



# STANSTEAD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Telephone and text: 07943602877 – Email: [clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Stanstead Abbots Parish Council Meeting

Held online via Zoom on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7.45pm

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Cllr Eric Buckmaster (Hertfordshire County Council)  
Sarah Neighbour (Parish Clerk)

### 178/21 PUBLIC FORUM

There were four members of the public present, three members of the public spoke on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Comments on the NP included concerns over members of the public not being allowed to attend all steering group meetings and the scoring matrix used in the site assessments.

### 179/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Joe Dumont (East Herts District Council)

### 180/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### 181/21 DISPENSATIONS

None needed.

### 182/21 APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

**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.**

### 183/21 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

A report from Cllr Buckmaster was circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllr Buckmaster left the meeting after this item.

### 184/21 CRIME AND POLICING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Councillors voiced concerns over large groups of youths gathering at St Margaretsbury Sports Ground and leaving litter. Cllr Dormon will raise the issue with the trustees of Sports and Social Club.



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### 185/21 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

1. The monthly budget report was noted and the payments and bank reconciliation for March were approved.
2. Overtime for the Clerk hours worked on the new website were approved.
3. An annual salary increment for the clerk was approved.
4. The appointment of Community Action Dacorum for the Clerk's monthly payroll services were approved.

### 186/21 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.

### 187/21 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL STATUTORY DOCUMENTS

The following documents were reviewed and approved.

- i. Standing Orders
- ii. Financial Regulations
- iii. Asset Register 2021
- iv. Risk Assessment and Key Controls

### 188/21 REVISED SOCIAL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA POLICY

A revised policy was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the option of recording Council meetings was discussed. Councillors noted that other Parish Councils who recorded their meetings did so for minute taking purposes only.

**RESOLVED** the Social and Electronic Media Policy to be revised further to include that the recording of Council meetings be permitted for the purposes of minute taking only. The revised policy will be brought back for approval at the next Council meeting.

### 189/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

#### **Responses to questions in the public forum**

Members of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group (NPSG) advised that the terms of reference for the NPSG have been revised to limit public participation to meetings where decisions need to be made only to improve the efficiency of meetings. Some councillors felt that this was sending the wrong message and making the public feel excluded. Cllr Chapman explained that there is a separate consultation process for the NP which engages with the public and as the NPSG still has a lot of work to do it is more efficient to have some meetings where there isn't a public forum.

Cllr Witting questioned the roles and responsibilities of the NP Management group and it was agreed that this information should be made clear in the NPSG Terms of Reference. Cllr Witting suggested having a single site meeting for the residents of Netherfield Lane to give them a more detailed interaction on that proposed site.

Councillors voted on adopting the revised NPSG Terms of Reference and this was approved on a vote of 5 FOR and 4 AGAINST.

**RESOLVED: to approve the amended NPSG Terms of Reference and add in a statement about the role of the management group and to hold a meeting for the residents of Netherfield Lane.**



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### 190/21 CCTV UPDATE

1. Stanstead St Margarets Parish Council are looking into acquiring their own CCTV.

Cllr Cassidy will chase up the site visit for Councillors to view the CCTV footage.

### 191/21 SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

Councillors continue to be concerned about speeding through the village particularly vehicles leaving the A414 and exceeding the speed limit into the village. Cllr Chapman attends the Police Priority Setting forum and advised Councillors that speeding is a priority for the Police in Stanstead Abbots.

**RESOLVED: Cllr Poulton to sign Stanstead Abbots Parish Council up to the '20's Plenty for Us' Campaign whilst aiming to work with the County Council on a zonal approach to 20mph limits rather than a blanket speed limit across the village.**

### 192/21 LITTER, FLY-TIPPING AND RUBBISH COLLECTION

Litter continues to be a big problem in and around the village and Councillors expressed their appreciation and gratitude to all those residents who are going out litter picking. Cllr Davies gave a special mention to a local litter picking group called the Wombles of Ware Abouts who regularly litter pick in Ware and the surrounding areas including parts of the village.

**RESOLVED: The Parish Council to request that the District and County Council support The Wombles of Ware Abouts and other community litter picking groups.**

### 193/21 VILLAGE PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Cllr Dormon advised that all the new playground equipment and outdoor gym equipment has now been installed and the project is close to completion pending on health and safety checks. Costings for a new fence around the outdoor gym area will be investigated.

194/21 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.45pm.

**The meeting ended at 10.20pm**

Signed ..... Chair Date.....