



Stanstead Abbots Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11th November 2021 at 7.45pm
In the Ashlea Room, Parish Hall, Roydon Road

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Mike Dormon (Chairman), Paul Breach, George Cassidy, Julia Davies, John Hickford, Mariesa Howlett, Robert Pulford, Julia Witting

APOLOGIES: Sarah Chapman

OTHERS PRESENT: Sarah Neighbour (Parish Clerk)
Cllr Joseph Dumont (East Herts District Council)
Myles Dimmock (Chair of Stop the Quarry)

90/21 PUBLIC FORUM

Myles Dimmock presented a proposal to purchase a stretch of land of about 50 acres at the top of Cats Hill and develop a Community Wood to act as a buffer between the village and the proposed quarry which will minimise dust and pollution. His proposal would be dependent on raising funds of approx. £300-400k for the land purchase from a variety of organisations, Myles requested the support of the parish council for the project, not financial support just an endorsement of the proposal. The Chairman thanked Myles and advised the council would discuss it further.

91/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Sarah Chapman, Cllr Eric Buckmaster (Hertfordshire County Council)

92/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

93/21 DISPENSATIONS

None needed.

94/21 APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7th of October 2021 were agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

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.

95/21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. The Citizens Advice Bureau have requested a grant past the submission date, which was 14th September, councillors agreed to consider this at the January council meeting.
2. **APPROVED:** the replacement play equipment to be a springer rather than a spinning bowl to deter vandalism. Cllr Breach will enquire about repositioning it to the toddler area.
3. Letters have been delivered to all High Street business from the Chairman requesting that A-boards should not be positioned to restrict the width of the pavement to less than 1.5 metres or be placed within 1.5 metres of any dimpled paving slabs which are in place to assist the visually impaired.

96/21 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Monthly reports from Cllr Buckmaster and Cllr Dumont were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

- Cllr Dumont will go back to chase up about the tree cutting back that is blocking the CCTV on the entrance to the car park
- Cllr Dumont advised EHDC doesn't want the parish council to take on the litter and street sweeping contract, he agreed to go back and find out why we are being refused as the High Street still isn't being swept 3 times a week. Cllr Witting requested to meet with EHDC again to raise issues, Cllr Dumont also suggested raising the question at full Council meeting of EHDC.

Cllr Jo Dumont left after this item

97/21 CO-OPTION VACANCY

Cllr Chris Poulton resigned with immediate effect on 13th September 2021. A Co-option vacancy notice was advertised and the closing date for application was 2nd November. We received one application from Robert Pulford, the Chairman invited Robert to speak about his reasons for applying to the council. Robert moved to the village 5 years ago, he loves the village and wants to be part of the decision-making process.

APPROVED: On a vote 7 for, 0 against and 1 abstention, Robert Pulford was voted on to the Parish Council.

An acceptance of office form was signed in the presence of the clerk.

98/21 CRIME AND POLICING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

A written update from Sargeant Tom Prior of East Herts Police was circulated to councillors by the clerk prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman will feed back some comments in a letter. A recent incident regarding the public assess defibrillator which resulted in the police not being able to obtain the code to use it was discussed. Cllr Howlett advised that Community Heartbeat who provided the defibrillator are trying to get a recording of the phone call where access was denied. The clerk will arrange a defibrillator training session for the public.

99/21 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

1. **APPROVED:** the payments and bank reconciliation for October 2021.
2. **APPROVED:** a draft budget of £46,000 for 2022/23.
The Finance and Policy Committee met on 3rd November to discuss the draft parish council budget and precept request for 22/23. The committee went through the budget line by line and concluded we would need to put the budget up to £46,000 from £40,000 mainly due to the additional cost of the CCTV which is £5,000 a year. The additional £1000 is to budget for rising costs as this year the precept was kept the same as the previous year.
3. **APPROVED:** an increase in the precept of 15% from £40,000 to £46,000 to fund CCTV (10% cost and rising costs 5%).
4. The External Auditors Report for 20/21 was **NOTED**.
5. The Clerk advised the council that she is starting her CILCA qualification

100/21 GRANTS AND FUNDING

The Chairman advised that he has applied for some funding from Locality for painting the bollards in the High Street and has just found out we have got through the first round of funding. There is grant money available and would be beneficial if a few members of the council could apply for funding. Cllr Witing offered to give some advice on grants to the Chairman.

101/21 PLANNING

The planning applications submitted where the deadline had passed, and the planning decisions were noted. Comments were made on the following:

3/21/1476/ARPN PROPOSAL: Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to create 2 dwellings **AT:** Black Barn Halfway House Farm Stanstead Road Hunsdon Hertfordshire

Cllr Witting asked if the two new dwellings would count towards the allocation of housing in the Neighbourhood Plan, the Chairman will confirm this.

102/21 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE

Cllr Julia Davies gave an update on the current progress of the NP, the NP group have had to delay the public consultation as AECOM are still working on the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) which won't be completed until mid-February. The final plan will need to come back to the Parish Council for approval prior to the Regulation 14 public consultation which will run for 6 weeks.

Cllr Witting asked what the AECOM report is and was advised it is a very close examination of all the sites being put forward against all the environment and heritage criteria. They look at what habitats there are and the heritage of each site. The Parish Council will have the opportunity to note the AECOM report which will form part of the evidence base for the plan.

103/21 CCTV UPDATE

The Chairman presented the monthly CCTV incident reports to the council. There were 3 incidents - 2 post event viewings and 1 welfare concern. Anyone can request CCTV footage to be looked at and any useful footage will be sent to the police.

The Chairman is meeting with Herts CCTV to investigate the possibility of linking the CCTV up with St Margaret's and identify any potential technical issues.

104/21 SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE – UPDATE

The parish council have been granted 2 speed indicator devices (SIDS). Cllr Breach and Cllr Cassidy met with Hertfordshire County Council; one will be installed in Cappell Lane. Householders living near where the SID is being installed need to be consulted in case, they have any objection, Cllr Cassidy will speak to residents. Cllr Breach advised that Herts CC will be carrying out a data collection exercise in the first quarter of 2022 as a step towards potentially introducing 20 mph limits in the High Street and surrounding roads. The whole process which will include various consultations will take approximately 18 months to 2 years.

The Clerk will apply for a speeding van in Cappell Lane.

105/21 PLAYGROUND AND MEADOW

As discussed, and approved in item 95/21, the replacement play equipment will be a springer.

106/21 LITTER, FLY-TIPPING AND RUBBISH COLLECTION

1. Cllr Dumont has requested new bins for the playground and car park.
2. Bin emptying has improved in the playground but the street sweeping still isn't getting done
3. The volunteer High Street tidy up event was successful, we had around 20 people and plan is to have another one early Spring and involve local groups such as the Ware Wombles.

107/21 FLOODING

The Chairman and Cllr Witting walked around various locations in Stanstead Abbots with Cllr Eric Buckmaster trying to identify issues that are contributing to flooding. There are a variety of issues including the capacity of the big river narrowing into small channels and areas are clogged with

vegetation. We need to look at the infrastructure underground to ensure its all flowing properly. Cllr Buckmaster will take the issues back to HCC and report back to the Parish Council.

108/21 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Chairman has advised that everything is in place for this years Christmas lights and the swich on should be around end of November.

109/21 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7.45pm to be held in the Ashlea Room at the Parish Hall Roydon Road, items to the clerk by Wednesday 5th January 2022 please. Quotes will be brought to the January council meeting for the 2022 lights.

The meeting ended at 21.54pm

Signed Chairman Date.....