

Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September 2019 Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllrs L Balaam, C Berthoud, A Brown, P Lucas, D Horn, M Hutchins (Chairman)

In attendance: Mrs R Berthoud, Parish Clerk

- 19/042 Apologies**
To receive and accept apologies for absence
None
- 19/043 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
- 19/044 Minutes**
To confirm the Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9th May 2019 as an accurate record of proceedings
Resolved. Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings and duly signed by the Chairman.
- 19/045 Public Issues**
Members of the public can raise matters of concern. (This item is limited to 15 minutes)
Cllr Hutchins passed on a message from a villager who was unable to attend this meeting regarding St Mary's Review – a magazine covering Stocking Pelham, Furneux Pelham and Braughing. A proposal for a new, free magazine in Braughing has emerged. This would potentially incur the cessation of the current St Mary's review. Alternatives open to Stocking Pelham are either starting a new magazine venture with Furneux Pelham or joining the Albury magazine. In the case we start a new magazine an editor would have to be found in order to proceed. No decision was made.

19/046

Planning

The Cock Public House – update from Cllr Lucas

CDN Planning have been in contact with Cllr Lucas to discuss alternative planning options. It was made clear to them that the Parish Council are not in a position to discuss anything but a freehold option.

According to information from EHDC a request for CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order) should come from a community action group rather than the Parish Council.

19/047

Reports from Councillors

a) Playgrounds – Cllr Balaam

Cllr Balaam has approached the National Lottery and Clarion Housing to investigate funding for playground equipment, which would be located in the recreation ground. The National Lottery require evidence of the village having done some fundraising of its own. Clarion housing will consider the online application that has been completed and will call Cllr Balaam to discuss. Another source of funding could potentially be the district councillor's discretionary budget aimed at community projects.

Action: Cllr Balaam will assess what equipment is needed and what the cost might be. **The Clerk** will investigate insurance costs.

b) The Cock Public House – Cllr Berthoud – Pub Action Group

The Pub Action Group has been in contact with Brickmort representatives and been informed that the pub will not be sold for under £850,000.

Brickmort suggested three lease options all of which were too expensive.

The Action group intend to make a lease offer for the completed premises. Cllr Hutchins had received a communication from a villager unhappy with the dilapidated and unsightly state of the Cock Pub site.

The site continues to be an eyesore and EHDC apologised to Cllr Hutchins for not enforcing the clear up of the site. This has now become a priority for EHDC and they will pursue it with renewed vigour. Although many in the village would be happy to tidy up the site Cllr Hutchins pointed out that this must not be considered as it would constitute criminal damage.

It was suggested that villagers would be pleased to have more regular high-level updates regarding progress in attempts to get the pub up and running and it was decided that the Pop Up Pub would be the appropriate place for such updates.

c) Common Land – Cllr Brown

Cllr A Brown will also be responsible for footpaths and will ask villagers to provide reports on their state which he will pass on to the parish website.

d) Highways – Cllr Horn

Cllr Horn has made the Highways Department aware of potholes in the road outside his own house as well as Cockswood.

Cllr Lucas pointed out that the fencing on the south eastern side of the Cock Public House needs tapering down as it is currently too high posing a safety hazard for pedestrians by obscuring a view of the road. **Action: Cllr Horn will contact EHDC Highways Department.**

- 19/048 Management of Common Land at Crabbs Green**
To review current practice – Cllr Hutchins
Cllr Hutchins was recently approached by three villagers who expressed concern at the management of common land at Crabbs Green. Householders bordering this land have been mowing the green regularly. In trying to promote biodiversity it was suggested that this area should be managed more like a wild meadow and left to grow to be cut only a few times a year. This would encourage wildflowers rather than grasses to thrive.
Action: Cllr Brown to investigate the cost of managing Crabbs Green as a wild meadow.
- 19/049 Finance**
a) Update on current financial position
Financial statement for the period 22Mar-26 July was circulated.
b) To review payments and receipts
Reviewed.
- 19/050 Clerk's update**
For information only
The Clerk got consent from Councillors to pass their address details to EHDC to be added to their DPIs.
- 19/051 Next Meeting**
To suggest agenda items for the next Meeting of the Parish Council.
Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 2nd October.
Items for agenda:
- Management of Electricity Substation footpaths – Cllr Brown
 - Change of Bank Signatories – Cllr Hutchins
 - Financing of Pub Action Group – Cllr Berthoud
- Meeting closed at 8.05pm