



Stanstead Abbots Parish Annual Council Meeting

**Thursday 12th May 2022 at 7.45pm
In the Ashlea Room, Parish Hall, Roydon Road**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT:	Mike Dormon (Chairman), Mariesa Howlett (Vice Chairman), George Cassidy, Robert Pulford, Julia Witting
APOLOGIES:	Cllr Paul Breach, Cllr Sarah Chapman, Cllr Julia Davies, Cllr John Hickford
OTHERS PRESENT:	Sarah Neighbour (Parish Clerk)

1/22 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Mike Dormon was elected as Chair of the Council.

2/22 PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public present who asked what the Parish Council does. The Chairman advised that the parish council represents the parish of Stanstead Abbots and manage the children's playground in the High Street, the meadow behind the playground, streetlights, CCTV, Christmas lights, run various events, comment on planning applications, award grants to local charities and organisations, manage and monitor the defibrillator and anything else that benefits the parish.

3/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Paul Breach, Cllr Sarah Chapman, Cllr Julia Davies, Cllr John Hickford

4/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5/22 DISPENSATIONS

None needed.

6/22 APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 10th of March 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.

7/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Update on Post Office Opening Hours – the clerk read out an update from the community officer for the Co-op who explained there is only one member of staff trained on Post Office at the moment, also the staffing levels have gone from 19 to 8 and all the Post Office trained staff have left. Younger members of staff are not willing to train on the Post Office. Cllr Howlett suggested that they post the times they are open and which services you can/cannot get there and update it regularly. Cllr Julia Witting will arrange to have a chat with the new manager and report back to the Council.
2. Update on walkabout with East Herts District Council regarding bin collections and street sweeping – they were full of commitment and holding contactors to account, walked along High Street, Roydon Road and Marsh Lane, accumulation in parking bays and gully, bins flapping

open, pavement not properly swept. They said by the end of the contract period in 2025 they want the service to be up to the standard it should be. They accepted the standard wasn't where it should be, and a meeting is scheduled for September time to see what progress has been made.

8/22 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Eric Buckmaster and Cllr Joseph Dumont both sent their apologies. Both attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 5th May and gave updates. The clerk to chase Eric about flooding.

9/22 CRIME AND POLICING IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

The police sent their apologies, but attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 5th May, crime has generally gone down in Stanstead Abbots, PC Dean Watson did some speed checks in Cappell Lane and gave out some fines.

10/22 BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

1. **NOTED:** the payments and bank reconciliations for March 2022.
2. **NOTED:** the Annual Budget Report

11/22 VICE CHAIR, AND COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

1. Cllr Mariesa Howlett was appointed as Vice Chair of the Council.
2. Members of the Council following committees were agreed:
 - Finance and Policy Committee
 - Maintenance and Traffic Committee
 - Planning Committee

12/22 APPOINTMENTS OF TRUSTEES

The following appointments were agreed:

- Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall – Cllr Mike Dormon
- St Margaretsbury Trust - Cllr Mike Dormon and Cllr John Hickford
- Baesh Almshouses Trust – Tessa Dormon and Johnny Pilkington

The parish council will expect a brief report after Trust meetings from Trustees.

13/22 22/23 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The calendar of meetings for 22/23 was approved and it was agreed to move the dates of the June Finance and Policy Committee meeting and June and July Council meetings. The new dates are as follows:

June F and P meeting – Wednesday 9th June
June Council meeting – Thursday 16th June
July Council meeting – Thursday 14th July

14/22 GRANTS AND FUNDING

The £15,000 Locality grant costings were circulated to councillors and noted.

15/22 PLANNING

The planning applications submitted where the deadline had passed, and the planning decisions were noted. The clerk will set up a meeting with Low Carbon (the operators) and the Council who are proposing a Solar Farm in Roydon. They will come and explain what they are proposing.

16/22 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP) UPDATE

The consultant for the NP is still unwell which is causing a delay. Cllr Julia Witting asked which report we are waiting for. Cllr Dormon explained that the NP Consultant needs to look at the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report and ensure that the NP considers all the points that are made in that report by AECOM.

17/22 CCTV UPDATE

There were only two incidents in April. The police have commented on the high quality of the CCTV in the village and Herts CCTV who monitor the CCTV footage are very responsive when requests are made.

18/22 PLAYGROUND AND MEADOW

The meadow is now being cut on a regular basis and the nettles cut down which has created an open space that villagers can now use. A review of the handyman's pay will be discussed at the next M and T Committee meeting and bring a proposal to the next Council meeting.

19/22 POST OFFICE OPENING HOURS

This item was covered under item 7/22.

20/22 STREET CLEANING

This item was covered under item 7/22.

21/22 PLATINUM JUBILEE EVENTS

1. A Beacon Lighting Event will be held on Thursday 2nd June at the Easneye estate.
2. The Platinum Jubilee Party will be held on Friday 3rd June, any volunteers on the day will be very welcome.
3. The council have purchased 100 Jubilee Mugs to give out to children at the Jubilee Party event in goody bags which the Chairman has donated to.
4. The clerk circulated a draft Operation London Bridge policy, the clerk will purchase a Book of Condolence which could be kept in the Ashlea Room. The policy was updated, and the clerk will circulate the updated version.

22/22 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 16th June at 7.45pm, please send any agenda items to the clerk by Wednesday 8th June.

The meeting ended at 21.29pm.

Signed Chairman Date.....