

STOCKING PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16th February 2017 at the Village Hall at 6:30pm

Present: D Nicholls (Chairman) R Banks G Mackrell
P Lucas M Hutchins J Lucas (Clerk)

Action

01:17	<p>1. Apologies: R Whitefield</p> <p>2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016 were signed as correct.</p>	
02.17	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>3.1 Calendar of village events on website: this item carried forward</p> <p>3.2 Promoting active use of the SPPC website: It would helpful if people who Google Stocking Pelham Parish Council are directed to the SPPC website. The Clerk will look to improve the access via Google. A search via Yahoo does direct the user to the website. It would also be helpful if a link to the website is added to relevant email circulars.</p> <p>3.3 Source of red paint for Telephone kiosk to be re-painted: this item carried forward.</p> <p>3.4 Further letter to East Herts Planning about delay in decision re Cock. (See 4.1 below)</p> <p>3.5 Ask FPPC about re-surfacing at The Wash: David Nicholls has sent an email and is awaiting a response.</p> <p>3.6 Possible purchase of speed warning signs: (see 5. below)</p> <p>3.7 Enquire about repeat training and maintenance of Defibrillator: Rachel Brown is now responsible for matters relating to the Defibrillator. She will be asked to organise for a training session to take place at the AGM in May. It was agreed that SPPC will pay for the training on this occasion.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>MH DN/MH</p> <p>DN</p> <p>DN</p>
03.17	<p>4. Planning</p> <p>4.1 Development of the pub site: 3/16/1659/FUL application for change of use from vacant pub (A4) to residential (C3) at the Cock Public House.</p> <p>A letter was sent to Martin Plummer (Head of Planning and Building Control) and to Martin Steptoe (Senior Planning Officer) via email on 8th December 2016, expressing concern at the delay in reaching a decision regarding the above application. In his reply, Martin Plummer advised that EHC have instructed Fleurets, a specialist firm of surveyors, to review the evidence submitted with the application and that once the report by Fleurets is finalised, Planning Officers will consider the application in full.</p> <p>The expert witness report by A J Wheeler, on behalf of Fleurets, became available on 13th January 2017. The conclusions of this report are that a public house on the site is viable. In an email dated 18th January, Geoff Williamson advised that the applicant will be given an opportunity to respond to the findings in the report before Planning Officers make their recommendation. On 8th February, Geoff was able to confirm that Martin Plummer has received comments from the agent for the applicant and is now reviewing these. SPPC councillors expressed their continuing frustration at the delay in reaching a decision.</p> <p>POST-MEETING NOTE:</p> <p>Paul Lucas spoke on the telephone to Liz Aston of EHC on 17th February 2017. He asked if the applicant's response to the Fleurets report would be made available on the EHC website. She advised that this would be unlikely because some of the costings information is sensitive. She added that should the application be refused the applicant can opt to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. If this were the case, it is important that Planning Officers are able to present a robust case to support their recommendation. Key to this will be the applicant's assessment of the cost of building the two houses (the enabling development). It is these costings that the Planning Department will now be reviewing via an independent consultant.</p> <p>4.2 Other planning: None</p>	
04.17	<p>5. Highways</p> <p>Potholes are continuing to cause problems to drivers, including a recent case that resulted in car tyres needing to be replaced. Ruth Banks added that it can be difficult to report potholes via the Highways website if there is no road name or road number. She reported the offending pothole by letter, including photographs. The hole has since been filled, but neighbouring holes were not repaired. Loss of frontage is also an ongoing concern. The Chairman will explore the possibility of joining forces with FPPC to tackle these issues.</p>	DN

	Ruth Banks has received a quote of approximately £2000 for the cost of installing solar-powered speed warning signs. SPPC councillors agreed that the facility to move the signs between two possible sites would be advantageous (the approach road from Albury and the approach road from Berden). Ruth will seek advice from parish councils in villages that already have signs in place and will request further quotes. SPPC agreed in principle to the purchase of Speed warning signs for the village.	RB
05:17	6. Finance: A financial statement for 1 st April 2016 up to 31 st January 2017 was circulated. The closing balance stands at £3,182.39 and the precept sum of approximately £1600 is due in April. Graham Mackrell explained that expenditure is currently well under control and that the income from New Homes Bonus is set at more than £1000 for the next three years. SPPC is in a good position to finance the purchase of the aforementioned speed signs within the current financial year, a project that would benefit the whole village.	
06:17	7. General Parish Business 7.1 Mike Young, of Wimbish Parish Council will be invited to the next meeting in order speak to SPPC about the Hundred Parishes Society.	JL
07:17	8. Date and Time of next meeting The next SPPC meeting will take place on Thursday 16 th March at 7pm in the Village Hall.	