



STANSTEAD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone and text: 07943602877 – Email: clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Council Meeting of Stanstead Abbots Parish Council Held online via Zoom on Thursday 4th March at 7.30pm

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Julia Davies (Chairman), Mike Dormon (Vice-Chairman) George Cassidy, Sarah Chapman, John Hickford, Mariesa Howlett, Chris Poulton, Julia Witting

APOLOGIES: Councillor Paul Breach (Stanstead Abbots Parish Council)
EHDC Councillor Joe Dumont (East Herts District Council)

ALSO PRESENT: Public x 14
HCC Councillor Eric Buckmaster (invited)
EHDC Councillor Alex Curtis (invited)
Terry Morris (invited - Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer for Hertfordshire)
Sarah Neighbour (Parish Clerk)

158/21 PUBLIC FORUM

There were fourteen members of the public present, three members of the public spoke on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Comments on the NP included concerns over the use of Greenbelt land on the Netherfield Lane site, a request for the NP Steering Group (NPSG) to consider an alternative site suggestion, a request for the NPSG to redo the site scoring matrix, concern over members of the public not being present at all NPSG meetings. One member of the public spoke about the increasing amount of litter adjacent to the A414 on the approach to the village. Cllr Alex Curtis who represents two of the parishes in the Neighbourhood Plan area on East Herts District Council voiced his concerns over the increased recent levels of lobbying by Catesby Estates for the release (from the Metropolitan Green Belt) of the field between St. Margaret's Road and the A414. He feels a 500-home 'Rye Gate' estate would significantly change the character of St. Margaret's civil parish and put significant additional pressure on an already-overstretched local services.

159/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Paul Breach and EHDC Cllr Joe Dumont.

160/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

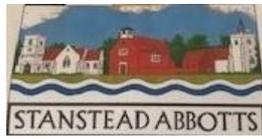
No declarations of interest were made.

161/21 DISPENSATIONS

None needed.

162/21 APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4th of February 2021 were agreed by the Council and will be signed when by the Chair when it is safe to do so.



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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.

163/21 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A report from Cllr Buckmaster was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting and included the following updates:

- HCC Councillors agreed the budget for 2021/22, which includes an increase of 2% for the adult social care precept and an additional 1.99% for general council tax, meaning a total increase to council tax of 3.99%. This works out at an extra £1.08 a week for average Band D households.
- **East Herts Cultural Strategy.** In his Wellbeing Portfolio at East Herts, Eric is introducing a Cultural Strategy for the District. The purpose is to increase participation and access to the arts and culture for all but particularly for those in more disadvantaged circumstances.
- **Council tax increase to fund Hertfordshire's largest ever police force given overwhelming public support** - Hertfordshire is to have its largest ever police force following overwhelming public support for an increase in the council tax. Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd has decided to increase the policing precept by £1.25 per month. The precept increase will pay for 77 extra officers, on top of the 90 who will be recruited as part of the government uplift. These 167 new officers increase the ranks to 2,267 in the forthcoming financial year.

164/21 CRIME AND POLICING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Terry Morris the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer for Hertfordshire talked about the benefits of signing up to OWL the online service for the neighbourhood watch scheme. OWL keeps communities safe, helps reduce crime and keeps people informed of what is going on locally. You can sign up for free at www.owl.co.uk.

165/21 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

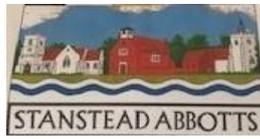
The monthly budget report was noted and the payments and bank reconciliation for March were approved.

166/21 PLANNING

The planning applications submitted where the deadline had passed, and the planning decisions were noted.

Planning Applications received prior to the Parish Council meeting

- (1) 3/21/0318/PNHH Single Storey rear extension 14 Trotters Gap- no objection.
- (2) 3/21/0367/HH Loft conversion 29 Roydon Road – no objections.



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167/21 PROPOSED BRIGGENS ESTATE QUARRY UPDATE

Cllr Buckmaster advised there will be a further update in May.

168/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

- 1. Mediation and Proposed Next Steps** – the Chairman informed Councillors that a mediator had now been appointed by Locality with the aim of finding a proposed set of housing sites the Council can agree on. The first stage of the mediation process will be an informal round table discussion on 22nd March with a small group of Cllrs from Stanstead Abbots and a representative from both Great Amwell Parish Council and Stanstead St Margarets Parish Council.
- 2. Terms of Reference for the Three Parishes meeting** - this item was deferred
- 3. NP Webinar held on 1st March 2021** – a report on the webinar by the Chairman was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. A lot of positive feedback was received from the public on the webinar. The NP steering group have made the webinar available on their website and will be putting together a spreadsheet of all the Q and A's.

4.

Responses to questions in the public forum

Concerns were raised about the public only being allowed to attend NP steering group meetings where a decision needed to be made. The NP Steering group assured the public that it was not their intention to exclude them, and the consultation process has clear formal stages for public engagement. The NPSG recognise that building on the Greenbelt is not a desirable option but there is not enough land available outside of the greenbelt to accommodate the number of houses required. The settlement boundary was given to the NPSG by East Herts District Council and can't be changed.

169/21 CCTV UPDATE

The CCTV in the village is now working and being tested, Cllrs are invited to visit the CCTV control room in Stevenage in April although numbers are limited due to social distancing rules. Public enquiries contact details are as follows:

General Enquiries Email:

enquire@hertfordshirecctv.co.uk

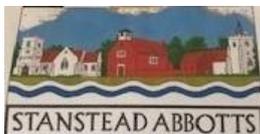
Public Footage Requests:

www.hertfordshirecctv.co.uk apply via website.

170/21 SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

Several members of the Parish Council attended an online presentation on the '20's Plenty for Us' campaign in Hertfordshire on 25th February. The campaign aims to increase the amount of 20mph speed limit areas across the County to cut toxic diesel emissions, reduce traffic noise and reduce fatalities. HCC Cllr Buckmaster advised Cllrs to decide on a specific area that's already close to 20mph limit for a speed and volume study to take place, Cllrs agreed to focus on the High Street initially.

RESOLVED: A '20's Plenty for Us' working group to be set up by Cllr Poulton and a meeting date to be arranged, members of the group are Cllr Witting, Cllr Davies and Cllr Hickford.



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171/21 LITTER, FLY-TIPPING AND RUBBISH COLLECTION

A 'Don't be a Tosser' poster was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting which is already being used in other areas of the country as part of a wider campaign to combat litter. Cllrs generally supported the use of the poster but wanted clarification on where they would be put up in the village.

172/21 VILLAGE PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The contractors aim to restart improvement works on 15th March as the ground has now dried out. Cllr Dormon circulated a minor amendment to the toddler unit as installation of the original design would result in a tree removal. The clerk will post an update on the Council Facebook page regarding commencement of works.

RESOLVED: Approval of the minor amendment to the proposed toddler unit to retain the nearby tree.

1723/21 ZOOM AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY UPDATES

This item was deferred to the next Council meeting.

174/21 PARISH MAGAZINE UPDATE

There is no further update at the current time.

175/21 TOMMY STATUTE FOR VILLAGE

This item was deferred to the next Council meeting.

176/21 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

The Chairman will be stepping down at the AGM in May and the clerk circulated a list of roles currently undertaken by the Chairman.

177/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING/AGENDA

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 8th April at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 22:03PM