

STRATFIELD SAYE PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held in Stratfield Saye Village Hall on Monday 3rd October 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr I Preston Chairman Cllr A Harborne Cllr J Carruthers Cllr C Toosey
Cllr N Hall Penny Mayo Parish Clerk
Borough Cllrs M Tucker & R Gardiner Also present 11 parishioners

75.16. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Preston & Chapman.

It was noted that if Cllr Hare did not attend meetings for a 6 month period then a vacancy could be declared and an election held. Item to be added to 6th December 2016 agenda. **PM**

76.16. Minutes of the Meeting & 4th July 2016

72.16 Cllr Carruthers asked that a note be recorded re this item that '*financial implications on Parish funds*' referred to a potential increase to future precepts as stated by Cllr Pearson should the Parish Council ever accept responsibility for any playground equipment. She also wished it to be noted that she had stated that any money raised was to cover purchase of equipment and on-going maintenance costs.

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Carruthers, and signed as accurate by Cllr Pearson as Chairman.

77.16. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

a. Update re sound system in Village Hall. The Parish Clerk will send the details to the Village Hall Committee of the supplier of the Parish Church system. **PM**

b. New plaque for defibrillator. The new plaque recording the contribution from 'Heart start' has now been placed by the unit.

78.16. Borough Councillors' reports

Cllr Tucker informed the Parish Council of a briefing report on improvements to the A33 which she will send to the Parish Clerk to circulate to all Councillors. **MT/PM**

BDBC maintains a register of people wished to access affordable housing in the Borough. Cllr Pearson will add the BDBC link to the Parish website for anyone interested in registering. **IP**

Use of waste tips in the area is still under review although there is some agreement now between West Berks & BDBC. Parish residents are to be issued with permits to use Way Road tip.

79.16. Parish Matters

a. Pavilion. The Parish Clerk asked the Council to agree to her ordering a wooden sign 'Stratfield Saye Pavilion' at an approx. cost of £70. Should it be more she will e mail Parish Councillors for their agreement prior to placing an order.

Proposed by Cllr Carruthers, seconded by Cllr Toosey. **PM**

b. Placement re plaque VC. The Parish Clerk is still trying to get information re costs to install the plaque & whether there are any funds available via BDBC. The Borough Councillors suggested she contact Rebecca Emmett at BDBC. **PM**

c. New bench. The Parish Council agreed that the metal anti-vandal option, similar bench to one at Fair Oak, be purchased at a cost of approx £600. The Parish Clerk will obtain new pricing prior to ordering and also contact BDBC/Sentinel Housing for their agreement to the bench being sited on the grass verge at the entrance to Spring Close. **PM**

d. Broadband provision by Gigaclear. Cllr Pearson gave an update. Gigaclear have decided that it is not commercially viable to extend fibre to the premises to WEG, New Street & Stratfield Turgis as number of houses are insufficient (257) & the estimated cost of £600k too high. He has asked them to consider extending it to WEG & the crossroads at New Street only and is waiting a reply if that could be an option. While BDBC have £250k funds available this is unlikely to benefit Stratfield Saye.

He had obtained comparison costings for fibre to the premises - Open Reach price on a business rate of £200+ vat per month per house, while Gigaclear's price is much lower at £80 (including vat) per house per

month. He is still contacting various people & investigating any options to improve the appalling local provision.

e. Playground. Cllr Carruthers reported that there is a Playground Fund Raising Committee which is planning another event on 29th October & a door drop to residents explaining what they are trying to achieve. She confirmed that they were raising funds for the purchase and maintenance of play equipment and that due to the amount needed it would take some time before sufficient was raised. The Parish Council would only, if they agreed to accepted responsibility, be liable for the costs of insurance. As the Committee were looking at siting any equipment on the recreation ground behind the houses on New Street they did intend to approach the residents to see if they had any objections.

80.16. Correspondence

a. Removal of hedge & trees along field edge from Berrydown site. Cllr Toosey reported that no hedges had been removed at the back of the Berrydown property, and that the Stratfield Saye Estate had only cleared the drainage ditch along the side of the road on Green Lane and that there had been no hedges removed during the work.

N.B. However BDBC officers who viewed the area disagreed that no hedging & trees had been removed & have therefore contacted the SS Estate for comment.

b. Change of use of ground behind Berrydown. Mark Fletcher, BDBC enforcement officer, has agreed that during construction work it was acceptable to use the agricultural land behind the property to aid the build. However any use after this for paddock, garden etc would require a change of use from agricultural. *N.B. It was also noted after the meeting that Cllr Toosey should have declared a pecuniary interest in these items before speaking & should have been asked to leave the meeting during discussions.*

c. Bridleway over Loddon. The Parish Clerk has contacted the Stratfield Saye Estate but has not received a reply. The newly installed gate is too narrow for a bridleway measuring 87cm while Cllr Toosey informed the PC that the minimum requirement is 1.5mts. She will send the Parish Clerk information she has obtained. The Parish Clerk will re-contact the Estate & BDBC biodiversity officer Julia Nethercott for comment.

CT/PM

81.16. Highways

The proposed closure of the Bramley railway crossing by Rail Track is out for consultation. All were encouraged to look & register their concerns and any objections.

82.16. Hampshire Constabulary Matters

There were no matters to discuss.

83.16. Planning Matters

a. Herriot's Farmyard. At the recent BDBC Development Control Committee meeting a resolution was passed to take proceedings in the criminal courts for breach of the enforcement notice pursuant to s.179 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and to issue an enforcement notice on 1st November 2016 if the site has not been cleared & ceases to be used as a Transport site. Once the resolution & minutes of the meeting are available the Parish Clerk will circulate to the Parish Council.

PM

84.16. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) Matters

There were no further matters to discuss.

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

Cllr Pearson attended the recent meeting where the following issues were raised:

a. Speed watch. This is not a viable option in Stratfield Saye as it needs the purchase of expensive equipment & a group of trained resident volunteers to operate. It was noted that cyclists also pose a speeding problem on the rural roads as they fail to obey road laws re speed etc.

b. Devolution Plans – the re-organisation of HCC, Town Councils (BDBC etc) & local Parish Councils. There is uncertainty of how to reorganise with no high level plans yet in place. Plans are still unclear with one proposal that there are elected Mayors but as this would create another tier this is not very popular.

c. The £250k available for improvements to broadband BDBC/Andy Dowling. Various solutions were discussed to address the problem were considered -one to introduce a Rural Rates relief for homes receiving insufficient broadband coverage. Cllr Pearson will write to Andy Dowling listing the issues relating to Stratfield Saye's coverage.

IP

86.16. Hampshire County Council (HCC) Matters

There were no matters to discuss.

87.16. County Councillor's Report

There were no matters to discuss.

88.16. Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) Matters

There were no matters to discuss. Parish Council will let PC know the date of the AGM.

PM

89.16. Finance

a. Payments. The Clerk issued the schedule, listed below, of all payments made on behalf of the Council which the Councillors signed as correct.

Oct-16			
15.7.16	Bulpitt		37.00
10.16	S Electric		20.00
11.16	S Electric		20.00
12.16	S Electric		20.00
3.8.16	PM exps		68.50
3.8.16	Bulpitt		37.00
19.8.16	Thames Water		6.05
30.9.16	P mayo salary		498.00
30.9.16	Inland Revenue		252.00
15.8.16	repay re fete		-93.50
15.8.16	Defib plaque		80.00
9.9.16	James Christmas	Chairman's allowance	50.00
9.9.16	S Electric refund		-174.03
14.9.16	Word press		85.00
15.9.16	Berks Fire Ext		54.72
15.9.16	Pulpits		74.00
22.9.16	BDO	audit	120.00
3.10.16	exps P Mayo	keys etc	24.10

b. Acceptance of Audit. The Parish Clerk confirmed that the 2015/6 audit had been completed by the external auditors BDO. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr Hall & seconded by Cllr Pearson. To be posted on the website.

IP

c. The Parish Clerk will send estimates of expenditure for 2017/8 to the Councillors in advance of the December meeting in order for them to agree the precept request due in January 2017.

PM

90.16 Parish Councillors' Comments

The Chairman Cllr Pearson will liaise with the Parish Clerk to update the Standing Orders for ratification at the next Parish meeting.

IP/PM

The Parish Clerk has requested all Councillors to ensure they have completed their Register of Interest forms & sent them to BDBC & their dispensation forms (copies to the Parish Clerk).

Cllr Carruthers again commented on the state the Pavilion was in which she has now cleaned up. The Parish Clerk will contact football club & also ask for their fixtures list for this season.

PM

It was agreed that Cllr Toosey will arrange for the removal of the rotting bench on the recreation ground. Cllr Carruthers again asked that the Pump in New Street be made accessible to residents. The Parish Clerk will again contact the Estate.

PM

91.16. Open Forum.

The extremely bad pothole on the road from Butlers Lands Farm towards Silchester was again noted.

It was noted that the Stratfield Saye Estate had still to finish cutting their hedgerows.

Complaints were recorded about the wheelie bins left on the pavement in front of 26 New Street & the rubbish collecting around them. The Parish Clerk was asked to write to the tenant. Residents reported that the tenant was the Jekyll & Hyde Public House.

PM

N.B. Parish Clerk Action. This is outside the remit of the Parish Council, as are roads, and is the responsibility of BDBC. It is therefore with BDBC that the Clerk will register the problem/complaint as it is for them to contact the resident to get the situation dealt with as they have the necessary legal powers of enforcement.

92.16. Dates of Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council are:

6th December 2016 (setting of precept) 6th February 2017 8th May 2017 (AGM)

93.16. Closing The meeting was closed by the Chairman, Cllr Pearson, at 8.45p.m.