

Stambridge Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd July 2012

Present Cllrs.G. Ioannou, G Bond, Mrs. C. Robshaw, Mrs T. Capon and S.Cleare (Co-opted)
Parish Clerk Mrs AM Bates

65. Apologies None

66. Approval Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2012 were true records of the meeting
1st – Cllr G Bond / 2nd – Cllr C Robshaw

67. Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct – None
Allotments – Cllrs Mrs C Robshaw and Mrs T Capon
Cllr T Capon – Planning – no participation

68. Code of Conduct

68.1 The Clerk circulated the new District Council's Registration of Members interest form and made it clear they must be returned to the District Council within 28 days from 1st July 2012.
Members noted

69. Election of Committees

69.1 An application has been received from Mr Steve Cleare to become a Councillor, Members discussed application
RESOLVED – Members agreed to Co-opt Mr Steve Cleare onto the Council
69.2 Mr Steve Cleare signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

70. Contributions from members of the Public

70.1 Mr C Hayes asked if there were any procedural changes regarding the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works. The Clerk advised that Cllr Mrs Robshaw was the Parish Representative and any complaints should be reported to Anglian Water and the Parish Council so a record can be kept so any action can be taken if required.

71 Reports from Parish Council Representatives

71.1 Police Report – Nothing to report
71.2 Hall Committee – The Trustees had a meeting to discuss the jubilee event, noted the good points but also what would be done differently for future events. The Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 10th July at 8pm.
71.3 Rochford Hundred Assoc. of Local Councils – Next Meeting 19th July – information to follow. Clerk advised that she could not attend this meeting.
71.4 Community Forum – No meeting
71.5 Transport – Cllr C Robshaw was given complaint forms for any resident to log Public Transport issues, there have been several timetable changes but none of them affect Stambridge. Members noted.

72. Stambridge STW

72.1 No issues reported

73. Clerks Report

73.1 The Clerk circulated the Roles and Responsibilities of a Council / Councillor / Chairman and Clerk and advised Members the following :

- The Parish Council is a corporate body and an individual member including the Chairman / Vice Chairman does not have separate powers to Act.
- Delegation can only be given to the Clerk or a Committee.

- Majority of Correspondence is dealt with by the Clerk, any Correspondence from a Councillor to a Third Party must be clear to state in the response it's from "the Council" also noted that a copy has been sent to the Clerk.
 - Agenda's are the responsibility of the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman / Vice Chairman, but any member can add a relevant item as long as there are 3 clear days as it is the Council's Agenda. Between meetings the clerk will add any arising matters onto the next agenda or act upon under delegation.
 - No individual Councillor can give instruction to any member of staff unless it is agreed and resolved at a meeting.
 - Members do not have any power to deal with any matter themselves and must not use their title of Councillor for this reason.
 - Any Press Releases are released by the Clerk as the Press Officer
The Clerk offered to give an internal training session regarding the above and on general Parish Council workings which some members felt would be beneficial. Members noted the above.
- 73.2 The Clerk had received several complaints regarding the cutting of the Village Green – Members noted and confirmed that there had been an issue.

74. Issues Outstanding from the last meeting – Update

- 74.1 War Memorial – ongoing, Clerk is to chase up the football club regarding the design.
- 74.2 Quality Council – defer
- 74.3 Stewards Elm Farm – issue with broken glass, clerk had reported this matter to the public house involved also the Refuse Company.
RESOLVED : Matter to be observed.
- 74.4 Cagefield Road Car Park – A member was approached and asked if the car park could be used as a play area. Cllr Mrs T Capon advised that this land was going to be transferred for housing which she fought due to the need of the Car park.
RESOLVED – Clerk to write to RDC and ask if the land has been considered for transfer and if there are any plans for it.

75. Stambridge Memorial Hall

- 75.1 See 71.2
- 75.2 RESOLVED – Members agreed that the Stambridge Football Club could have a match with Southend United on 16th July 2012
Members agreed to sell raffle tickets at the event and if possible refreshments.
- 75.3 A general discussion was conducted by members regarding employing a Cleaner and or Caretaker. Points raised included the financial implications especially as currently the Hall is hired on an irregular adhoc basis.
RESOLVED – Item to be deferred to allow members time for consideration. For the time being the emergency Cleaner is to be used only when the hall is need of a clean.

76. Communities Initiative Fund (CIF)

- 76.1 The Clerk is in discussions with the Contractor regarding the Memorial Hall doors and the project is ongoing.
- 76.2 The Big Society Fund.
Several different projects are still being investigated.
- Play Equipment – the clerk had received one quote for a 4m climbing net, members discussed
RESOLVED – It was agreed that an expression of interest should be submitted for this project and the Clerk is to also try and get a quote from Sovereign.

Continued: 07/12

- Activities for the Elderly and Nursing Homes also activities in partnership with the Army Cadets and Southend Fire Brigade - Cllr G Ioannou advised he was gathering information. The Clerk did advise that under the Big Society Fund these were not valid projects but perhaps funding could be sought from another avenue but this would have to be investigated.
- Resurfacing of Memorial Hall Car park – The Clerk suggested that this project is submitted from the Memorial Hall Trustees – Members agreed and the Clerk will notify Hall Trustees for their consideration and agreement. Cllr G Ioannou is meeting with contractors and getting three quotations.
- Allotment Security – the clerk has contacted a contractor for a quotation for security gating at the Allotments.
RESOLVED – Member agreed that an expression of interest should be submitted for this project.

77. Footpaths / Highways

- 77.1 The Green was cut although as previously mentioned several complaints had been received regarding the grass cuttings being left.
RESOLVED - Members discussed and asked the Clerk to contact the District Council to find out how many times a year their Contractors would be cutting it. Members will then decide whether the Parish Council needs to appoint anyone.
- 77.2 Cllr G Ioannou had received a number of letters complaining about the speed the traffic is going up and down Little Stambridge Hall Lane also an incident has been raised with the Police.
The Clerk did advise members that ECC Highways had carried out a survey and emails had been sent to raise the issues previously but this hadn't resulted in any speed calming measures just the possibility of signage.
RESOLVED – After discussions Members asked the clerk to contact ECC Highways again, also to advise PC Thomas.
- 77.3 RESOLVED Members discussed the overgrown Footpaths and asked the Clerk to contact RDC
- 77.4 Complaint regarding an electric fence obstructing the use of a public footpath from Brays Lane (between the Old Rectory and Chicken Coups).
RESOLVED – Members discussed and Clerk to contact ECC and the land owner if necessary.

78. Parish Council Website / Newsletter

- 78.1 Clerk advised that the Summer Newsletter will be going out soonest and will include the Chairman's Annual Report and advert for Councillor Vacancies, this will include the Diamond Jubilee thank you flyer. The website will be updated.

79. Planning Applications

- 79.1 12/00218/FUL – 8 Wheatfields – First Floor Rear Extension over Garage. Permitted
- 79.2 12/00218/FUL – Extension to the existing cricket pavilion – Broomhills Cricket Ground. Members discussed the proposals and the Clerk reminded Cllr G Ioannou that he had previously said he had a personal interest.
RESOLVED – Members agreed the application in principal but wanted it noted that they were not happy it is a retrospective application also to make reference to the possibility of flooding issues at this location.

80. Allotments

- 80.1 Clerk advised that she had received reports of break-ins but it appears nothing stolen. Members noted and the Clerk to advise PC Thomas
- 80.2 Clerk advised that two of the three plots were still overgrown
RESOLVED - Members agreed for the third letter to be sent to the two plot holders.

