued within SCC for a flexible policy, using Stoke as a case in point, but had been unsuccessful.

He also assured the parish council that SCC's current review of school transport policy implementation would provide an opportunity for him to make the case for flexibility again. He said he would be meeting the new SCC Cabinet Member responsible to do so, and would feed in the consequences of the new policy for Stoke by Nayland along with the parish council's views.

AS suggested that the effects of the policy were sufficiently irrational for reference to the Local Government Ombudsman to be considered.

The parish council made the point to JF that action is needed urgently to reform SCC's new school transport policy so as to prevent further adverse impacts becoming ingrained.

Action: JF to meet the new Cabinet member responsible to raise the case for flexibility in SCC's school transport policy and the parish council's concerns.

JF: to report back to the parish council.

JF to advise the parish council of the right time to make formal representations to the new SCC Cabinet Member responsible.

20.3.7 RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT

SF reported that the Charity Commission had made an Order appointing new trustees to the Recreation Ground and this arrangement was scheduled to come into effect on 28 March. SB thanked SF for his efforts in resolving the complex arrangements for reappointing trustees following the resignation of the previous committee in November.

JF reported that SCC may wish to reform its contract to maintain the Recreation Ground as a result of requests from the previous committee which SCC considered to be onerous. It was suggested to JF that it would be appropriate to give the new committee time to establish a relationship with SCC before deciding whether to pursue this course.

20.3.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

20.1.8.1 RFO's report

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

20.3.8.2 Orders requested for payment

It was agreed to approve orders totalling £11,245.68, including one order not in the RFO report.

20.3.8.3 Bank mandate

SB and SF signed a change to the mandate removing a former councillor.

20.3.8.4 Neighbourhood plan grant

It was noted that grant covering production of Housing Stock Survey, village hall meeting and public hall events needed to be spent by the end of March. It was agreed that boards for events, survey forms and copies of extracts from Alison Farmer's LCA report would be appropriate expenditure.

Action: SB to source boards and LCA report extracts; MN to print survey forms. NHP group to consider potential additional expenditure.

20.3.8.5 Streetlighting

The clerk reported that SCC had agreed to remove Unit 1 on Sudbury Road and investigate how to remove Unit 14 on the Downs. SCC had been contacted to explain why the bill was £300 above quote.

20.3.8.6 Review of internal control, financial risk assessment, asset risk assessment and asset register

The statement of internal control was reviewed, approved and signed.

The financial risk assessment was reviewed and approved.

The asset register was reviewed and approved.

The asset risk assessment was reviewed and approved.

During the reviews the following was noted:

- The need to repair the dog litter pin post on Butt Road.

Action: Clerk to arrange repair of the dog pin post.

20.3.9 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

SB reported that the consultant would complete the LCA report by the end of March. A village hall event would be held to publicise the report to parishioners on 11 April which would include recommendations on potential sites for development. Dates for two further working group meetings were agreed.

20.3.10 COUNCILLORS' AND CLERK'S REPORTS

20.3.10.1 Matters discussed at planning committee

MN reported. Full details are in the minutes of the planning committee meeting that preceded the full council meeting.

20.3.10.2 Election of representative to SALC

Members noted that the previous representative had reported that these meetings were not always useful. It was agreed that the clerk would circulate meeting details. Councillors could then decide on an individual basis whether attendance would be valuable. The clerk would also circulate SALC reports on the meetings.

20.3.11 CLERK AND CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

The meeting noted correspondence from Tendring Hall Estate informing the parish council of clearance work on the allotments following vandalism. SF reported correspondence from the police detailing a number of burglaries in Stoke village.

20.3.12 TO AGREE ITEMS FOR REPORT IN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

- Burglaries
- Recreation Ground
- Trees
- LCA event (separate item)

20.3.13 OUTSTANDING ISSUES/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

20.3.13.1 Outstanding matters

SB reported that the Angel would not agree to a bottle bank in its car park due to dangers caused by broken glass. No alternative site was identified.

Members reported that a number of residents were considering applications to sit on the parish council.

20.3.13.2 Future agenda items

- Recreation Ground
- Damage caused by tractors to roadside verges and gardens
- Neighbourhood Plan
- GDPR
- Location of dog litter bins
- Parish council funding of additional speed restriction measures
- School bus policy/public bus services

20.3.13.3 APM presentation/date

Action: It was agreed that SB would invite the District Council to give a presentation on recycling.

SB would check when the village hall is free and circulate a date to councillors for agreement.

20.3.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.