

# Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stocking Pelham Parish Council held on 6 May 2021 Video Conference at 6.30pm

**Present:** Louise Balaam, Colin Berthoud, Andy Brown (Vice Chairman), Daniel Horn, Michael Hutchins (Chairman) and Paul Lucas

**In attendance:** Mrs R Berthoud, Parish Clerk and one member of the public

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**21/29 Election of Chairman**

To elect a Chairman for the year 2021/22 and sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Berthoud, seconded Cllr Horn to appoint Cllr Michael Hutchins as Chairman for the year 2021/22. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Hutchins signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

**21/30 Election of Vice-Chairman**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the year 2021/22 and sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Hutchins, seconded Cllr Brown to appoint Cllr Daniel Horn as Vice-Chairman for the year 2021/22. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Horn signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

**21/31 Apologies**

To receive and accept apologies for absence

None

**21/32 Interests**

a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

None

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and

None

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

**21/33 Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on 25 March 2021 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Hutchins, seconded Cllr Berthoud that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.

21/34

**Public Issues**

Members of the public can raise matters of concern. (This item is limited to 15 minutes) None

21/35

**Updates from Councillors**

**a) Chairman's update**

The Chairman advised the council of a new proposal for a battery storage facility in Stocking Pelham (East End side of the village, close to the sub-station). Councillors are concerned by noise impact and Cllr Horn proposed commissioning a noise impact assessment at the existing battery storage site. The council is also concerned about unfulfilled promises made by developers regarding the mitigation of adverse effects. At the existing battery storage site screening through landscaping and planting has been unsuccessful.

**b) Village Hall – Cllr Hutchins**

B Hitchcock and M Hutchins have approved Chris Hart's proposal for the repair and installation of rabbit fencing around the recreation ground. The cost will be £2,755 + VAT and will be paid by the village hall. The work will include fixing holes in the fencing, installation of new fencing around the nature path area as well as an access gate to footpath 7. The village hall was deep cleaned before and after the 6 May elections.

**c) Playground – Cllr Balaam, Cllr Brown**

Clarion Housing has lent a rotovator to the parish council which has made the clearing of the new playground site easier. The parish council would like to thank Cllr and Mrs Brown for their energetic work in preparing the site for equipment installation. Cllr Brown will arrange for the area to be seeded with grass and rolled. Sovereign will be contacted to see if they can supply a picnic bench, mushroom stool and rocker. Cllr Brown will document the progress of the playground project and keep East Herts and Clarion informed. Cllr Balaam wanted to know where the playground equipment will be stored prior to installation. Cllr Brown will contact Sovereign to find out. Representatives of Clarion have indicated they may be able to provide more help next year. A monthly meeting with Marlon from Clarion has been scheduled.

**d) Footpaths and Common Land – Cllr Brown**

There are some minor issues with footpaths. A bridge and gate on footpath 16 are in the process of being repaired. Cllr Brown will send a link for reporting footpath problems.

**Highways – Cllr Horn**

Pothole near the church has been fixed, although not very well.

**e) Planning – Cllr Lucas**

I. Update on current applications

Cllr Lucas's provided a report on 2020/21 planning matters. See attached.

II. New applications – None

- f) **The Cock Inn** – Cllr Berthoud  
Nothing new to report.

21/36

**Finance**

- a) To receive Internal Auditor Report  
Report received and noted.
- b) To approve AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Hutchins, seconded Cllr Berthoud to approve AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21. Unanimously agreed.
- c) To approve AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Berthoud, seconded Cllr Horn to approve AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21. Unanimously agreed.
- d) To approve AGAR Certificate of Exemption 2020/21  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Balaam, seconded Cllr Brown to approve AGAR Certificate of Exemption 2020/21. Unanimously agreed.
- e) To approve the dates for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights as being 21 June to 30 July 2021 and to confirm the date the Notice is to be published as being 18 June 2021. **Resolved**, to set the dates as proposed. Unanimously agreed.

21/37

**High Court Judgement on Remote Meetings**

In the parish council's opinion remote meetings have worked well. Members of the public find it easier to attend and district and county councillors can attend more meetings in different geographical locations through remote access. The Chairman with the Clerk will write a letter to the Secretary of State to object to the removal of the provision for remote meetings.

21/38

**Clerk's notices**

A date should be set for the Annual Parish Meeting.

21/39

**Next Meeting**

To agree date and suggest agenda items for the next Meeting of the Parish Council  
No date was set.

Meeting closed at 19.40.