

Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2019 Village Hall at 7pm

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

In attendance: Mrs R Berthoud, Parish Clerk and three members of the public

19/062 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence
Cllr Berthoud – Prior engagement

19/063 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

19/064 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Stocking Pelham Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 as an accurate record of proceedings
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman.
Unanimously agreed.

19/065 Public Issues

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

Steve Bratt, Chairman of Furneux Pelham Parish Council gave an update on the planned Pelhams Magazine. This will be a free, monthly magazine financed through advertising revenue. An electronic version may become available in the future. Furneux Pelham have allocated £900 as a starting fund which will cover the first six months of publishing.

Ed Hudson on behalf of the Pub Action Group gave an overview of the current situation regarding the Cock Inn. Negotiations regarding a lease option have not resulted in mutual agreement between the pub's owner, Brick Mort, and the action group. Cllr Hutchins had knowledge of plans of the

pub being put on the market. District Councillor Williamson expressed East Herts' willingness to discuss possible compulsory purchase proceedings.

District Councillor Geoff Williamson gave an overview of projects in East Hertfordshire. He also reiterated the EHDC's commitment to help Stocking Pelham get the Cock Inn reinstated as a fully functioning pub.

19/066

Council Documents

To consider, review and agree council policies and documents

- a) Standing Orders
- b) Financial Regulations
- c) Code of Conduct
- d) Risk Assessment

Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins to approve Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Risk assessment. Unanimously agreed.

19/067

Updates from Councillors

a) Chairman's update – Cllr Hutchins

- The Chairman thought it would be helpful to have a link from the village Facebook page to the village website. This was agreed.
- The Pelhams Magazine will potentially require further funding once the initial amount allocated by Furneux Pelham runs out. Stocking Pelham could consider donating £300.

Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins to donate £300 to help the Pelhams Magazine. Unanimously agreed.

b) Playgrounds – Cllr Balaam

- Cllr Balaam has been in contact with Clare Rennison of Clarion regarding grants. These are available six monthly. Cllr Balaam will consider what playground equipment would be most suitable and proceed with a grant application.

Action: Cllr Balaam to produce an estimate of the costs involved in purchasing playground equipment and establishing how much of this could be covered by grant funding.

c) Common Land – Cllr Brown

- Crabbs Green – Cllr Brown queried the legal implications, in the event of an accident, of residents mowing common land, such as Crabbs Green.

Action: Clerk to contact parish council insurers.

- Village Sign – This would cost in the region of £3,000-5,000 + installation costs. Planning permission will be required. It was decided to go ahead.

Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins that a village sign should be commissioned. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Cllr Brown will find out if grant funding is available. The Village Hall Committee will make a contribution.

- Footpaths – Cllr Brown has walked all the footpaths around the village. Six problems were reported.

- d) Highways – Cllr Horn
- Reminder that road closures will affect the village in December.
 - The unsafe fence by the Cock Inn is causing concern especially during darker months.
Action: Cllr Horn to ask EHDC to assess the situation and contact Brick Mort.
- e) Planning – Cllr Lucas
3/19/2005/FUL Waterlilies
A planning subcommittee meeting was held on 21st October 2019 to discuss the above application. In attendance were Cllr Lucas, Cllr Hutchins, Cllr Horn, Cllr Balaam and Cllr Brown. The subcommittee agreed a ‘no comment’ response.
Resolved, proposed Cllr Lucas to submit a ‘no comment’ response to EHDC. Unanimously agreed.

- 19/068** **Appointment of Internal Auditor**
To appoint David Bailey as Internal Auditor
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins that David Bailey be appointed internal auditor for the Parish Council. Unanimously agreed.
- 19/069** **Finance**
- a) To agree precept increase for 2020/2021
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins to agree precept increase from £2,000 to £2,250 for the year 2020/21. Unanimously agreed.
- b) To agree budget for 2020/2021
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins, to agree budget for the year 2020/21. Unanimously agreed.
- c) To agree Clerk’s honorarium
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins to agree Clerk’s honorarium to be £600 pa. Unanimously agreed.
- d) To approve AGAR Part 3, Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins to approve AGAR Part 3, Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018/19. Unanimously agreed.
- e) To approve AGAR Part 3, Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2018/2019
Resolved, proposed Cllr Hutchins to approve AGAR Part 3, Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2018/19. Unanimously agreed.
- 19/070** **Clerk’s update**
Training for councillors is available at HAPTC.
- 19/071** **Next Meeting**
To agree date and suggest agenda items for the next Meeting of the Parish Council.
Next meeting Wednesday 15th January 2020.

Meeting finished at 8.25pm.