

Stanford Rivers PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 13th September 2018

Time: 5.30pm

Venue: Toot Hill Village Hall, Toot Hill

PRESENT:

Councillors (7) John Glover (Chairman), Cllr Hollington, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Adams, T Suridja, M Tallon
Cllr Mrs Jackman

Also in Attendance (1) - Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public (2) EFDC Cllr Brady, ECC Cllr McEwen

Members of the Press (1)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

P14.481 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

P14.482 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

P14.483 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

P14.484 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th July 2018 were **APPROVED** and duly signed by the Chairman.

P14.485 DEATH OF MR ALAN BUCKLEY, PREVIOUS COUNCILLOR

Councillors **NOTED** the death of previous Councillor Mr Alan Buckley who passed away on 8th August 2018. Cllr Buckley had been an active member of the community for many years, and had served as a Councillor for this Parish for over 10 years. Cllr Jackson suggested that in memory and recognition of his service to this community, a donation of £100 should be made to Macmillan Cancer Support, Alan's chosen charity. This was **AGREED** by all present.

P14.486 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Cllrs **NOTED** that as no election had been called following the erection of the relevant notices on the Parish Notice Board, the Council were now able to co-opt. There had been an application for the position of Councillor from Mrs Sheila Jackman MBE. A vote was taken, and all present **AGREED** to co-opt Mrs Jackman as Councillor for Stanford Rivers Parish Council. Cllr Mrs Jackman thanked the Council, and duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

P14.487 A113 SPEED WORKING GROUP

Councillors **NOTED** the responses to the suggestions of the working group in order to try and address the various highway issues on the A113 through Stanford Rivers:

- *An engineer visited site on 29th May 2018 and we measured the road outside no.19 edge to edge of carriageway as 5.6m. It was noted that the carriageway has just been resurfaced and glass studs embedded in the centre line. It is measured edge to edge as this is the extent of the highway available for vehicles to utilise. There would not therefore be justification for removing the existing centre line.*
- *The section from the gateway sign westwards for 312 meters - this should stay at 30mph and a proposal be put forward to put in double white lines and no overtaking signs/orders as this section of the road is wider than 6.1m. – Double white lines to prohibit overtaking are implemented when there is reduced forward visibility and overtaking would be considered dangerous as the driver does not have a clear view of the road ahead to see oncoming traffic*

or there is a history of accidents as a result of overtaking this location does not meet that criteria, therefore this is not something that can be considered.

- *The section from the Woodman to the village gateway signs - At the moment this stretch is designated as a National Speed Limit section and it was agreed this should form a 40mph buffer zone with double white lines and no overtaking signs/orders as road is wider than 6.1m. An evidence gathering programme at Parish Level is taking place to gather the necessary information and data to support the suggestions including accidents, near misses, photographs, videos and other relevant reports. – This section of the road has previously been assessed under by the Speed Limit Review 2011 and again in 2017 as part of the LHP scheme request to look at the A113 speed restrictions. The response would remain the same as it was on these previous occasions that the geography of the road does not lend itself to a reduction in the speed limit and what is installed on site is in line with the Essex Speed Management Strategy. The key to a successfully observed speed limit is for drivers to appreciate the reasons why they are expected to adopt a lower speed whereas the layout along the A113 in the vicinity of the Woodman does not evidence a need for lower speeds.*

To install a speed limit that does not fit the profile can encourage faster speeds. The Essex Highways suggestion of implementing a 40mph buffer from the current western terminal point of the village to a point approximately 80metres south of the junction with Church Road would go some way towards ensuring that vehicles have slowed when the more populated parts of the village have been reached. As we discussed when we met in October this proposal however had been rejected by the residents so was not progressed further.

- *The national speed limit signs just beyond the gateway in a westerly direction are causing drivers to accelerate before they exit the village. These should be removed. – These terminal speed limit signs cannot be removed as they define the section of road where the speed limit changes. To remove them would also invalidate the 30mph speed limit as what is on the “ground” must be reflective of the Traffic Regulation Order in place.*

Cllr Adams expressed his frustration at that it was ECC Highways who had initially suggested the removal of the white lining as an option, and now they were saying this was not a possibility. In addition, Matthew Valentine (ECC) had suggested some other ideas, such as additional gateway signs to improve the entrance to the village, however nothing had happened. Cllr Suridja reminded those present that there had been two fatalities that week. Cllr Jackson advised that the biggest problem seems to be the regular commuters who use this route. Cllr Hollington mentioned the overgrown hedge which could give the impression of the road being thinner than it actually was. Cllr Adams suggested roundels on the road would be a good idea. Cllr Hollington advised that he was following a vehicle doing 30mph through Little End recently, and he felt this was too slow and actually would make people want to overtake. After discussion, it was **AGREED** to invite a representative of ECC Highways to attend a PC meeting to advise what was a possibility, rather than just being told what wasn't.

P14.488 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

Councillors **NOTED** the recent crime figures for the Parish reported by Cllr Adams. Cllr Suridja advised that he had recently been the target of an attempted break-in. Cllr Adams advised that throughout the District, number plate thefts and thefts of Range Rovers and transit vans was an issue. The advice is to screw your number plate on, do not glue.

It was noted that fly tipping was not recorded as a crime. Cllr Hollington advised that there had been two large loads dumped outside Stewarts Farm. The Chairman reminded Councillors of the very high cost of actually disposing of waste, which contributes to the rise in waste criminals. EFDC Cllr Brady advised that a neighbouring parish had asked for cameras to be set up which had happened, however the cost to supply a camera able to capture images in the dark was in excess of £5,000 per camera. In addition, the cameras themselves are at risk of being stolen. Fly tipping remains an issues for the rural areas in EFDC, including this Parish.

P14.489 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

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

- Local Defibrillator list – attached to agenda

- Community Special Constables Briefing – note section regarding Special's in the community (attached to the agenda)
- Police and Fire Conference 2018 - 20th November 2018 Time: 09:00 - 15:00 - Lunch & Refreshments provided Venue: Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow, Essex Discounted Price: £25 - This year the keynote speaker is Essex Police & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst other speakers include the Chief Executive Jo Turton of the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service. There will be time to put your questions to the panel with panel members: Police & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst, Police Chief Constable B J Harrington, Special Constabulary Superintendent Simon Anslow, GTRET Ian Gennery, Essex Police head of roads Adam Pipe and Chief Executive of Essex County Fire & Rescue Jo Turton.
- Epping Forest Community Champions
- Letter from Local Residents concerning overgrown hedge 10 London Road – Agreed Clerk would write to both parties who have an interest in the property. Cllr Adams to send Adriana some photographs.
- Email request financial support / grant for the cutting of the Churchyard - It was **NOTED** that the Parish Council already gives a grant of £600 for this.
- Singing in the Wilderness – EFDC Museums, Heritage and Culture team and St John's C of E Primary School, Buckhurst Hill are hosting an event to celebrate the life and work of local artist Walter Spradbery at St John's C of E Primary School, High Road, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 5RX, When: Saturday 29 September Time: 3pm – 7pm, Free Event
- Bin intrusion into roadway – It was **AGREED** that a notice would be sent to the property in question, and that there should be an article in News and Views. In addition, Councillors would advise the Clerk of any other instances of countryside encroachment.
- Grounds contractor asked to clear White Bear Path

P14.490 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Councillors **NOTED** that following a period of consultation, on 31st July EFDC full council approved changes to the delegation arrangements that apply to all planning applications. A copy of the document which details these changes was attached to the agenda. The Chairman advised that Ongar Town Council no longer comments on many planning applications, and that despite these changes he was not concerned as this Parish Council were very thorough and detailed in their planning responses. It was **AGREED** that details of these changes should feature in a future issue of News and Views so that local residents are aware of what action they can, and should, take if they have concerns about an application. Cllr Mrs Jackman stated this should also extend to advising that they are able to speak at the relevant planning committees at the District Council. Cllr Adams queried if the wording 'no objection' was the right wording to use, however it was noted that the Council could use any wording it sees fit.

b) To **AGREE** responses to the following Planning applications:

1. To CONSIDER any planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment as detailed below			
EPF/2271/18	12 Epping Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar CM5 9SQ	Proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Two additional dormers to front roof slope.	NO OBJECTION
2. To NOTE any planning applications that have been responded to via the Clerks delegated powers			
EPF/1520/18	Willow House 131 London Road Stanford Rivers Ongar Essex CM5 9PP	Rear dormer/loft conversion including Juliet balcony (renewal of lapsed consent EPF/910/13).	NO OBJECTION
EPF/2036/18	Clunes House Mill Lane Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9SF	Construction of an open, 3 bayed barn to store sheep, pigs and equipment	NO OBJECTION
EPF/1870/18	16 Epping Road Stanford Rivers Ongar CM5 9SQ	First floor extension and two storey infill extension to rear.	NO OBJECTION
3. To NOTE any planning applications upon which EFDC do not normally accept comments			
NIL			
4. To NOTE any enforcement actions or appeals.			
APPEAL – Against refusal			

Application No: EPF/1393/17

Landvest Developments Limited

153a London Road Stanford Rivers Ongar Essex CM5 9QF

Residential scheme comprising 5 no. residential dwellings with associated off-street parking, garden space and external landscaping.

The Parish Council fully supports the District Council's objection to this application. The site in question is located on a locally notorious stretch of road with extremely poor visibility splays. The applicant states there are 'significant opportunities for walking' and that the application complies with local plan policy ST2 (which seeks to ensure that new development is designed to provide safe, pleasant and convenient access for pedestrians and cyclists), however there is not a pedestrian pathway at this location and as such the Parish Council fails to see how this provides 'safe pedestrian access'. In fact, pedestrians will have to walk on the road when they exit the site to gain access to any other parts of the village. In addition, 6.4 states that 'the site benefits from a good level of accessibility, borne out by its access to a wide range of destination by public transport (bus, cycle and walking)'. We have addressed walking, however it should be noted that no public bus service goes past this site, and this is something the Parish Council has been trying to secure for some time without success. This is not a sustainable site. The proposed development also represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt, and is by definition harmful.

APPEAL – Against Refusal

Application No: EPF/2937/17

Founthill Land - Ltd Land at School Road Stanford Rivers Ongar Essex CM5 9QS Erection of 4 no. four bedroom semi-detached dwellings

The Parish Council supports the objection of the District Council. The Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the basis of overdevelopment in the Green Belt, in that this is NOT 'infill' development this is also outside the village envelope.

APPEAL – Against Refusal

Application No: EPF/3141/17

Mr P Marigliane -Lilac House 6 London Road Stanford Rivers Ongar Essex CM5 9PH New dwelling within the residential curtilage of Lilac House and associated car parking for the new and existing dwellings.

The Parish Council supports the District Council with their objection. The Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the basis that the plans do not clearly identify that there is sufficient turning space to allow vehicles parked in each of the allocated parking spaces to exit the property forward facing. In addition, this is an extremely narrow stretch of road, and the plans do not clearly identify that there is sufficient room for vehicles exiting the site to do so safely and without being a danger to other road users. It should be noted also that this site is within the Green Belt, and the test of 'infill' would need to be applied. Should the District Council be minded to grant permission, consideration MUST be given to the potential hazards that would be created by construction traffic / vehicles that would be used at the time of the build, which could be dealt with by way of condition so as to not cause any obstruction or danger to what is a priority 1 route. Construction Traffic must not be permitted to stop / park on the road whilst making deliveries, or for waiting. In addition, any pre-commencement conditions imposed by Highways should be rigorously adhered to.

5. To NOTE any other planning matters.

Councillors **NOTED** that the Section 106 payment due to EFDC by Millrites had still not been received, and that this was contrary to their obligations under the Section 106 agreement. EFDC's Interim Planning Lawyer was chasing this and would be sending another letter prior to taking legal action against the developer.

P14.491 REPORTS

Members **RECEIVED** the following reports:

Chairman's Report – No report.

Vice Chairman's Report – Cllr Jackson reported that himself and a number of other Councillors had recently attended some GDPR training, and that as a result of this there were a number of points he wanted to raise, the first being that it is the Parish Council, as a body, which is responsible

for GDPR and not the Clerk as an individual. In addition, the website needed some work to ensure certain notices were uploaded to ensure compliance. Cllr Adams would be dealing with this. The Clerk advised that work was needed, however this would be a process of continuous review and adherence. It was **AGREED** that Data Protection would be placed on the May Annual Meeting each year for an update.

District / County Councillors Report – Cllr Brady updated members on the Transformation Programme currently underway at the District Council, advising that this will mainly affect the structure of the Council itself and not necessarily the services being offered. It was about streamlining to ensure duplication is avoided and money savings where appropriate. There will be Directorates instead of Heads of Services. Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Brady for this update.

Cllr Brady took this opportunity to reiterate an earlier point raised in the meeting confirming that having local residents attend planning committees was extremely important, as it shows that residents are genuinely interested in the outcome of an application. Cllr McEwen supported this point, stating that if an objection is made then those individuals must be prepared to attend these meetings, and should ensure that their objections are material planning matters.

Cllr McEwen advised that after a three month period of leave, she had come straight back and attended Overview and Scrutiny, where one of the points raised was the future of Princess Alexandra Hospital. The Chief Executive of the hospital and the Chair of the CCG were present, and where all hopeful that they will get a new hospital. This is expected to be announced in the Spring Statement. There are two possible sites – one by the new M11 Junction 7a, and the other still north of the Gilston site.

Councillors **NOTED** the August Highway report as attached to the agenda.

Councillors Reports – Cllr Jackson reported on the Community Speedwatch newsletter that comes out each month, and mentioned the upcoming Essex wide Community Speedwatch event taking place on 19th September.

Cllr Adams stated that as agreed at a previous meeting, he had taken some time to review the suitability of the parish website, and after investigation feels that the free site offered by ECC is much more basic than the current one. As such, he suggested the current website is retained, and that Councillors give him some time to review the current website with a view to working to improve it going forward in accordance with what is needed. Cllr Suridja asked if there was a counter on the site to review how many people actually look at it, to which Cllr Adams stated he would find out.

Cllr Adams reported that following the success of the Ongar Town Festival, they would be aiming to hold this event each year, and were hoping it would take place on May 5th in 2019. Cllr Adams asked for permission from the Parish Council to place a banner on Jubilee Green in April 2019 to advertise this event. This permission was **AGREED**.

Cllr Adams asked if the January meeting could be moved forward to 3rd January. It was **AGREED** this would be discussed at the November meeting.

Cllr Tallon reported that he had been advised by two local residents that a number of people seem to be extending their gardens to the road side. The Chairman advised that this was the same issue as the bins.

Cllr Tallon advised that parking was becoming a problem within Toot Hill and suggested that perhaps the owner of the land by Barnmead could be approached to consider if alterations could be made to the parking area at the front of this area whereby vehicles would be able to pull in and reverse out, almost doubling the parking spaces. It was **AGREED** the Clerk would establish who owned this land, and approach them. This may be a potential LHP scheme.

Cllr Tallon reported that he had recently attended Highway Patrol Training, and that the speed of vehicles going through Toot Hill Village at about 6.30am was causing concern regarding accidents and near misses. There will need to be three volunteers to complete Speedwatch in this area.

Cllr Tallon suggested that defibrillator pads for children should be purchased and kept in the defib case.

It was **AGREED** a new first aid kit would be purchased for Toot Hill Village Hall.

P14.492 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Councillors recalled that historically the Parish Council hadn't been specifically involved with any parish remembrance events held within the Parish, and at a previous meeting it was agreed this should change going forward. The Clerk had contacted Rev Neil Taylor asking what services will be held this year, however a responses had not yet been received. Cllr Tallon advised he would not be available.

P14.493 FINGER POSTS

Councillors **NOTED** the finger post in Toot Hill had now been erected.

P14.494 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr Adams had asked for this item to go on the agenda with a view to further community events being considered for the Parish. No further events were agreed. Councillors discussed the Christmas event, and the Chairman agreed he would erect a banner on Jubilee Green. It was also agreed that leaflets would be delivered to each house in Stanford Rivers, and that the Chairman would try and source some flashing beacons for safety.

P14.495 EALC AGM AND CONFERENCE

Councillors **NOTED** this year's EALC 73rd Annual General Meeting, Essex County Council and EALC joint Conference Event will be held on 20th September 2018, doors will open at 11am and the EALC AGM will commence at 12 noon. The Clerk is attending this event, and Councillors were encouraged to do so.

P14.496 TOOT HILL VILLAGE SHOW

It was **NOTED** this year's event was extremely successful, with the Parish Council having a stand at the show promoting Neighbourhood Watch and associated schemes, as well as raising awareness about Faraday bags.

P14.497 POLICIES

It was **AGREED** this would be rolled over to the next agenda.

P14.498 NEWS AND VIEWS

Other than the items put forward earlier in the meeting, no further items were suggested for inclusion in News and Views.

P14.499 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) List of payments & Monthly Statement of Accounts - The following payments were authorised, and the income and account balances were **NOTED**.

Reference	To	For	Amount
BACS	Adriana Jones	Clerks Salary August & September	£720.00 <i>(paid monthly)</i>
BACS	HMRC	PAYE August & September	£180.00 <i>(paid monthly)</i>
D/D	Public Works Loan Board	Toot Hill Village Hall – Loan payment	£1,603.63
BACS	Viking Direct	Stationery – stamps and Envelopes N&V	£382.66 <i>(£5.78 VAT)</i>
BACS	HCI Data	Domain name renewal 2 years	£84.00 <i>(£14.00)</i>
	Catalyst Printing	Newsletter – extra cost printing, plus September edition	£212.00
BACS	EALC	Planning Briefing	£55.00

Bank Balances as at 31st August 2018

Unity Current Account	£ 3,310.80
Unity Deposit Account	£ 29,373.56
Barclays 90832650	£ 0
Barclays 00443549	£ Under investigation

P14.500 TOOT HILL VILLAGE HALL

Councillors **NOTED** the letter received from the Essex Silk Painters, thanking the Committee for the improvements to the hall, however expressing concern about the spongy floor outside the ladies toilets. The Chairman confirmed that this issue was investigated earlier that day, and the problem is due to the floor being waterlogged causing the woodwork to go soft. Air vents will need to be created to dry out the floor as it seems this area may have been waterlogged for some time. These repairs would be arranged.

P14.501 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

- 8th November
- 3rd or 10th January (to be confirmed at next meeting)

P14.502 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

As the Agenda contained Exempt (pink) pages and the item needed to be discussed confidentially, a motion was passed that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.

P14.503 GIGACLEAR

Councillors discussed the proposed changes to the Gigaclear agreement to lay Fibre Optic Broadband under the triangle in Toot Hill, and it was **AGREED** to sign the agreement with the suggested changes.

Signed Date