# STRATFIELD SAYE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held remotely on Monday 7th December 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

**49.20. 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.

**50.20. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Best.

**51.20. Minutes of the Meeting 5th October 2020**

Cllr Harborne proposed acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 5th October 2020, seconded by Cllr Hall and they will be signed by the Chairman Cllr Speed.

**52.20. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

36.18 Ordinance Survey Map. Hand-drawn map is now on the website. Nothing further to be done.

35.20 The missing sign by West End Green. Cllr Toosey needs to check if the sign by Butlers Land is now visible. Engelfield Estate have done some tree work up there and the road is safe again. Cllr Toosey will also follow up with the lengthsman.

44.18a Lengthsman Scheme. The scheme has been saved by Cllr Vaughan. The lengthsmen are also going to be trained to do more highways work. **CT**

44.18b Football Pitch future. We have discussed Mrs Mayo’s comments and accept that it takes money to maintain a pitch. It is unlikely that the rental income will pay for the maintenance, and the population of the village is unlikely to use it. Cllr Speed to double check with Kestrel if they can roll it in the spring time. To create a professional football pitch is above and beyond what the parish needs – especially in the current economic climate. Some horticultural activity could make it more pretty and flat, so people can walk safely. We could create an eco-system. The Parish Council definitely own the recreation ground – the Estate confirmed legally they had no interest in it, so it was awarded to the PC, but there was no map with the court order. We might need to check who owns the woodland around the recreation ground. Cllr Speed to check the Estate’s records. We should write back to Mrs Mayo to thank her for her guidance, and say that we are following her advice and abandoning the football pitch idea. We will make it better for people to walk around. **LW**

**53.20. Borough Councillors’ reports**

Report provided by Cllr Mahaffey.

First, Cllr Anne Court has passed away and will be sadly missed. Her seat will remain open until the full elections in May due to Covid.

Invitation to attend planning meeting circulated by email. Thank you to those that attended. Trying to identify what we thought about neighbourhood plans for rural villages. Not worth the work for Stratfield Saye, these plans are only really useful for towns. The parish is mostly surrounded by Estate land in any event. Plans look for potential for development, should you have to develop it just because you have identified it? The protection it gives you is not worth the work.

BDBC is moving towards a wilding verges campaign. They are going to cut grass verges less in town and leave them wild. There might be some funds available to us to help improve the recreations ground. Verges will be cut if there is a safety issue – but left alone if environmentally sound to do so.

Public Space Protection Order passed – it is now an offence for your dog to foul - £100 on the spot fine or further prosecution,

Free parking in town centre – several spots opened to generate more shopping. Basing View currently totally free and it is free to park 4-7pm in the town centre on Thursdays.

Cllr Harborne – payment by phone is troublesome in the Red Lion car park. You can‘t use coins, only payment by phone. Cllr Mahaffey will investigate further and revert.

**54.20. County Councillor’s Report**

Report from Cllr Vaughan.

Extensive email report also sent and circulated.

HCC is £42m in debt – but can pay it off from reserves.

HCC was expecting more money than what it got from the Government for covid.

Other areas get more funding as they have worse police forces than us.

Council tax is one of the lowest in the country – you get penalised for being good.

The new hospital will be on J3, J7 of the M3 or will remain on its current site.

The existing hospital needs £73m worth of repairs done to it.

Lengthsman scheme is vital – if you don’t look after where you live no-one else will.

**55.20 Parish Matters**

54.19.a Pest Control - Rabbits. Mr Wootten has carried out further pest control services earlier this month. Cllr Speed - new employee Phil with ferrets who is happy to help. AS will tell him to go whenever. It would be good to know the numbers of rabbits removed. LW to report back to residents. **LW/AS**

b. New Street Phone Box.LW reported that the parish council can apply to adopt a local phone box. If our application is successful, it will cost £1 – but BT will not carry out any repair work before selling it. BT will disconnect and remove the phone equipment (I think this was done back in 2010). If there is a power connection to the box BT will continue to supply the power free of charge for us. If the power supply has already been disconnected, BT will not reconnect the supply. LW has already registered the PC’s interest in adopting the phone box with BT has written back to say they are making enquiries at their end. They believe the phone box is listed.
Cllr Preston confirmed it is Grade II listed under No. 1392934.

If its listed – surely it should have been repaired by BT? Cllr Speed confirmed this is the case. BDBC conservation team should be informed Daniel Eyre. BT should be maintaining the phone box – LW to write. **LW**

Books might get damp and dark in there. BT to repair before we put a library in. Re-paint, repair window, clean it up, leaks etc.

c. New Village Noticeboards. The lengthsman David has looked at them, and they are badly in need of repair. They cannot be not removed to repair, so we should protect them with OSMO 420 but this has to be done when it is dry in March/April. Bolts might be easier than key. Use a metal that will last on the hinges etc. **CT**

d. The Greenfields Trophy and the Purdues Trophy. These trophies have recently been returned to the PC and we would like to reintroduce these village competitions. LW unable to find much information about these trophies from past minutes.

Mrs Mayo told Cllr Preston that there were originally 3 trophies, for best garden maintained by owner, best garden with paid help, and best garden most improved.

Cllr Hall will ask Jane if she knows which cup was for each category. Cllr Hall said he recalled only 6 houses entering per cup. Jane has offered to organise. LW confirmed that she does not have the Mornington cup – Cllr Preston thinks it might be in Stratfield Saye House. Cllr Speed to check **AS**

We should ask Jane how best to organise the competitions. We could fund flyers worth up to £100 and all councillors voted in favour of this.

The idea of open gardens to be discussed at the next meeting.

**56.20. Correspondence**

**57.20. 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 from HCC for this work was disputed and we did not pay £505 for temporary traffic measures. We would like to thank Mandy Ware for her help in this matter.

Does Rhydian have any more money for us? Cllr Toms to email him. **MT**

Speedwatch can be reinstated in April when traffic levels are expected to increase. Should we consider a refresher course from the Police?

SID/SLRs should be deployed when traffic levels are back to “normal” and we will discuss this again at the next meeting.

The road from Five Corners down to the Iron Duke – the residents there would like the SIDs to be placed there and to be included in the speedwatch program. We should extend the program if we can secure more money from HCC.

Cllr Harborne said the traffic is worse during term time. There are a few other roads that might also want to be included – near Faircross, Green Lane, etc. Let’s establish the program first and then roll it out to other areas in the Parish.

**58.20. Hampshire Constabulary Matters**

Basingstoke & Deane Police Partnership Update for November 2020 circulated today.

Turgis Court Farm robbed last night – but the offenders were caught.

**59.20.** **Planning Matters**

None.

**60.20.**

**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

**61.20. Finance**

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

Geoffrey Preston Expenses 257.95

ICO Membership 35.00

HCC Road markings 900.10

Kane Wootten Pest Control 60.00

Berkshire Extinguisher Fire Inspection Service 60.00

**TOTAL £1313.05**

Payments Received: -

 **TOTAL £0**

Payments to be Made:-

 **TOTAL £0**

b. The Chairman and Parish Clerk will sign the Bank Reconciliations for September and October 2020.

c. Setting of precept. The Parish Clerk issued the Councillors with a budget of expenditure for period April 2021 to March 2022. Cllr Speed proposed the precept for 2021/22 be as shown on the budget as £4130.00 seconded by Cllr Toms. Forms to be completed and sent to BDBC.

Cllr Speed with check with NFU to see if they can bring the Parish Council’s insurance premium down. **AS**

**62.20. Parish Councillors Comments**

Cllr Speed will send a letter to Englefield thanking them for their quick response to cutting down the trees. **AS**

**63.20. Open Forum**

No comments were made.

**64.20.** **Dates of Next Meetings**

Parish Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

1st February 2021 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting

17th May 2021 7pm AGM (followed by)

17th May 2021 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting

4th October 2021 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting

6th December 2021 7.30pm Ordinary Meeting (to include the setting of the precept for 2021/22)

**65.20. Closing**

The meeting was closed by the Chairman Cllr Speed at 8.40pm.