

Stanford Rivers PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Meeting: PARISH COUNCIL

Date: 11th July 2024

Time: 5.30pm

Toot Hill Village Hall, Toot Hill Road, Toot Hill, Essex

PRESENT:

Councillors (5) Cllr Glover (Chairman), Cllr Jackson, Cllr Tallon, Cllr Adams, Cllr Saridja

Also in Attendance (1) - Adriana Jones – Clerk

Members of the Public (5) – Inc EFDC Cllr Amos

Members of the Press (0)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions.

P14.1200 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

P14.1201 OTHER ABSENCES

Cllr Hollington.

P14.1202 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

P14.1203 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Councillors noted that Mrs Jackman had expressed an interest in being co-opted however was unable to attend this meeting. Councillors **AGREED** this matter should be deferred to the September meeting.

P14.1204 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 9th May, and the Extraordinary meeting on 18th June 2024.

P14.1205 MEMBERS REPORTS

- Chairman's Report – The Chairman advised that he had made arrangements to fix the light issues in the Toot Hill Village, with two of the uplighters being replaced, and the remainder that were not working having new halogen lighting fitted. The WC also had a light replaced.
- Vice Chairman's Report – Cllr Jackson advised that the D-Day commemorative event went very well. He also advised he had contacted Gigaclear following recent price increases.
- District and County Councillor reports – EFDC Cllr Amos was present advising this was the first meeting he had attended, and confirmed he would do his best to attend as many Stanford Rivers meetings as possible. Cllr Amos provided a detailed update on the possible changes to the EFDC planning system, stating that this was as a direct result of a report completed by the Planning Advisory Service which criticised several aspects of how EFDC operate their planning committees. Full details of this were included in an agenda item later in the meeting. Cllr Amos stated it was important that weight was given to local views as local people know their own areas. The Clerk advised she was concerned about point 8 in the proposed EFDC Code of Conduct which set out that District Councillors overall responsibility is to the people of the district and not their wards, and the Clerk asked that Cllr Amos took this back to EFDC. The Chairman explained that there had been a number of inefficiencies with planning at EFDC over recent years including enforcement, to which Cllr Amos advised that retaining and recruiting planning staff had been a real issue.
- Parish Councillor reports – None.

P14.1206 CLERKS COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Members **RECEIVED** a verbal report from the Clerk as follows:

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- The Clerk is now receiving the outcome of planning appeals direct from EFDC
- EFDC has launched its new Community Lottery – full details can be found at <https://www.eppingforestcommunitylottery.co.uk/#offer-home-block>
- Ride London feedback survey – link has been posted on social media. Cllr Jackson suggested the Parish Council should give feedback, suggesting that this parish is heavily affected and that perhaps the event should go through other areas in Essex for the next two years. The Chairman advised that one benefit was that the potholes got filled, and it was accepted that there were both upsides and downsides to the event.
- A decision as to whether to hold a First Aid course will take place at the September meeting following the next edition of News and Views.
- Essex Salt Partnership – closing date 22nd July 2024 – Clerk had ordered more salt, and it would be delivered direct to the Toot Hill Village Hall for storage.
- Clerk still to order new Christmas Lights for the tree
- Understood that two sets of 5 day closures of Shonks Mill had now been completed
- Emails received from ECC Highways regarding 40mph signage that has appeared on some of the ECC posts on the A113 London Road, Stapleford Tawney. Not in our Parish, so Clerk directed her to correct parish council. It was understood the signs had now been removed.
- Annual Return 23/24 information submitted to external auditor and published on website.

P14.1207 SOLAR FARM

Councillors recalled the consultation in 2023 for the possible solar farm on land off Berwick Lane. In June, households in the Parish received a leaflet advising of the revised suggestions for a Solar Farm, which included a reduced site area further away from the two properties, and an alternative access point off Tawney Lane. The Clerk had also received direct correspondence, and the Parish Council was being asked for feedback on the new proposals. Councillors noted that although a formal planning application had not yet been received, a planning application for an Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion had been made and decided - EPF/1142/24. The response to this screening opinion states the following:

“Taking into account the above criteria’s, it is considered that; whilst the scale of the development is substantial, the proposal is not located within a sensitive area as defined in regulation 2(1) of the EIA Regulations. In addition, the nature of the proposal is that it has a limited lifespan, and the land can easily be restored to its former state. The site is accessible from the existing road network and does not require significant infrastructure changes in the locality. Nothing in the submission suggests that the development which would have an unusually complex or potentially hazardous environmental effects. Thus, any potential impacts of the development would be localised and can be mitigated by suitably worded planning conditions and/or planning obligations, subject to detailed assessments on the relevant Planning Considerations. As such the development would not give rise to significant effects on the wider environment and therefore the proposal is not considered to require an Environmental Impact Assessment. “

Councillors noted that there was a further sentence within the screening opinion which states the following:
“Notwithstanding the above, a recent similar development has come forward (currently at pre-app stage) which would extend from this site to the north, so there may be a cumulative impact should both schemes come forward together and be approved.”

The Clerk had contacted both the site promoters and the planning officer of the Solar Farm to ask them for further information on this statement, however the site promoters advised they are not aware, and the planning officer advised that these discussions are confidential.

The Clerk had also contacted one of the local residents who lives directly adjacent to the proposed solar farm asking for their opinion on the proposed changes, and read out for Councillors a copy of his response. Cllr Jackson reminded Councillors that the original proposals included a community benefit of £25,000, and that at the public consultation event he attended he was advised this was a starting figure, and that we should not forget this. The Chairman advised on how recent developments for land fill sites happen in America, with local communities receiving a regular percentage of the income generated, and that perhaps this should be the same for a solar farm. After full discussion about the revised proposals, it was **AGREED** the Clerk should respond to include the following comments:

- Confirmation that the changes were an improvement, but that they didn't go far enough
- Reminder about the Community Benefit
- Pleased to see a reduction in the size on operation on the field behind the houses
- Ask if there were any plans for further extending the operation into neighbouring fields

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P14.1208 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Cllr Adams advised there was nothing specific to report for this Parish, however there had been a couple of thefts from sheds and outbuildings in the Stapleford Area.

P14.1209 VILLAGE SIGN FOR STANFORD RIVERS

At the May meeting, Cllr Adams asked that this matter was placed on the next agenda. Stanford Rivers Parish has a sign on Jubilee Green, located on the old 'United Reform Church' which burnt down on the site. It was erected to mark the Millennium on the site, and the sign was specifically designed to include an image of the old chapel building, and was a contemporary design to signify the location of the church. It is unclear however if this was a formal village sign.

A local resident who was in the public gallery (who spoke at the start of the meeting under public questions but recorded here for ease) who was also a previous Parish Clerk provided an update on the sign, and passed to the Clerk a publication entitled 'Town and Village Signs' which detailed that the current sign was a village sign, and setting out the importance of the sign. The Clerk had previously already looked at this book, advising that it doesn't specific state it is a village sign but a marker for the congregational church.

Cllr Adams advised that the purpose of the idea was to try and make the identity of Stanford Rivers clearer that it is a village – something similar to that in Toot Hill. This would be visible to road traffic and was part of the idea to tidy up the area, including the road verges. This was all part of the same idea to make it clear to drivers that they are driving through a residential area.

The Clerk advised that the cost of a new village sign would be between £5-10,000. Cllr Tallon suggested a 'Welcome to Stanford Rivers' and 'Thank You for Visiting' sign could be good, as this works from his experience. It was agreed that these proposals did not involve the removal of the congregational marker currently on this green, and this would of course be retained. The Clerk felt this was a good idea, however ECC would probably not support these extra signs as there were already gateway signs at this location and ECC didn't like too much street furniture. It was noted that any permanent structure on the green may require permission from ECC as part of the land was leased. The Chairman suggested a local competition to design such a sign would be a good idea. Cllr Tallon asked if Stanford Rivers was twinned with any other village, which it was not. Cllr Jackson suggested there should be two discussions – one about a village sign, and one about 'Welcome to Stanford Rivers' signs, as they were in effect two separate issues. The Clerk suggested perhaps a planting structure with a sign incorporated into it on Jubilee Green, possibly identifying Hare Street and Little End. The suggestion of flower boxes at the front of the gateway signs could be an option, but this would also include maintenance. It was noted that the Gateway Sign does seem to have had an impact on speeding traffic. After further discussion, it was **AGREED** the Clerk would place the issue of a village sign / welcome signs on the Budget meeting in January, however an item for the September meeting would be for flower boxes by the Gateway signs.

P14.1210 WORKING GROUPS

1. Solar Panels at Village Hall Working Group

Councillors noted that the Parish Council had been successful in its National Lottery Funding bid of £20,000 towards placing solar panels on the roof of the Toot Hill Village Hall. Together with the other funding received, this totalled £35,000 in grant funding, along with £15,000 from earmarked reserves. The Working Group have met twice, the latest being 10th July, and it had been recommended that the Council arrange for a meeting on site with the contractor to look at the actual structure of the hall as it needed to be ascertained if the hall was capable of taking the weight of the solar panels. The Clerk advised that costings had been received for the proposed works, including the solar panels, and that their structural engineer would be able to provide a clearer idea about the ability to progress. Cllr Tallon advised that Mr Heffernan may have some information about the structure of the building that could help. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would arrange for a site meeting.

2. CCTV at Village Hall

Whilst the working group had not yet met, the Clerk raised a potential issue. At the Budget/Precept meeting in January, the Parish Council agreed to earmark funds towards the purchase of CCTV for the Village Hall. The Clerk had completed some research into this, and there is a responsibility on Local Authorities that they must have "*A clear legal basis for the use of CCTV, and must take into account the nature of the problem they are seeking to address; whether a surveillance system would be a justified and an effective solution, whether better solutions exist, what effect its use may have on individuals, and whether in the light of this, its use is a proportionate response to the problem. The fact that it is possible, affordable or has public support should not be the justification for processing personal data.*" As such,

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the Clerk stated that perhaps a starting point in terms of the first security measure should be to place a coded lock on the entrance gate to the hall. This could then be reviewed in 12 months time, and revisited if necessary. Councillors considered this matter in detail, and felt that the protection of the village hall, which was the Council's largest asset, and given its secluded location, was justification for the installation of CCTV, and Cllr Jackson **PROPOSED** we move forward with obtaining quotes. This was **SECONDED** by Cllr Saridja. It was **AGREED** to move forward with CCTV.

P14.1211 STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL CALL TO ACTION

Councillors noted that the Clerk had received an email from Stapleford Abbots Parish Council following a proposal that was raised at their last meeting. They state they are aware there is a lot of untapped local knowledge in the small councils in this area, and a lot of expertise and common interests that could be shared. They would like to create a space where all councillors and officers could get together and share knowledge and solutions for mutual good, stating that our rural area often feels forgotten, being as it is in the outer reaches of the Epping Forest district. Events could be held remotely in the evening. Councillors **AGREED** they would be happy to be part of any relevant discussion on matters that collectively involved local councils.

P14.1212 .GOV EMAIL ADDRESSES

Councillors noted that the March 2024 Practitioners Guide on accountability and governance states that 'every authority should have an email account that belongs to the council and to which the council has access'. It goes on further to state that Parish Councils are advised to use a .gov.uk domain for their websites and email communications, stating that the community, suppliers and partners will now reasonably expect a local council to have a .gov.uk domain name. This Parish Council already owns stanfordrivers-pc.gov.uk, however it is not used as its email addresses. The Clerk provided an update in terms of why it was best to use a separate email account for Council business as this protects both the Council and the Councillors in terms of GDPR. Councillors were asked to consider moving to .GOV email addresses for all Councillors. There was some dispute as to if Councillors felt this was something they wanted to do, with mixed views, and Councillors asked if it was possible to make the decision on an individual basis. Councillors noted that the cost to host the email addresses was expected to be around £50 per year. It was certainly agreed the Clerk should have a .GOV email address, and after discussion it was **AGREED** all Councillors should have and use a .GOV email address for Council business.

P14.1213 OPEN SPACES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

- a) **Tree on Jubilee Green** – It was noted that this tree had not been cut as the grounds maintenance contractor felt that it would cause too much damage to the tree. There was some limited life in the tree, albeit it very little, but even though the limbs were brown cutting them off would cause further damage. It was suggested that the tree should be watered to see if any further life could be drawn from it, and that even though it was accepted it looked pretty awful in the day, it could be still be acceptable to place Christmas Lights on it this year. Cllr Jackson provided an example of a Norwegian spruce which could be a suitable replacement which was not too expensive. It was **AGREED** to continue to retain the tree, provide some water to it, and then consider its future after Christmas.
- b) **Parking on small green verge at entrance to Toot Hill Road** – The Clerk had placed notices on cars and on the road sign, and asked Councillors if there were aware cars were still parking there. The grass does seem to have been cut each time the Clerk goes by. The grounds maintenance contractor advised that there had only been two occasions when cars had been there causing an issue for cutting. It was **AGREED** to monitor this issue.
- c) **Grass cutting of verge by layby** – Cllr Jackson advised that in between this Council's grounds maintenance contractor cutting the verge, a farmer had attended and cut all the way through. It was thought ECC did this twice per year, and Cllr Jackson queried if this coincided with the grounds maintenance contractor's cutting schedule. The Clerk advised she would check. It was also noted that White Bear Path needed cutting back, but that this should be done after the Blackberry season.

P14.1214 VEHICULAR SPEEDING AND SAFETY MATTERS IN THE PARISH

a) Community Speedwatch

Cllr Tallon apologised that he had not yet organised a session for Toot Hill. Cllr Jackson stated that the Police had completed speed checks a couple of times in the last 6 weeks, and that there had been an improvement to speeding issues along the A113.

b) Speederbot

Cllr Adams provided an update on the Speederbot Data.

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P14.1215 CHANGES TO PLANNING AT EFDC

On 28th May 2024, EFDC Cabinet considered a report from the Planning Advisory Service regarding possible changes to how Planning will operate at EFDC and thus the rest of the district. This report was commissioned following EFDC identifying it was potentially under threat of designation under section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 due to the quality of major applications decision-making. The maximum percentage that the Government considers acceptable when it comes to major planning decisions overturned at appeal is 10%. EFDC narrowly avoided the threat of designation being at 9.8%, and as such this review would be used as part of EFDCs action plan to identify what improvements the council should put in place so that it avoids the threat of designation over the quality of decision-making in the future. It was agreed at the Cabinet meeting on 28th May to accept the recommendations (in that changes were needed) with a Council Member workshop to discuss the possible changes taking place on 19th June, after which it goes to the Constitution Working Group to finalise the details with a full report and recommendations going to EFDC Full Council meeting on 8th August. The relevant links for the full documentation were contained in the agenda for Councillors information.

The Clerk explained that the possible changes meant that this Council would need to be more specific about any objections, ensuring valid planning matters material to the application itself were included in the response, including local and national policy. It would also mean that we need to call in our District Councillors to represent the views of the Parish Council should an application go to Committee where the Parish Council has objected. A full update would be provided at the September meeting. Councillors **NOTED** these changes.

P14.1216 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. To CONSIDER any planning applications submitted to the Parish Council for comment as detailed below		
EPF/0840/24 & EPF/1025/24	Steers Farm, School Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9SD	Proposed conversion of existing barns & carport to two four bedroom houses, and Listed Building application for the same.
<p><i>Whilst the parish council is generally supportive of the proposed conversion of the barn into two dwellings, there are a number of concerns which give rise to an OBJECTION needing to be made, as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There are concerns about parking. The parking spaces on Unit 1 have not been marked out, and as such it is unclear if there would be sufficient spaces for the residents of Unit 2 to get past to their property. In addition, whilst the applicant seems to have complied with ECC guidance on parking numbers, Stanford Rivers is an extremely unsustainable location with no access to bus or rail, and as such people are entirely reliant on a vehicle to get around. We also have a severe parking problem at this location (Toot Hill / Barnmead) which is causing some local friction. As such, to provide only 2 parking spaces per property, when each property has four bedrooms could potentially be problematic. In addition, it is unclear where any visitors to the properties will park, especially for Unit 1 which seems to have no further space available in which visitors can park (Local Plan Policy T1 E(iv) refers)</i> <i>The access to the property is narrow and potentially dangerous (although it is understood that Essex Highways have no objection to the application).</i> <i>It is unclear what the amenity space is for each property. There proposed plans do not offer guidance as to the private curtilage space available for each property, and given it has not been suggested that these are for ancillary use, this needs to be made clear. For example, Unit 2 seems to have no green space, only paving and a very small courtyard (however this is an assumption given there are no defining boundary lines on the plans submitted). As such, it is impossible to ascertain if there is sufficient amenity space for each dwelling (Local Plan Policy DM9 I(i) refers).</i> 		
EPF/1159/24	3 Church Cottages, Rosary Cottage, Church Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PS	Extensions and remodelling works to the main dwelling NO OBJECTION
EPF/1260/24 & EPF/1263/24	Clarks Farm, Mutton Row, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9QH	Alterations and conversions of outbuilding to the south of Clarks Farmhouse to be used as an annexe, and listed building application for the same. FULLY SUPPORT
2. To NOTE any planning applications that have been responded to via the Clerks delegated powers		
EPF/1120/24	Little Croft, Toot Hill Road, Ongar, CM5 9QP	Variation to condition 2 'Plan no's' on planning permission EPF/2538/22 (The development proposes to demolish and remove the existing stables and barn and replace this with a new detached single storey dwelling slightly larger than that recently granted NO OBJECTION

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EPF/1105/24	Wayletts, 28 London Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9QD	Two storey detached garage	
<p>Whilst it is noted that the applicant has altered the design of the proposed garage building, it continues to OBJECT to this application broadly due to same reasons as the previous application. The parish council supports the removal of the dormer windows and large glass windows, however in terms of the height of the proposed building, it has only been reduced very slightly. The Parish Council sees no justification for storage above this proposed garaging which is contributing to the excessive height given the numerous other buildings on site and the size of the site itself, as well as taking into account its location and the impact such a high building would have on the visual elevations. Whilst the changes made from the previous application are in the right direction, they do not go far enough to mitigate the detrimental impact.</p>			
EPF/1042/24	12, Epping Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9SQ	Proposed first floor rear extension to create a master bedroom, walk in wardrobe and shower room. The extension will have a double gable pitched roof. The rear elevation will have doors with side glazed screens and Juliet balcony. A further single window NO OBJECTION	
EPF/0998/24	Surrywood, 12 London Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PH	Demolition of the existing bungalow and the construction of a proposed new two storey dwelling	
<p>The Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to this application, subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A condition being attached to any permission that the external materials used should be dark in nature, preferably black or very dark timber cladding, so as to blend in with the adjacent landscaping and create a 'blended' street scene. • Permitted development rights being removed, given that the extent of the additional floor space for the replacement property has been justified in the planning statement by the use of alternative options of extensions via available permitted development rights. <p><u>Informative</u> The Parish Council would like to advise the LPA that there is a section at the front of the property, adjacent to Jubilee Green sited next door, that is rented by the applicant from Essex County Council, which falls within the red line site boundary as submitted as part of the application.</p>			
3. To NOTE any planning applications upon which EFDC do not accept comments			
EPF/1248/24	Land North of Shonks Mill Bridge, Shonks Mill Road, Stapleford Tawney	Application for approval of details reserved by condition 11 'Hard and Soft Landscaping' on planning permission EPF/2702/22 (A Hybrid planning application. Full planning application for a Flood Storage Area upstream of the M25 on land to the north of Shonks Mill Bridge, Shonks Mill Road, near Stapleford Tawney, Essex. It will provide protection for flood events up to the 1 in 200 year occurrence for properties downstream of the FSA, predominantly in the London Borough of Redbridge. Outline application for 2 replacement dwellings that need to be built to replace 2 that will be lost as part of the FSA)	
4. To NOTE any other planning matters			
NIL			
5. To NOTE the following planning decision by EFDC			
EPF/0522/24	Murrells Farm , London Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9QE	Prior approval for change of use from agricultural building to dwelling.	Approve with Conditions PC had no objection
EPF/0581/24 & EPF/0582/24	40, Berwick Lane, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PY	Erection of a ground floor extension to the north-east corner with a cat-slide roof and internal alterations to change kitchen and bathroom locations; insertion of a window to the rear outbuilding and the rebuilding of its chimney stack to match existing, and Grade II listed building application for the same	Approve with Conditions PC had no objection
EPF/0761/24	Grove Cottage, 22	Single storey extension to rear and	Approve with Conditions

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	Epping Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9SQ	side.	PC had No objection
EPF/0728/24 CLD (E)	Clements Farm, Toot Hill Road, Ongar, CM5 9LL	Certificate of existing lawful use for the continued use of the outbuilding as ancillary living accommodation.	Lawful PC not able to comment
EPF/0978/24 NMA	37, Cedar Lodge, Berwick Lane, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PZ	Non Material Amendment to EPF/2798/23 (Two storey side extension)	Approve PC not made aware - Removal of canopy roof above porch & Minor alterations to fenestration PC not able to comment
EPF/0355/24	43, London Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PH	Proposed siting and operation of a tower crane. Enforcement Notice Issued	Refused Reason of green belt and impact on heritage PC Objected
EPF/1142/24	Land at Nickerlands, Berwick Lane, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9PX	(EIA) Screening Opinion - Solar Farm	Not Required Detailed within the agenda
EPF/0815/24	Oak Lodge Stud, Mill Lane, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9SF	Application for variation of condition 2 'Plan no's' on planning permission EPF/1434/23 (Demolition of existing stables, menage, round pen and field shelters and consolidation of surrounding areas to create one new residential dwelling with prescribed dom...	Approve with Conditions PC had no objection
EPF/0486/24	Land adjacent to Willows End, Cumley Road, Toot Hill, CM5 9SJ	Construction of new dwelling.	Refuse PC Objected Refused for reasons of Size, size of basement, ridge height when compared to neighbours dwelling
EPF/0326/24	Land at Mill Lane, Toot Hill, CM5 9SF	Removal of existing stables, barn and menage and construction of a single dwelling.	Refuse PC had no objection, but made comments. Refused for reasons of green belt, outside settlement boundary, and harmful to character of area
EPF/1042/24	12, Epping Road, Stanford Rivers, Ongar, CM5 9SQ	Proposed first floor rear extension to create a master bedroom, walk in wardrobe and shower room. The extension will have a double gable pitched roof. The rear elevation will have doors with side glazed screens and juliet balcony. A further single window	Approve with Conditions PC had no objection

P14.1217 TOOT HILL SHOW

The Clerk and Chairman confirmed they would be in attendance at the Toot Hill Show on Saturday 3rd August manning the Parish Council stand. The Clerk will need Community Speedwatch paraphernalia, and the speed gun, and Cllr Jackson advised he would drop this to the Chairman. Councillors noted that the organisers had advised they had not received any additional offers of help this year, and that this truly may be the last show.

P14.1218 VAS

The Clerk had been in contact with Westcotec who originally installed the VAS near Bridge Farm. The VAS was installed over 20 years ago, and at this stage Westcotec could not state if they could repair the sign. They would need to conduct a site visit in order to establish this, the cost of which would be £175 plus VAT. Councillors

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AGREED a site visit should be undertaken, and that the Clerk should arrange this.

P14.1219 TOOT HILL VILLAGE HALL

- a) Solar Panels for Roof – earlier in the agenda.
- b) Local Authorities have a responsibility under the Prevent Duty (Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. One of these requirements is about ‘reducing permissive environments’ and focuses on our Venue Hire and IT policies. All venues run by Local Authorities are expected to have measures in place to ensure their facilities are not exploited by radicalisers. This will include a statement within their venue hire policy that makes it clear to the hirer that it is not to be used by any groups or speakers in support of any extremist ideology. Councillors **AGREED** there should be an amendment to the Terms and Conditions of hall hire to this effect.
- c) Lights in hall – The Chairman reported earlier in the meeting.
- d) The Clerk had requested the Grounds Maintenance contractor cut back the hedge to village hall prior to the General Election to ensure the hall was fully accessible.

P14.1220 NEWS AND VIEWS

A mini News and Views was issued at the end of May, emailed to the Councils contact list, and hand delivered to homes around Toot Hill Village Green, specifically in time for the D-Day celebrations. The next edition would be issued prior to Toot Hill Village Show, and would include First Aid course interest and Ride London feedback survey.

P14.1221 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The following payments were **AGREED**.

Reference	To	For	Amount
BACS	Adriana Jones	Clerks Salary June & July 2024	£1,109.26
BACS	HMRC	PAYE June & July 2024	£277.40
BACS	David Wickham.	Clean Toot Hill VH May and June Phone box tidy	£201.69 (£1.73 VAT)
BACS	Ongar News	Advert July 2024 – THVH	£30.00
BACS	J Adams	Reimb Speederbot data x3 months	£25.26
BACS	Auditing Solutions	Final Internal Audit 23/24	£120.00 (£20.00 VAT)
BACS	HCI Data Limited	Renewal of domain until 31 st August 2026	£114.00 (£19.00 VAT)

Bank Balances as at 30th June 2024

Unity Current Account 4775	£ 6,134.96
Unity Deposit Account 4788	£ 86,213.92

INCOME:

- £ 2,110.26 – HMRC VAT Return Jan-Mar 2024
- £ 550.48 – Interest Deposit A/C 20344788
- £ 286.00 – Ongar Wildlife Society Hall Hire Mar-Dec 2024
- £ 158.40 – Folk Club Hall hire Jan-Mar 2024
- £ 78.00 – H Oakes Pilates April-May 2024
- £ 185.00 – Friends Moreton School Hall Hire 14/6
- £ 90.00 - Sportive UK Hall Hire 23/6
- £ 215.75 – EFDC Hall Hire 2/5 Elections
- £ 79.20 – High Country Ladies Group Hall Hire Apr-Jun
- £ 277.20 – Silk Club Hire April-June

P14.1222 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS/EVENTS

Councillors **NOTED** the date of the next meeting:

- 12th September
- 14th November

P14.1223 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following matters have been rolled forward to the next meetings:

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- Review of Policies and Procedures

P14.1224 EXLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The public and press were excluded from the meeting, the Council considering that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed.'

Item: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT CONTINUATION

Councillors noted that a complaint had been received regarding the current contractors work for the Council. This was considered in detail. It was **AGREED** that the contract could continue, but this was subject to a number of conditions, as well as the Clerk contacting the Parish Councils insurance company for clarification on a number of matters.

Signed Date