

# Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on 11 November 2020 Video Conference at 6.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs Louise Balaam, Colin Berthoud, Andy Brown (Vice Chairman), Daniel Horn, Michael Hutchins (Chairman) and three members of the public

**In attendance:** Mrs R Berthoud, Parish Clerk

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**20/039**

## **Apologies**

To receive and accept apologies for absence  
Cllr Paul Lucas – prior commitment

**20/040**

## **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;  
None
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate  
None

**20/041**

## **Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on 16 September 2020 and the Extraordinary Meeting of Stocking Pelham Parish Council held on 5 October 2020 accurate records of proceedings

**Resolved** that the minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.

**20/042**

## **Public Issues**

Members of the public can raise matters of concern. (This item is limited to 15 minutes)

The Chairman extended a welcome to members of the public joining the meeting.

David Bailey explained the background to the delay in the repairs to the recreation ground lawnmower which were carried out by P Tuckwell Ltd. A serious mechanical fault resulted in the cylinder head needing to be re-machined by an outside engineering company. Mr Bailey negotiated a 10% discount on parts and 15% on labour on the work carried out by P Tuckwell. The final cost related to machining an engine unit is not yet known.

Adele Martin and Andrew Newcombe both expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked them for their offer and will let them know when there is a vacancy.

20/043

## Updates from Councillors

### a) **Chairman's update** – Cllr Hutchins

- I. How to improve communication with residents – ideas and suggestions following the last meeting  
The Parish Council should make more use of Facebook, which is the preferred platform for residents, whilst retaining the village hall noticeboard as the the place for non-electronic communication. Videos explaining village projects, such as the playground initiative, as well as pictures of councillors could feature on the village website. A newsletter in the form of posts by the Chairman could be a regular feature on the village Facebook page. Cllr Horn proposed that a survey be carried to find out what kind of communication residents favour and how they would like the village to evolve.  
**Action**, Survey to be developed by the **Chairman and Clerk**
- II. Lighting of Christmas lights 2020  
This will take place without public participation and will be recorded or streamed on Facebook by Cllr Horn  
**Action**, **Cllr Horn** to organise with the Village Hall Committee
- III. Parish Council's response to the worsening Covid-19 situation  
The Parish Council is ready to help any resident in need. No people have been identified as at particular risk. Councillors were urged to call on lone residents.

### b) **Village Hall** – Cllr Hutchins

After closing due to potential exposure to Covid the playgroup has now resumed.

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

Cllrs Balaam and Brown have met with two companies providing playground equipment. Sovereign Play expressed concern regarding the proximity of the cricket field. Councillors felt that the field is far enough away from the proposed playground not to pose a risk. The Clerk will check on insurance coverage with the insurance company. No quote from Sovereign yet.

Creative Play have quoted £9,000 + VAT. Cost savings can be gained by residents clearing the area and getting it to grass.

Grass would negate the need for rubber matting as there will be no drop higher than 1.5m.

Cllr Brown pointed out that regular safety inspections of the equipment will have to be carried out. Councillors felt that this is fine as there are now so many children in the village who would benefit from a playground.

Cllr Brown will get one more quote for the consideration of the Parish Council.

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

A tree had fallen down in the vicinity of the village hall. Removed by Cllr and Mrs Brown.

- e) **Highways** – Cllr Horn  
Nothing to report.
- f) **Planning** – Chairman on behalf of Cllr Lucas
- I. Update on current applications  
**3/20/1712/FUL White Hart Farm** - Extension to stable block  
Refused by East Herts  
**3/20/1702/FUL 4 Maple Side, Ginns Road** – Erection of a three-bedroom detached house and new vehicular access  
Refused by East Herts
  - II. New applications  
**3/20/2175/FUL White Hart Farm** – Revised application for extension to stable block  
No comment  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Horn to not comment. Unanimously agreed.
- g) **The Cock Inn** – Cllr Berthoud  
Cllr Berthoud will contact District Councillor Williamson to find out if progress has been made on initiating CPO proceedings.

**20/044**

**Finance**

- a) AGAR YE31March2020 – Conclusion of Audit  
Noted
- b) Financial Statement for Q3  
Noted
- c) To note payments  
£496.74 to P Tuckwell Ltd – old invoice for lawnmower repairs  
£480 to PKF Littlejohn – audit fee  
Both noted
- d) To approve payment  
£45 to the Open Spaces Society – subscription renewal  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Hutchins to continue with Open Spaces Society subscription. Unanimously agreed.

**20/045**

**Clerk's notices**

None

**20/046**

**Next Meeting**

To agree date and suggest agenda items for the next meeting of the Parish Council

Next meeting on Thursday 17 December at 6.30pm

Meeting finished at 7.40pm