



Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

www.stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of the on-line Additional Council meeting held at 7.45pm
on 10th December 2020**

	Action
<p><i>Councillors present</i> Julia Davies – Chair Mike Dormon Julia Witting Paul Breach Sarah Chapman John Hickford Mariesa Clarke George Cassidy</p> <p><i>Apologies</i> None</p> <p><i>Also present</i> Sarah Neighbour – Clerk</p>	
<p>107/20 Public Forum – Members of the public were invited to speak by the Chairman. There were eleven members of the public present, three members of the public spoke on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Councillors were informed that a petition against the proposed development of housing on Netherfield Lane has been sent to the clerk with a counter proposal by the Netherfield Lane Residents Association. It was also commented that many residents are not happy with any development proposals on Greenbelt land. A question was also raised about a possible housing development on Kitten Lane and why this was not pursued as an option as opposed to Netherfield Lane.</p>	
<p>108/20 There were no apologies for this meeting.</p>	
<p>109/20 Declarations of Pecuniary interests – none declared – Cllrs are required to complete a declaration of interests form to be published on the website and forwarded to East Herts Council. It is the responsibility of each councillor to ensure that their register of interests is kept up to date. New forms are available from the Clerk.</p>	
<p>110/20 To grant dispensations on matters to be discussed – none needed</p>	
<p>111/20 Minutes of the meetings of Stanstead Abbots Parish Council The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 12th November 2020 were approved and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Cllrs are reminded that minutes circulated are taken as read at the next meeting. If they have any comments, they should contact the Clerk prior to the meeting.</p>	
<p>112/20 Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Chapman responded to questions from the public asked during the public forum. Villagers will be consulted on the Neighbourhood Plan in January 2021 as part of the formal consultation process. Open days were held for the local community last year and an exhibition was held in the Village Hall. The Covid-19 Pandemic has seriously hindered the engagement process as open days that were planned for March 2020 had to be cancelled.</p>	



<p>Cllr Chapman presented her report on the changes proposed to the site selection criteria and assessment process arising from AECOMS report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AECOM were appointed by Locality to provide technical support on the above process, at the request of the Neighbourhood Plan group. • AECOMS report advised that the NP group should have extended the sifting process and used their own RAG (Red Amber Green) assessment of the sites the NP group had selected • Only 4 sites got through AECOMS RAG assessment as Green or Amber and they also identified a new site behind St Andrews Church as Amber, this has led to a different outcome for 2 sites as follows: • The removal of site C2 near Amwell roundabout which fails on 3 criteria (2 relating to agriculture) and the removal of site H4 the site behind St Andrews Church which fails on site access • Cllrs discussed the site selections of the NP group and expressed concerns including why the Alms Houses on the Netherfield Lane site were not a consideration for excluding this site as they are rated heritage assets. • Concerns were also raised about the process and that communication from the NP Steering group to the public needed improving. • Cllr Breach thanked the public for attending the meeting and participating. He expressed his disapproval of the proposed development of Netherfield Lane due to the extent of the proposed building and it being on currently open land within the Parish. • Members of the NP steering group acknowledged that building on Greenbelt land is not ideal and sympathised with villagers and Cllrs concerns but stressed that they have worked hard to find the most suitable sites to meet the 10% increase in housing that is being enforced by East Herts District Council. <p>On a vote it was Resolved:</p> <p>(1) That the changes to the site allocation and selection process in line with the advice from AECOM and specifically the consequent removal of site H4 from the public consultation in January 2021 is NOT APPROVED.</p> <p>Councillors voted as follows: 4 AGAINST approving the changes, 3 FOR approving the changes and 1 ABSTENTION.</p>	
<p>113/20 APPROVED – the purchase of new signage for the village playground</p>	
<p>114/20 To suggest items for the agenda for the next online meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 7th January 2021 please send any agenda items to the clerk by 28th December 2020.</p> <p>The clerk to arrange the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee with Cllr Witting.</p>	

Further information on any items above can be obtained from the Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Julia Davies on tel 01920 877633 or from the Clerk on 07943 602877.

Signed.....Chair. Dated

Dates of Future Meetings 2020/21 - Please note these will be on-line meetings until further notice

Thursday 7th January 2021

Thursday 4th March 2021

Thursday 6th May 2021 – Annual Council meeting - please note change of date

Thursday 13th May 2021 – Annual Parish Meeting in the village hall subject to Covid 19 guidelines in place at the time.

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council 12.11.2020

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