

Stoke & Hurleston Parish Council

MINUTES

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

Monday 5th May 2023 at 7.00pm

at The Vets' Meeting Rooms, Hurleston

Present: Councillors Christine Bowen (Chair), Robert Darlington, and Paul Presland.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay (Clerk to the Council),

1.	Election of Chair for the 2023/24 Session Cllr Christine Bowen was nominated, seconded and duly elected as Chair for the 2023/24 session.
2.	Election of Vice-Chair for the 2023/24 Session Cllr Paul Presland was nominated, seconded and duly elected as Chair for the 2023/24 session.
3.	Declaration of Acceptance The newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair signed Declarations of Acceptance of those Offices.
4.	Apologies for absence Cllr Iain Menzies was absent.
5.	Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Considerations There were no declarations.
6.	Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 th December 2022 were approved and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a true record.
7.	Unitary Authority Councillor Report The newly elected Ward member was unable to attend.
8.	Public Forum No matters were raised.
9.	Correspondence and Clerk's report The Clerk reported that the land on the corner of Old Chester Road and Mill Pool Road is owned by Highways England - he had written to seek permission for the placement of the noticeboard there but had had no reply to either his original request or a follow up. In the circumstances, he felt that this should be interpreted as 'no objection' and so the installation could go ahead.
10.	Planning a. 23/1622N - 3 Canal Cottages, Old Chester Road, Barbridge. <i>Two storey extension to rear of dwelling.</i> In discussion it was noted that the proposed large double doors would open onto land not owned by the applicant and this was felt to be unacceptable. The double height of the proposed extension was also felt to be excessive and would have detrimental effects on the neighbouring properties due to the reduction in light. The Council resolved to object for those reasons.
	b. Updates on Planning Applications considered at previous meetings. There were no updates.

11.	<p>Highways & Environment Matters</p> <p><i>Blue Stone Junction:</i> The Clerk reported that Highways had been informed of the lack of road markings at the Blue Stone junction and that they had noted this and would incorporate new markings into their routine maintenance schedule.</p> <p><i>Canal Bridge:</i> It was noted that unsuitable and over-weight vehicles continue to use, and damage, the bridge and that it had sustained additional damage. In discussion it was felt that the only way to protect the structural integrity of the bridge would be to install a physical width restriction slightly narrower than the bridge itself. The Clerk would raise this with Highways. It was also noted that the passing place on the lane was unusable by many vehicles because of the un-evenness of the surface which causes lower vehicles to ground themselves. The possibility of proper surfacing would be raised with Highways.</p> <p><i>Traffic emerging from Snugbury's:</i> it was noted that this remains dangerous, due to the speed of traffic on the road.</p> <p><i>A51 Speeding</i> - The Clerk reported that there had been no news on the traffic calming on the A51 or the S106 funds which were earmarked for road safety along the stretch of the road north of Nantwich. Once the new Ward councillor had had time to settle in the Clerk would contact her to liaise about this.</p> <p><i>Footpaths</i> - It was noted that the footpath from the bus shelter was overgrown. Although this is not a Public Right of Way (but simply a path by habitual use) the Clerk would attempt to get it cleared by CEC.</p> <p><i>Other</i> - It was agreed that the Chair and Clerk would conduct a walkabout to familiarise the Clerk with current issues and facilitate him in addressing the problems.</p>				
12.	<p>Lengthsman & Maintenance Update</p> <p>The Lengthsman had been asked about safety issues and felt that he had the appropriate knowledge and training and so no further action was necessary. There were no other matters to report.</p>				
13.	<p>Finance & Governance</p> <p>a. Receipts and Payments - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments.</p> <p>b. Annual Accounts - The 2022/23 Accounts were reviewed and it was resolved to approve them.</p> <p>c. Annual Governance and Accountability Return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Information on the Exemption Certificate of the Annual return was reviewed and the Council resolved to authorise the RFO and Chair to sign it; ii. The Statement at Part 2, Section 1 of the Annual Return was considered and the Chair was authorised to sign it on behalf of the Council; iii. The information provided at Part 2 Section 2 of the Annual Return was considered and the Chair was authorised to countersign it on the behalf of the Council. <p>d. Dates for future meetings: The Council resolved to set dates for meetings in the 2023/24 session and for the 2024 Annual Meeting as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">27th September 2023 at 7pm</td> <td style="width: 50%;">6th March 2024 at 7pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6th December 2023 at 7pm</td> <td>22nd May 2024 (Annual Meeting) at 7pm.</td> </tr> </table>	27 th September 2023 at 7pm	6 th March 2024 at 7pm	6 th December 2023 at 7pm	22 nd May 2024 (Annual Meeting) at 7pm.
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14.	<p>IT</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the laptop computer that he had received on handover was now so slow that it made using it virtually impossible. It was agreed that, rather than buy new equipment, it would be more cost-effective for the Clerk to use his own IT equipment and for the Council to pay an annual contribution towards depreciation. Any software updates necessary would be contributed to on a pro-rated basis.</p>				

15.	<p>Grants</p> <p>It was agreed to allow up to £250 for plants and shrubs to improve the appearance of the village, especially at the entrance to the village.</p>
16.	<p>Items for Future Agendas</p> <p>No items were identified.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Signed as accurate on the authority of the Council:

(Chair) 27th September 2023