



## Stanstead Abbots Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 10th March 2022 at 7.45pm  
In the Ashlea Room, Parish Hall, Roydon Road

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Mike Dormon (Chairman), Julia Davies, John Hickford, Robert Pulford, Julia Witting

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Paul Breach, Cllr George Cassidy, Cllr Sarah Chapman, Cllr Mariesa Howlett (Vice-Chairman)

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

### 127/22 PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public was present but didn't wish to speak.

### 128/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Paul Breach, Cllr George Cassidy, Cllr Sarah Chapman, Cllr Mo Howlett, Cllr Joseph Dumont (East Herts District Council)

### 129/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 130/22 DISPENSATIONS

None needed.

### 131/22 APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th of February 2022 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.**

### 132/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Update on complaint to Post Office about inconsistent and shortened opening hours – the Clerk sent a complaint to the Post Office instead of the Co-op so will resend the complaint to the Co-op instead of the Post Office. The issue is lack of staff trained to work on the Post Office till.

### 133/22 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Hertfordshire County Cllr Eric Buckmaster presented his monthly report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. An update was also given on flooding in Stanstead Abbots, the only two flood investigations taking place in Stanstead Abbots currently are South Street and Warrax Park in Cappell Lane. There is awareness of the flooding issues in Roydon Road, but Hertfordshire CC need to work with the Environment Agency and riparian owners, as it doesn't come under the County Councils responsibility, also need to involve Thames Water. Cllr Buckmaster will try to arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency and invite Cllr Witting and Cllr Dormon to try and get issues in Roydon Road resolved. Cllr Buckmaster also gave an update on the proposed quarry at the Briggens Estate, the site is still under consideration, Myles Dymock has approached Tarmac about creating a buffer by establishing a community woodland so Cllr Buckmaster will try to build that into the consultation. The works at the railway crossing at St Margarets station will be finished as soon as possible.

#### **134/22 CRIME AND POLICING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS**

The police sent their apologies, but the Clerk is liaising with PC Dean Watson and PCSO Megan DaCosta regarding running a community surgery in Stanstead Abbots.

#### **135/22 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS**

1. **APPROVED:** a grant of £250 for 1<sup>st</sup> Stanstead Abbots Brownies. \*
2. **APPROVED:** the payments and bank reconciliations for February 2022.
3. **NOTED:** the Internal Auditors Interim report
4. **NOTED:** the Clerks pay award including back dated pay to April 2021.
5. **APPROVED:** entering a contract with Festive Lighting for a 3-year period to provide the Christmas Lights in the High Street

**\*This grant payment relies on the 'Power to Support' Local Govt Act 1972 s142**

#### **136/22 GRANTS AND FUNDING**

Cllr Dormon advised the application to Locality has been submitted for £15,000 of funding for new fence around the outdoor gym, repairs to wet pour and painting of the bollards in the High Street and will get an answer by the end of March and the money will come in in April 22.

The clerk was contacted by East Herts District Council regarding some available funds from the Welcome Back Fund and options were discussed on items needed by the Parish Council.

1. **APPROVED:** expenditure of up to £5000 to purchase two new noticeboards, bunting for the Queens Jubilee, two gazebos, outdoor furniture for meetings and events and a generator for outdoor events on the understanding that all expenditure will be refunded as part of the Welcome Back Fund.

#### **137/22 PLANNING**

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

#### **138/22 ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNCILS STATUTORY DOCUMENTS**

The following statutory documents were revised and updated at the Finance and Policy Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 and the revised documents were circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

1. **APPROVED:** the current Council Standing Orders
2. **APPROVED:** the current Council Financial Regulations.
3. **APPROVED:** the current Council Asset Register 21/22.
4. **APPROVED:** the current Council Risk Assessment and Key Controls.

#### **139/22 APPOINTMENTS TO THE BAESH TRUST**

The current trustees to the Baesh Trust who run the Alms Houses are willing to continue in their roles for another four years. Cllr Witting requested a report from the trustees.

1. **APPROVED:** the appointment of Tessa Dormon and Johnny Pilkington as trustees to the Baesh Trust for a further four years.

#### **140/22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE**

Cllr Davis gave an update on the current situation with the NP; – still waiting for AECOM to complete the SEA report that will hopefully be by the end of next week, once we have that can finalise the policies and the plan. Cllr Witting asked if any of the other supporting policies are ready and can they be available, Cllr Davies advised that other policies are ready but have to wait for the SEA report as some changes may be

made. There is going to be an opportunity to do some archaeological digs in 10 trenches/pits at Netherfield Lane details will be confirmed shortly.

**141/22 CCTV UPDATE**

The Chairman to bring an update to the next Council meeting. The clerk to put a reminder on the community Facebook page on how to request CCTV footage.

**142/22 PLAYGROUND AND MEADOW**

The Parish Council noticeboard on the entrance to the car park and playground was blown down in the recent storm. Quotes have been received for grass cutting of the Meadow.

1. **APPROVED:** delegation of the contract for the grass cutting of the Meadow to the Management and Traffic Committee.

**143/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

A Jubilee Party will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 12-4pm in the Village Club car park, the clerk is working with a member of the village club committee to organise this event which will include live music, stalls, children's entertainment and will keep the council updated.

**144/22 WARD BOUNDARY CONSULTATION**

The Chairman will make a formal comment in support of the proposals on behalf of the Parish Council by 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

- 145/22** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Council meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45pm. The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

**The meeting ended at 21.29pm.**

Signed ..... Chairman      Date.....