

Stanford Rivers PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 14th September 2017

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Toot Hill Village Hall, Toot Hill

PRESENT:

Councillors (5) John Glover (Chairman), A Buckley, Cllr Saridja, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Hollington, Cllr Tallon

Also in Attendance (1) - Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public (2) - EFDC Cllr Heather Brady, John Adams (NHW)

Members of the Press (0)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

P14.346 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ECC Cllr McEwen had offered her apologies.

P14.347 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

P14.348 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

P14.349 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th July 2017 were **APPROVED** and duly signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Hollington discussed the recent application from Mr Sam Knipes to fill the Councillor Vacancy, stating that from his point of view having somebody from the younger element of the Parish on the Council would be a benefit and help with inclusion. Cllr Glover stated that whilst it was great to see a young person interested in the vacancy, accepting that this would increase the diversity of the Council members, he felt that Mr Knipes efforts would perhaps be better spent getting involve via different means. Both Cllr Saridja and Cllr Jackson agreed, stating that it would be good if Mr Knipes could be involved in some way. The Clerk suggested that perhaps Mr Knipes could take on some form of Youth Representative role, which could perhaps start with a regular column in the News and Views presentation. Councillors **AGREED** this was a good idea, and that the Clerk should contact Mr Knipes asking if he would willing to undertake this role.

It was **NOTED** that John Adams (NHW Coordinator) had also expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

P14.350 PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER - SPEED LIMIT CHANGE - A113 LONDON ROAD, STANFORD RIVERS

Councillors **NOTED** that Essex County Council Highways had proposed a Speed Limit increase from 30mph to 40mph to a section of the A113 London Road in Stanford Rivers. A copy of the plan showing the location of the proposed increase was attached to the agenda. Councillors recalled that this issue had been discussed by the Parish Council for some time now, and the initial proposal of the Parish Council was for a 40mph buffer zone to be located from the Woodman. When writing to ECC to ask for clarification as to why this has not been included, the response from ECC was as follows:

"This proposal has been seen by the Network Assurance Team and they have recommended that the buffer zone is not extended to the Woodman pub as the 40mph speed limit would become less effect on entrance to Little End. Drivers tend to drive to the nature of the road – in this case the road is relatively straight with fields either side for some distance before any houses come into view. If drivers cannot see a reason to slow down e.g. if there are pedestrians

or houses that front straight onto the road, it is likely that they will have increased their speed by the time that they reach the 30mph speed limit. The section of the road that we have selected allows for drivers to decrease their speed from 60mph to 40mph for a short distance before reaching the 30mph limit on entrance to Little End, which we feel is a more effective way to manage traffic speed along this road."

Cllr Jackson advised that this issue had been discussed by the Parish Council for a considerable amount of time, specifically trying to address the issues of overtaking and speeding. Cllr Jackson summarised that the original suggestion was to decrease the speed limit from the Woodman through to the 30mph gateway sign at Stanford Rivers in an attempt to slow drivers down, and that ECC Highways had suggested that an increase in the speed limit between the current 30mph gateway sign towards the centre of Little End to 40mph would address the issue of overtaking. ECC Highways had stated that would not consider this as there were not enough houses between the 30mph gateway sign and the Woodman that would fit their speed management policy.

The clerk stated that ECC Highways had completed a public consultation, and that her understanding was that they had received 14 objections to date.

Cllr Buckley reminded members of the amount of effort and time it took to get the speed limit through the village reduced to 30mph some years ago, and that he disagreed with the proposal. Cllr Buckley suggested that alternative methods should be used, such as double white lines or signage, rather than increasing the speed limit. The Clerk reminded Councillors that double white lines had been raised already, however ECC Highways had advised that this also did not fit with policy. Cllr Buckley proposed that the Parish Council should object to the present proposal. Cllr Jackson agreed, stating that this should be a strong objection. Cllr Hollington disagreed, stating that the road is quite wide from the Woodman to the start of the village, and that it was unrealistic people would drive at under 40mph. A vote was taken for objecting to this proposal, the results of which were as follows:

5 - For
1 - Against

Cllr Jackson reminded Councillors that the Casualty Reduction Scheme only records incidents where people are injured.

P14.351 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

John Adams reported that the latest statistics were for June, which show there were only two incidents - one ASBO, and 1 vehicle crime. John stated that Colin Freeman's replacement (Paul Harris) had started to send out detailed reports of incidents that was very helpful. These reports are issued every week. The Facebook site now has 72 members, up from 40, which is great news. Alison Sainsbury (Toot Hill) has worked really hard to encourage people to join the group. Consideration was now being given to having a Whatsapp group, as many people don't use Facebook. It was **AGREED** this suggestion should be included in News and Views, making it clear that interested parties should contact John in person, and that if they joined the group their mobile number would be visible to everybody else in the group (Data Protection). These individuals would need to give their express permission.

P14.352 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Members **RECEIVED** an oral report from the Clerk as follows:

- On Monday 11 September 2017, Essex Highways will be sending out a survey to all Parish and Town Councils, District Councillors and a range of private and public organisations to seek their views on highways priorities and to obtain satisfaction levels for the specific services that are provided by Essex Highways. The survey will be open on-line for 3 weeks until 1 October 2017. An e-mail will be sent to all Parish Clerks, District Councillors and other stakeholders containing the link to the survey. This survey is intended to obtain the collective view of each Parish or Town Council, District Councillor or organisation, and as a result, only one return per District Councillor, Parish or Town Council or stakeholder will be accepted. A copy of the survey was handed out to Councillors, asking them to fill in their suggested responses.
- The National Police Air Service (NPAS) has approached Epping Forest District Council with a view to moving their operation from Lippitt Hill to North Weald Airfield. This will involve 3

Helicopters and 1 Fixed Wing Aircraft, which will be permanently based at the Airfield. There will be a maximum of 20,000 movements, 10,000 up and 10,000 down, per annum, 24/7, 365 day per year, on a 25 year lease.

- Local Councils' Liaison Committee, Monday 11 September, 2017
- Community payback email.
- Members Code of Conduct Training EFDC 2nd October 6pm to 9pm - Councillors to let Clerk know if they would like to attend.
- Email from Bill Heffernan - Suggested editorial in News and Views asking for volunteer to take on the task. **AGREED.**

P14.353 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. To CONSIDER any planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment as detailed below			
EPF/2110/17	Edgefield, London Road Stanford Rivers, Ongar CM5 9PH	Loft conversion with new roof structure and rear dormers. NO OBJECTION	
2. To NOTE any planning applications that have been responded to via the Clerks delegated powers			
EPF/0954/17	Widows Farm, Toot Hill Road, Ongar, Essex CM5 9QR	Change of use of land and conversion of former stock building to single dwelling within its own private curtilage. NO OBJECTION	
EPF/1946/17	Long Acre Cottage, School Road, Stanford Rivers	Erection of a car port and storage room to the front left of the property. The Parish Council OBJECTS to this application. The proposed location and size of the car port and storage room are excessive and overly dominant when considered against the street scene	
3. To NOTE any planning applications upon which EFDC do not normally accept comments			
EPF/1991/17 DRC	Land Adjacent to Covars Mead, School Road, Toot Hill, ONGAR CM5 9PU	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 10 'tree protection' on planning application EPF/0841/17 (Erection of two storey dwelling, complete with cart lodge/studio, infrastructure and associated works, including new access from School Road)	
EPF/1933/17	48 Stewarts Cross, School Road, Stanford Rivers Ongar, Essex, CM5 9PT	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 2 'surface water disposal' on planning application EPF/0180/17 (single storey side and rear extension).	
4. To NOTE any enforcement actions or appeals - NONE			
5. To NOTE the following PLANNING DECISIONS by EFDC			

- b) **4 Epping Road, Toot Hill** - Councillors **NOTED** that he Clerk has been made aware of issues concerning work being undertaken at 4 Epping Road, Toot Hill. The Chairman gave a summary stating that vehicles were regularly parked on the highways which caused a problem with visibility along this road, as well as exiting neighbouring properties. There was also a Mobile home in front garden. Cllr Hollington stated that he had visited site and spoke with the owner in an attempt to try and alleviate some of the issues, however he was not sure how successful this was. The Clerk had advised that she had contacted a planning officer at EFDC who had agreed to investigate the issue.

P14.354 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- **Lime Tree, Small green triangle, at junction of School Road and Berwick Lane** - Works complete

- **Toot Hill Village Hall** - It was noted that the cost to complete garden maintenance works for the Toot Hill Village Hall was £45 per time.

P14.355 DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillors **NOTED** that the Clerk had yet to establish what responsibilities came with the Defibrillator, and that this would be established by the next meeting. Cllr Hollington expressed concern that individuals may be liable for action taken. The Clerk stated that she would detail this at the next meeting.

P14.356 REPORTS

Members **RECEIVED** the following reports:

Chairman's Report - The Chairman reported that the Toot Hill Show was well attended as usual, albeit slightly windy resulting in it having to be tied to the large tent.

Vice Chairman's Report - The Vice Chairman also reported on the positive Toot Hill Event.

District / County Councillors Report - Cllr Brady stated there was nothing major to report, however stated that the issue of speeding vehicles was also prevalent in Stappleford Abbots, who had no joy with ECC.

Councillors Report - Cllr Jackson reported on the suggestion that the Parish Council could record details of any vehicle accidents that they were made aware of, even if nobody was injured. This had come about following Cllr Jackson being made aware of a number of incident involving cards in ditches, knowing that these would not be reported or included in any police statistics. It was suggested this should be included in News and Views.

Cllr Tallon reported that he was deeply concerned about Banks Lane from the bottom of the Hill going through Tawney Common where the bridge is. He uses this lane around four times per day, and believes that he avoids accidents at this location roughly 50% of the time due to cars going over the other side of the road. Vehicles are scraping along the bollards on the bridge. There are no warning signs which exacerbates the problem. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would liaise with Theydon Mount PC who had already recognised this problem to establish if a joint approach could be taken, perhaps via the LHP.

P14.357 HIGHWAYS

Local Highways Panel

a) Finger Posts - Councillors **NOTED** that the Clerk was liaising with Anthony Purkiss regarding these works, and that in march 2017, the LHP awarded £9,000 in this financial year towards the re-instatement of rotten and poorly maintained fingerposts in the district. Anthony has managed to get Marcus of Heritage finger posts signs (www.fingerpostsigns.com) as an ECC Ringway Jacobs approved contractor to complete works to finger posts. Anthony has the following completed some work, and the following area listed as needing to be completed:

- Toot Hill opposite Toot Hill Road - 3-armed finger post . All that is left is a post. Have a photo of original with signage. Should show Stanford Rivers & Epping, Village Hall and Clatterford End + Greensted, Bobbingworth and Ongar.
- Mount Road junction with Mount End – Theydon Mount (3-arms) –close to red telephone box.
- Mount Road J/W Banks Lane – Theydon Mount (3-arms)
- Mount Road J/W Colemans Farm – Theydon Mount (smaller section post and laying on ground)
- Greensted Church, Greensted Road J/W Ongar – Stanford Rivers (3 arms).
- Mutton Row J/W Church Road /Old Rectory Road/School Road opposite Church of St Margaret. Post used to be here on crossroads but was destroyed in an accident a couple of years ago. It would be helpful if any pictures were available.
- Tawney Common J/W Epping Road & Colliers Hatch. Metal sign and post which only shows one direction “Epping” another arm needs casting to indicate Ongar/ Toot Hill - not sure if another finger broken off. Councillors are asked to advise if they are aware of what missing post stated.

- Re-instate fingerpost on A113 London Road J/W with Church Road indicating to Toot Hill.

Anthony has a meeting with Sarah Alcock (LHP ECC Highways) to discuss these on 3rd October. Councillors **NOTED** that further funding was hoped for the next round of LHP 2018/2019.

Anthony had also mentioned a finger post that used to be in the middle of the cross roads (by what he believes was Spooners Road) however he was unsure if that was in our Parish. Any evidence of this would be great. It was suggested this could be included in the Lord of the Manor book.

b) Footpaths - ECC Highways is liaising with both the Ramblers and the owner of Colemans to ensure the new footpath is kept clear. Councillors are asked to report any inactivity to the Clerk. It was reported that the Essex Way at of bottom of Mill Lane is now blocked by a fallen fence. This has been reported, however the Clerk the was asked to report again.

c) Local Highways Panel

- LEPP162024 - Drainage scheme Stanford Rivers - for consideration in 2018/2019 financial year.
- Stanford Rivers - remove the centre lining where the width of the carriageway is less than 55m - Currently in validation phase.
- Speed changes A113 - earlier agenda item.
- Removal of White Lines, Stanford Rivers - advice received from Sarah Alcock that this scheme has been looked into, and that a speed survey needs to be completed before this can be progressed further. It would appear this was overlooked, and Sarah apologised for the delay. Once this has been completed, the validation process can be completed and an update will be given to the panel for them to consider this scheme to put in the programme for the next financial year 18/19.
- There were no proposed works for Highway Rangers.

P14.358 NEWS AND VIEWS

Councillors **NOTED** that the current cost to print News and Views was £164 for a 350no. print run, however the Clerk needed to drive to Brentwood to collect the copies. A quote had been received from a different, more local printers, at a cost of £153 for a 300no. print run which included delivery. It was **AGREED** that this printer should be trialled. It was **AGREED** that an update on the A113 speed issue should also be included.

P14.359 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts - The following payments were authorised, and the income and account balances were **NOTED**. **PROPOSED** Cllr Glover, **SECONDED** Cllr Tallon.

Reference	To	For	Amount
BACS	Adriana Jones	Clerk salary August and September	£720.00 <i>(paid monthly)</i>
BACS	HMRC	PAYE August and September	£180.00 <i>(paid monthly)</i>
BACS	Thornwood Grounds Maint	Grass cutting in Parish June and July, Toot Hill entrance way cut back, lower branch removal Triangle	£792.00 (£132 VAT)
BACS	Catalyst Image Solutions	News and Views printing Sep/Oct	£153.00
BACS	British Heart Foundation	Contribution towards Defibrillator	£600.00
D/D	Public Works Loan Board	Loan repayment THVH	£1,641.63

Bank Balances as at 31st August 2017

Unity Current Account	£ 4,331.81
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Unity Deposit Account	£ 28,906.57
Barclays 90832650	£ 2,368.35
Barclays 00443549	£ 2,427.28

INCOME: NIL

P14.360 TOOT HILL VILLAGE HALL

Councillors **NOTED** that following the Expression of interest to the ECC CIF to obtain grant funding, approval had been given to formally apply for funding for the following:

- o £1165 - works to provide new Door to the Garage
- o £1495 - works to provide new fence and clearance works at the entrance road to the hall.
- o £3490 - To provide new £1,000 would be used towards these works from the Parish Council held funds.

Cllr Tallon expressed concern at the safety of the Garage, and it was **AGREED** he would contact Mr Wickham to complete and inspection and report back to the Clerk

P14.361 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Councillors **NOTED** the dates of the next meetings:

- 9th November
- 11th January
- 8th March

Signed Date