

Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at The Vets' Meeting Rooms, Hurleston, on

Monday 6th December 2023 at 7.00pm

at The Vets' Meeting Rooms, Hurleston

Present: Councillors Christine Bowen (Chair), Robert Darlington and Emma Mayall.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council)
Cheshire East Councillor Becky Posnett (part).

| | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Cllr Presland. |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations There were no declarations. |
| 3. | Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 th October 2023 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a true record. |
| 4. | Unitary Authority Councillor Report The Ward member, B Cllr Becky Posnett, reported that in conversations with residents, concern had been raised about the yellow boat that continued to be moored on the canal – Enforcement Officers have been out but the owner had refused to move the boat. Enforcement will now follow this up. Residents had also commented on the lack of lighting on the cut-through to the bus stop and, as this falls within the boundaries of Wardle Parish Council, B Cllr Posnett undertook to report the matter to it. |
| 5. | Speeding on the A51 - Meeting with Nearby Parish Councils & Highways Matters B Councillor Posnett reported that there had been little appetite for a meeting. Members raised concerns that the bulk of the S106 funds that had been designated for speed calming may have been spent by a single parish council without the agreement of the other councils. The Clerk would follow-up on this to establish the position and would report to the next meeting. It was noted that speed cameras cost about £25,000 each and that there is an annual maintenance charge of £9,000. Concern remains about the volume and speed of lorries, including during the night, and about the disparity between the two different weight limits on the bridge - Cllr Bowen will send photographs to B Cllr Posnett so that this can be addressed. It was noted that the Bluestone Junction was still in poor condition, with no visible white lines and large potholes on the approach. |
| 6. | Public Forum No matters were raised. |
| 7. | Co-options No further co-options were made. It was noted that one of the two co-optees from the previous |

| | |
|------------|---|
| | meeting had not responded. The Chair would follow-up on this. |
| 8. | Councillor Reports Matters relating to Highways were raised under item 5, above. |
| 9. | Planning a. Consideration of responses to the planning application consultations - There were no applications on hand. |
| | b. The Clerk reported the following update on Planning Applications considered at previous meetings; 23/2664N - Stoke Hall Farm, Stoke Hall Lane, Stoke: <i>Replace two existing sheds with one modern shed.</i> The application had been approved by the Planning Authority. |
| 10. | Bench a. The bench would be inspected so as to determine any further action; b. Discussion of the idea of designating the bench as a 'Friendship' bench was deferred to the next meeting. |
| 11. | Village Clean-up Day In discussion it was agreed that a village clean-up day would be a good idea. A working group formed of the Chair and two other Councillors would determine a date and publicise it. |
| 12. | Lengthsman Update It was noted that the Lengthsman continued to do a good job. |
| 13. | Finance & Governance a. Receipts and Payments - The Council received the schedule of receipts and payments and resolved to approve the payments; b. Summary Accounts for the year to 30th October 2023 - The Council received the summary accounts and there were no questions. c. Budget for 2024/25 - The Council considered the draft budget for 2024/25. Several different options were presented. It was noted that there had been no significant increases for some years and none in the past two years, despite cumulative inflation of around 19%. In view of this, and after discussion, it was resolved to adopt version C. d. Precept for 2024/25 - In line with draft budget option C, the Council resolved to set a precept for 2024/25 of £5,770. e. Code of Conduct - The Council reviewed the updated version of the Code of Conduct and resolved to adopt it. |
| 14. | Items for Future Agendas There were no items suggested. |

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed as accurate on the authority of the Council:

(Chair) 27th March 2024