

## Stocking Pelham Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 At the Village Hall

Present: 20+ Parishioners and 5 Parish Councillors + Clerk

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| <b>1. Apologies:</b> Graham Mackrell, Peter Dodd   |        |
| <b>2. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters arising:</b> The minutes of the AGM held on 29th May 2014 were signed as correct. Item 10. A copy of a written agreement concerning the ownership of the new French doors and extension to the Village Hall is now included in Stocking Pelham Parish Council records.   |        |
| <b>3. Chairman's report</b><br>The Chairman spoke briefly about some of the issues that have been on the Stocking Pelham Parish Council agenda from May 2014 to May 2015. The past year has seen the development of the pub site to near completion. While there seems to be widespread approval of the standard of the development, there has also been speculation regarding a possible change of use of the pub to residential. The SPPC have been assured that this is unlikely as it would require prolonged negotiations.<br>The Chairman added that preservation of existing village features such as the Village pump and Common Land have been discussed at SPPC meetings, as has the addition of new features such as a Defibrillator and the possibility of a central Village sign.<br>In the recent election, five parish councillors were re-elected as a result of an uncontested election and a further parish councillor has been co-opted onto the Parish Council. The SPPC is concerned that its membership has remained unchanged for too long and that the council now needs a younger generation to become involved, with older councillors possibly acting as mentors during a transition period. Ideally, innovation such as increased use of social media can be combined with consistency in decision-making.<br>Finance, Planning and Highways are reported by the councillors involved. |        |
| <b>4. Finance report, presented by David Nicholls, on behalf of Graham Mackrell</b><br>The financial statement for the year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 was circulated. The closing balance at Lloyds TSB was £3,949.40. The invoice for the Defibrillator will be paid at the start of the next financial year. Expenditure by the SPPC included a contribution of £500 to the Stocking Pelham Cricket Club towards the cost of a new mower and a contribution of £468.00 to the Village Hall Committee for fencing repairs. The Precept from East Herts remains at £1,600 for the current year. The EHC New Homes Bonus of £735 will also be received in 2016 and 2017, reducing to £543 in 2018, 2019 and 2020. This money is ear-marked for projects that will benefit the local community.  |        |
| <b>5. Highways report, presented by Ruth Banks</b><br>Ruth Banks explained that keeping local highways in good condition depends on regular reporting of concerns such as water leaks or hazardous potholes. Parishioners were invited to phone or email Ruth if they wish to report a highways issue.   |        |
| <b>6. Planning report, presented by Paul Lucas</b><br>A summary sheet for planning applications received or outstanding during the past year was circulated and explained. Three of the seven applications relate to the Cock public house. One of the houses on the pub site has been sold. According to the 106 covenant tied to the planning application, the other house cannot be occupied until the  |        |

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| <p>public house is in a state where it is capable of being granted a licence ('operational state'). A question was raised over whether the 106 agreement might be waived if the second house and the pub remain empty for some time. Paul Lucas emphasised that the two houses constitute 'enabling development' for the pub. Mike Hutchins added that any waiver would only be considered in terms of planning, not on a financial basis. It was <u>agreed</u> that the Chief Planning Officer for East Herts will be contacted in order to clarify the options that are potentially available to the owner of the site.</p>  | <p>PL</p> |
| <p><b>7. St Mary's Church report, presented by Jane Bailey</b><br/> The church finances are sound, thanks to the regular payments received from members of the parish. Thanks must go to those who mow the churchyard and to those who clean the interior of the building. The good attendance of local children at church services was noted. A new vicar has been appointed and will be in post at the end of July. The next fund-raising event is the Village Open gardens day on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Offers of help with this are welcome.</p>   |           |
| <p><b>8. Pre-school Report</b><br/> David Nicholls reported that the success of the Pelhams Preschool continues to be an asset to the Village.</p>   |           |
| <p><b>9. The Cricket Club report, presented by David Nicholls</b><br/> The Cricket Club had a successful season. The pavilion has been painted and a new mower has been purchased. The Recreation Ground is also used for football coaching sessions on Saturday mornings.</p>   |           |
| <p><b>10. The Village Hall report presented by Bridget Hitchcock (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee) and Mike Hutchins (Treasurer)</b><br/> Bridget Hitchcock reported that the Village Hall Committee held one event this year - a successful Quiz Night. Further refurbishment of the Village Hall has taken place, including new lighting, re-painting and the provision of Perspex wall boards. New blinds are on order. Bridget thanked all the committee members, especially Mike Hutchins, who has regular involvement in the management of the Village Hall.<br/> Copies of the Village Hall accounts for 2014/15 were circulated. Mike Hutchins reported that there has been no need to increase the rent paid by the Preschool. Contributions from Village Hall funds have been awarded to the Preschool towards the cost of the French doors and to the Cricket Club for the new mower. As part of the refurbishment of the Village Hall, the flat roof has been checked and the fire extinguishers have been replaced. An increase in cleaning costs reflects a need to keep the floor well-polished. Some of the costs of the refurbishment will be included in next year's budget. Mike thanked local resident John Donaldson for painting the interior of the Hall so ably and at reasonable cost.</p> |           |
| <p><b>11. Any Other Business</b><br/> It was agreed that in future, the approved minutes of the meetings of SPPC should be included in the Parish Magazine.<br/> The Chairman concluded the AGM by commenting that the total level of investment in village life was very pleasing and he congratulated all those involved. He thanked everybody in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7:30pm.</p>  | <p>JL</p> |