

STOWE BY CHARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FROM THE STOWE BY CHARTLEY ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 4.7.23

Present: Cllr Mrs Hurdle (Chair), Cllr Coote (Vice Chair), Cllr Mrs Alder, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Mrs Harnett and Cllr Rayson and several members of the public

134/23 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons for absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Finney and Borough Councillor Cllr Mrs Beatty. The apologies were unanimously accepted

135/23 To receive Declarations of Interest: A Declaration of interest had been received from Cllr Mrs Harnett concerning item 144/23

136/23 To receive Applications for Dispensations under the Localism Act 2011: No applications had been received

137/23 To consider the accuracy of the minutes from the 6.6.23 ordinary meeting: the minutes were accepted after one change was made to the minutes for item 114/23. The wording was changed slightly because the Chair felt that previous to the change, the minutes gave the impression that the parish council always receives a share of the profits from the fete which is not true.

138/23 To consider one Councillor's suggestion as to how the field could be developed: One Councillor is anxious to re-wild part of the field. There is a lot of help out there for councils who want to do this. The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) would be happy to come and talk to the parish council about how this could be done and one of their employees is willing to come and look at the site. Some of their suggestions, if taken up, could involve a cost but they can also talk people through how to access funds. Some suggestions that were mentioned were creating log piles and planting wild flowers etc. Cllr Mrs Harnett to do more research into this with the SWT.

139/23: to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation:

Resident 1 enquired as to what happened to the profits from the fete last year. He was advised to contact the village hall committee directly to get an answer to this question

Resident 2 asked why Stowe-by-Charlley did not provide civic amenity visits this year. This is where three dates in the year are set aside for a refuse lorry to visit the village hall and for residents to deposit their large items of rubbish. The Clerk said that the parish council did not think that this represented value for money as each of the visits cost a lot of money and the lorry would only have been present for one hour

Resident 3 said that she should have been informed that her application to be co-opted had been rejected. (This resident was not present when the council made its choices concerning the new Councillors that they wanted). The Chair of the council apologised for this oversight.

Resident 4 expressed his / her support for the re-wilding project.

140/23 To clarify exactly which Cllrs should represent the parish council on the Hazeldene House Surgery Patient Participation Group and on the Trent Valley Collaboration Group: it was decided that there should be no fixed Councillors who would represent the council but that any Councillor should be free to attend these meetings.

141/23 To consider what the parish council is going to do considering that a hedge on one of its borders of the field is encroaching on the pavement along the edge of Station Road: it was decided that the council should approach its grass mowing contractors (who also cut hedges) to cut back the hedge to the same height as the gate and to remove the undergrowth which is encroaching on the pavement. (Clerk's Note: this work has now been commissioned but it will not take place before September)

142/23 To receive an update on the field and the defibrillator:

The field:

The Clerk enumerated the current problems with the field: rabbit holes, a pipe which is pointing into the field, an alleged hole in the fence at the bottom of the field, dirty benches and table, flaking paint on the surface of the play equipment and foliage spilling over into the field from one of the neighbouring houses.

She said that she had done some research regarding the potentially dangerous rabbit holes and no-one had come up with a solution. However, it is just possible that the re-wilding project could be based in this area thus lessening the chances for children to get their feet trapped in a hole

She was unsure about the pipe but has since been told by a Councillor that this does not represent a problem since it points up from the field so if there is any water in the pipe it will go back into the person's garden

Two Councillors and the Clerk have cleaned the wooden furniture recently

The annual play equipment inspection is due to take place soon and so the Clerk suggested that we wait and see if the flaking paint is seen as a problem.

The Clerk said that she would research possible solutions for the other problems

The defibrillator:

All the problems with the current defibrillator (battery and pads are due to expire in March 2024 and cannot be replaced) have gone away since a very generous village hall trustee has promised to give a donation of £600 and an anonymous donor has promised to give a donation of £95. Collectively this will pay for a new defibrillator minus the VAT but the council can claim back the VAT anyway.
Hurrah!

143/23 To decide if the parish council is going to charge for the use of the field on fete day – Sunday August 27th: One Cllr said that the parish council, the village hall and the community should all be working together and that if the parish council were to make a charge, this would be against the spirit of mutual co-operation. At the moment the village hall is running at a loss. The parish

council said that it would not make a charge for the use of the field this year but would review the situation next year.

144/23 To consider how to react to the latest email from the tree survey contractor (which said that the parish council should pay all of its bill - £210 – instead of the one third that it has paid. Clerk's note: They did this because the company charged for three times the amount of trees that the parish council wanted it to survey). It was agreed to pay another £70 but that this should be the final payment that the company could expect to receive.

145/23 To consider allowing the Clerk to accompany the next annual playground inspection (at a cost of £55): The Clerk explained that she wanted to do this because by so doing she would receive a unique insight into exactly what to look for when doing an inspection. It was decided not to allow the Clerk to do this as it was too expensive and because the company concerned normally gives a very full report.

146/23 To consider the flooding issue on Bridge Lane at the junction with the A518: this issue was discussed and Councillors said that there is a gulley just at that spot and it is in the wrong place. Cllr Rayson said that a job had been raised to do work on this problem and it was due to be completed by February 2023 but has not yet happened. So now the job will be escalated. He made the point that the gullies along the A518 should be cleaned annually but this has not happened. Cllr Rayson enumerated the measures that will be taken when it comes to extending the County Council's contract with Amey.

147/23 To consider asking the County Council to impose a speed limit on the A518 through Chartley: A resident had approached the Chair to ask for a speed limit to be imposed from Amerton to Chartley. Cllr Rayson suggested that the Clerk sends an email to the County Councillor asking, officially, for a speed limit to be imposed in this area to include the café on the Uttoxeter Road and he promised to send the Clerk his suggested wording of this email.

148/23 to receive a report from the Employment Committee: no report was available because the committee has not sat recently

149/23 To note the correspondence which has come in: the Clerk said that there was no correspondence which had not been passed on to Councillors except to say that she had just found out that the joint event between the parish council and the village hall, called a "Meet and Greet" evening, had been fixed for Friday October the 13th 2023.

150/23 To note the latest financial statement: the statement was noted

151/23 To consider authorising this month's payments: the payments were authorised including the extra £70 for the tree survey contractor. Please see the agenda for this meeting to find out what the payments were.

152/23 To consider progress with the latest edition of the parish council newsletter: the Chair closed the meeting on the Clerk's advice so that the practicalities of the newsletter production could be discussed but not before item 153/23 had been discussed.

153/23 To consider the date of the next parish council meeting: Tuesday 5th September 2023