

Stowe by Chartley Parish Council

Minutes of meeting of Stowe by Chartley Parish Council held on 4th October 2022 in Stowe by Chartley Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Mrs Hurdle

Cllr Mrs Alder

Cllr Lyons

Also in attendance: One member of the public, J Blount (Locum Assistant Clerk) and S Gibson (Clerk)

158/22Apologies

Apologies accepted from Cllr Mrs Finney, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Coote and Cllr Sheppard.

159/22Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

160/22Written applications for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no applications.

161/22Minutes for the meeting held on 6th September 2022.

Resolved that the minutes were agreed as a true record.

162/22Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

99/22 Highways issues in the Parish

This item was deferred until the next ordinary parish council meeting.

149/22Bridge Lane-A518 access

One Councillor agreed that something should be done about the access issue because this is a very difficult junction. It was agreed to write to County Councillor Cllr Francis to explain the situation

132/22Tree inspections

Last April the Locum Clerk wrote to three companies which only yielded one quote. Four years ago it cost the council £400 to have this inspection carried out and so now it is likely to cost about £500. The Clerk to contact one particular company

148/22 Hazeldene House Surgery

This item was deferred until the next ordinary council meeting. Meanwhile the Clerk is to find out more about the Patient Participation Group – when are the meetings and what do they do? Is this group still active?

134/22 Corporate card

The Locum Clerk confirmed that the council is still waiting for this card to appear.

151/22 New Clerk's appointment

The Clerk sought clarification on one issue and then the contract (and a copy) was signed by both Cllr Mrs Hurdle and the Clerk

153/22 Civility and Respect Pledge

It was agreed to defer this item to the next ordinary meeting of the parish council

154/22 Revised/adopted policies

It was agreed to leave this until the end of the meeting to see if there was time to tackle it. There was not and so it was agreed to defer it until the next parish council meeting. One Councillor said that we need a policy which includes information on exactly what should happen when a Clerk / Councillor leaves.

163/22 The report from the Trent Valley Collaboration Group

The meeting was cancelled due to the death of the Queen. Therefore there is no report.

164/22 Changes to the Minor Highways Contract.

It was agreed to check the current provider's indemnity level and to go out for other quotes

165/22 When apologies for absence should be accepted.

One Councillor said that there should always be a reason given as to why a Councillor cannot attend. All apologies should go to the Clerk and also to the Chair as a courtesy.

166/22 A report on council policies.

The Locum Clerk said that all policies which were agreed during the September meeting are now on the parish council web site.

167/22 Money which should be spent on the new Clerk's training this year

The parish council agreed to the Clerk's attendance at the forthcoming SLCC Conference (2nd and 3rd November). Concerning the second conference (February) the council will review the situation and the question as to whether the Clerk should attend will feature on the January agenda.

168/22 Playing field / defibrillator reports.

The Clerk reported back on the situation with the current defibrillator:

- The pads are two years out of date and could cost up to £300 to replace
- The batteries could cost up to £200 to replace if both batteries need replacing
- The model of the defibrillator is likely to become obsolete in the future.
Other bodies are waiting for spare pads
- AED donate (a charity who helps with fund-raising for defibrillators) has a spare defibrillator which they could sell to the parish council for £600.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of the Village Hall Trustees to see if they are prepared to take responsibility for the defibrillator – it is located on the front wall of the village hall and the Trustees pay for the electricity to keep the machine going.

169/22 Problems with the litter bin on playing field.

The Borough Council will not empty this bin. The Clerk was asked to contact Stafford Borough Council to ask if one of their dog wardens could patrol the area.

170/22 Asset inspection arrangements.

This issue requires a survey to be carried out by the Clerk and a Councillor whereby each asset is examined. It was agreed that the councillor should be Cllr Mrs Hurdle.

171/22 Obstructive hedges in Stowe village.

Councillors had access to photos of the “offending” hedges. There was already an article about this in the November newsletter. It was agreed that if nothing happened about these hedges soon, that the item should be raised again at the January meeting.

172/22 The purchase of a Speed Indicator Device.

This item was deferred until the November meeting

173/22 Visit to Chartley Castle.

English Heritage has arranged these visits in the past. There is no public right of way which allows people to reach the castle. This is the wrong time of year to be arranging visits and so this item was deferred until the February / March meeting

174/22 Questions from Councillors.

No questions were received

175/22 Planning applications and appeals.

No applications had been received.

176/22 Bank reconciliation statement

The Bank reconciliation statement was noted

177/22 Authorisation of payments.

All payments mentioned on the agenda were approved except for the increase of the Chairman's Allowance by £350. It was agreed that a vote should be taken on this at the next ordinary meeting of the council. In addition an invoice had come in from the Village Hall Trustees for £40.00 and this was approved.

178/22 Quarterly report on performance against budget.

It was already 8.50 p.m. by the time this item was reached and it was considered that there was not enough time remaining to do this item justice. Therefore there will be an extraordinary meeting to discuss this on Friday 21st October at 11.00 a.m. in the village hall

179/22 Motions for debate at the SPCA AGM on the 5th December.

It was agreed that the Clerk should canvass Councillors' views as to what should be included

180/22 The Autumn edition of the Parish Council newsletter.

The Locum Clerk spoke about the layout of the newsletter and Councillors gave their views on the newsletter which were very favourable indeed. The practicalities of distributing the Newsletter were also discussed

181/22 Correspondence

A list of correspondence was distributed

182/22 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st November at 7.00 p.m. in the village hall

N.B. Additional meetings are: an Employment Committee mtg on 20.10.22 at 6.30 p.m.

an extraordinary parish council mtg on 21.10.22 at 11.00 a.m.

The meeting finished at 9.05p.m.