# STRATFIELD SAYE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on Monday 5th October 2020 at 7.30pm

##

## ORDINARY MEETING

Present:

Cllr Speed Cllr Harborne Cllr Hall

Cllr Toms Cllr Preston Cllr Toosey

Cllr Mahaffey Cllr Vaughan

Mrs L. Webb (Parish Clerk)

0 members of the public

**32.20. Coronavirus**

On 23rd March 2020 the Government introduced measures requiring people to stay at home and avoid public gatherings in order to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus infection. In these circumstances, this meeting is permitted to be held remotely in accordance with [Statutory Instrument 2020/392](https://s.factsline.com/redir.php?trans=def49f99-862e-11ea-8bee-068e03beb944@emailer.factsline.co.uk&loc=http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/392) (effective 4th April 2020) permitting authorities to hold virtual meetings.

**33.20. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Best.

**34.20. Minutes of the Meeting 18th May 2020**

Cllr Toosey proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 18th May 2020, seconded by Cllr Hall and they will be signed by the Chairman Cllr Speed.

**35.20. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

36.18 Ordinance Survey Map. Cllr Speed encountered a formatting problem putting the map on the website. Cllr Toosey struggled to make the map smaller and include on a key, but she can put the existing one into a smaller format to get it into the right resolution. Everyone agreed this should be done. We will not put it onto noticeboards – just the website. Cllr Speed confirmed bulls are allowed in fields, as long as they are not on a prohibited breed list. This was a Hereford bull, which is allowed, but signage will be put up to inform walkers that the animals are there. Non-threatening language has to be used, so as to not deter walkers. Cllr Toosey to follow up on the missing sign by West End Green. **CT**

44.18d Purchase of new picnic benches. The two new picnic benches were assembled by Doug Wheeler of the Wellington Estate and the Parish Council is grateful for his help in this matter. The benches have been secured to the ground by way of a concrete bases and post by Tinson Construction Limited at a cost of £192. The benches have now been included under the Parish Council’s insurance cover and no further action is required.

79.18a Purchase of the dragonfly play sculpture. The sculpture was assembled by Doug Wheeler of the Wellington Estate and the Parish Council is grateful for his help. The sculpture has also been secured to the ground and included under the Parish Council’s insurance cover. No further action is required.

44.18a Lengthsman Scheme. We have used £1035.60 of our allowance on items listed in the minutes from the last meeting. We still have about £1000 plus VAT left forward. The hedges on the corner of Trowes Lane and Park Lane all need cutting back. Cllr Speed will ask an Estate employee to look at it. The signpost by Butlers Land is overgrown and green. Cllr Toosey to ask the lengthsman to make it visible again. **CT**

44.18.a The fence by Keeps Corner. Cllr Speed reported this has been repaired and it looks good. No further action required at this time.

44.18b Football Pitch Maintenance. Mrs P. Mayo has sent lots of information about new pitch installed at Sherfield St John. Her main point was the cost of maintaining a decent football pitch. It is very expensive – not something we can afford. Should we just try and improve the ground for walkers, or turn it into a proper pitch? The income generated by the pitch for SSJ is a small amount, but does this parish have enough people to support it? The recreation ground should be well cut and usable and we need to keep the rabbits and moles down. Cllr Hall said the only way to improve the land is to drain it. He is willing to roll it for us when the weather is suitable - there might be a roller already there – but his tractor will put pleats all over it. Cllr Speed will speak to Kestrel as they have the correct tires and rollers. Everyone agreed that she should not proceed with the footpitch plans. Cllr Toms asked what else we could do – make it into a wild flower area? Think about this for next meeting. **AS**

38.19.a Cess pit repairs

Cllr Speed met with Mark Potter from Hartley Services in July. They pumped out the tank and used CCTV to inspect the pipe work and tank. They also put a man into the tank to see where it was leaking.  This was done at Hartley’s Services cost. Issue has been resolved, as the tank now remains empty. No further action required at this time.

**36.20. Borough Councillors’ reports**

Report provided by Cllr Mahaffey.

Consultation paper regarding issues and options sent out – 5 yr review of the local plan. The local plan is very important for our borough. Please participate – closes 9th November.

Consultation Paper on the environment closes 15th November.

He will email us the details.

**37.20. County Councillor’s Report**

Report from Cllr Vaughan.

Report circulated back in September.

Climate change – carbon footprint reduced by 48%.

Old roads are being recycled and turned into new roads.

Household waste and recycling centres now working better but people are wasting slots. 50 or 60 no shows every weekend – residents requested not to do this.

Covid-19 in Hampshire is well below country’s average rate of infection. We are below national average 1.6. It appears that 20% of people are not following govt guidelines

Suicides at highest rate they have been in 20 years – ¾ are males.

£1m acquired for school transport in Hampshire.

£500 grant available from police and crime commissioner to help keep our streets safer. Email has been circulated to all councillors.

The Government is going to re-organise local government to save money to repay the covid debt.

**38.20 Parish Matters**

54.19.a Pest Control - Rabbits. Mr Wootten has not carried out any further pest control services since May, but he has been asked to return soon. LW to follow up with him again. Cllr Speed has a new employee Phil with ferrets who is happy to help as ferrets can only be used in winter months. AS to see if he can get him down there.  **LW/AS**

a. New Street Phone Box.Cllr Harbornesaid Mrs Julie Carter has suggested the phone box needs cleaning, the window mended and shelves put in so that we can start a library. Cllr Preston said many years ago BT had offered to give the PC the phone box. Cllr Hall said PC would need to pay a nominal fee to adopt it. We would also have to insure it – in case someone crashed in to it etc and at that time it seemed more trouble than it was worth. Cllr Speed said it’s a good idea – LW to look back over the minutes to see what the discussions were 5/6 years ago. LW to look into cost of adopting. Cllr Vaughan said SSJ and Pamber have done it – there are some security issues, so speak to them. Cllr Mahaffey mentioned that a refurbished classic phone box will sell for thousands of pounds online! **LW**

b. New Village Noticeboards. All of the noticeboards are rotting and many of the locks are broken. The noticeboard closest to West End Green is in particularly bad repair and it can no longer be opened. Cllr Preston said the original boards were made by Harry Stebbing - LW to enquire about refurbishing them as we might be able to prolong their life. Cllr Speed will to get estate carpenter to look at them. Are people looking at them or just using online? Cllr Toosey wondered whether the lengthsman might be able to help. **AS/LW**

**39.20. Correspondence**

a. Email received from Primary Care Supplies on 7th September. It states that defibrillator pads have a two year life span after which they need to be replaced. Defibrillator batteries have a 4 year life span before needing replacement. LW to check the defibrillator. Cllr Mahaffey suggested that LW phone Chris Gunnell and ask for Karen’s number, as she looks after Silchester’s defibrillator. **LW**

b. Email received from Penny Mayo dated 6th June. Mrs Mayo raised issues regarding the future use of the recreation ground. The future of the recreation ground was discussed earlier.

**40.20. Highways**

81.18a Cllr Toms gave an update on efforts to limit speeding in the village.

Work by HCC to repair roundels and ‘slow’ markers at 7 locations in the village now competed. Invoice for £1405.10 received from HCC for this work. We have disputed this invoice as we would like the £505 paid for temporary traffic measures, of which none were used, to be refunded. We are waiting for a reply from Mandy Ware.

Speedwatch. We are able to restart Speedwatch now, but as traffic still seems to be low and social distancing is still in place it would be better to postpone until January 2021. Perhaps we should use the SIDs again? But traffic is still very light – better to delay this plan?

**Resolution:** Cllr Toms proposed to delay commencing Speedwatch until 2021 and deploy Speed Indicator Devices instead, at a cost of £360.

*2 councillors voted in favour of this resolution but 4 councillors voted against.*

Councillors will look at this matter again in December.

a. Temporary Road Closure notice received in respect of Hartley Lane in Hartley Wespall. to take effect on or about 21st September.

b. Quiet Lanes. Local authorities are able to designate country lanes as ‘Quiet Lanes’ in rural areas. The scheme is not enforceable by anyone, and so it does not seem to have much value. No further action required at this time.

**41.20. Hampshire Constabulary Matters**

On 28th June PCSO Page wrote to confirm that our Police contact is now PCSO 16521 Adam Steele (adam.steele@hampshire.pnn.police.uk). We still form part of Basingstoke Rural East and fall within the Pamber and Silchester ward. In addition to PCSO Steele we have a team of 4 Police Officers (PC 23888 Denton, PC 20749 Hayes, PC 21091 Holdsworth and PC 3746 Reid) as well as the team Sergeant (PS 20523 Kempster) serving our area.

Cllr Vaughan has met with new Police Commissioner in Basingstoke. The police are horribly underfunded and have no resources to deal with low level crime.

**42.20.** **Planning Matters**

1. Planning Application Consultation for 20/02673/OOBC Reading Quarry. No planning comments.

**43.20.**

**a. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) Matters**

**b. Basingstoke & Deane Association of Parish & Town Councils (BDAPTC)**

**c.** **Hampshire County Council (HCC) Matters**

**d. Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) Matter**s

There were no reports available for any of these items

**44.20. Finance**

a. Payments Made. The Clerk read out the payments listed below made on behalf of the Council since the last meeting: -

James Christmas Fund Donation of Chairman’s allowance 50.00

Kane Wootten Pest Control 60.00

Hartley Tanker Services Cesspit empty 85.00

Came & Co Insurance 1000.64

Tinson Construction Ltd Fixing of Picnic Benches 192.00

Lightatouch Fees 160.00

HCC Deposit for road marking work 250.00

HALC Annual membership 186.79

Louise Webb Expenses – pest control signs 6.63

Castle Water Water bill 0.72

**TOTAL £1991.78**

Payments Received: -

 HMRC VAT refund 521.47

 Matthew Webb Pest Control Grant from R. McKellar 209.07

Matthew Webb Pest Control Grant from R. McKellar 90.93

BDBC Precept 2065.00

 **TOTAL £2886.40**

Payments to be Made:-

 Geoffrey Preston Expenses 257.95

HCC Road markings 1405.10

**TOTAL £1663.05**

b. The Chairman and Parish Clerk will sign the Bank Reconciliations for April, May, June, July, August 2020.

**45.20. Parish Councillors Comments**

Cllr Hall stated the road sign in middle of West End Green is virtually illegible as the black ink been bleached out. LW to contact HCC to ask for a new sign **LW**

The road from West End Green up to Butlers Lands has overhanging branches and needs to be cut back as they are very low. The trees belong to the Engelfield Estate. LW to write to the head forrester at Engelfield. Cllr Speed to find out his name. **AS/LW**

**46.20. Open Forum**

No comments were made.

**47.20.** **Dates of Next Meetings**

Parish Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

7th December 2020 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting (to include the setting of the precept)

**48.20. Closing**

The meeting was closed by the Chairman Cllr Speed at 8.30pm.