

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL

50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL



MINUTES

Wednesday 17th July 2019

The Village Hall ~ 7.00 pm

Attendees: Cllr B. Stone ~ Chairman Cllr G. Blackman ~ Vice-chair
Cllr G. Barron Cllr J. Wallace
Cllr R. Bridge Cllr J. Cole
Mrs J. Allen ~ Clerk

Members of the public: 1

PUBLIC SESSION ~ NOT PART OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Part A. Public Discussions

None.

Part B. Public Discussions on any agenda items

None

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

1. Apologies for absence

Min 1630:19 None.

2. Disclosure of any other business

Min 1631:19 Cllr J. Wallace spoke to confirm that following a decision made via Lord Agnew that afternoon, Stoke Primary Academy had been saved and was to remain open extending into the new school year of September 2019.

3. Declarations of any Pecuniary or Personal Interests

Min 1632:19 None.

4. Audit 2019

Min 1633:19 With invitation from the Chairman, the internal auditor Mr C. Fribbens spoke to verify that he and the Clerk had spent a considerable amount of time together the day before going through the 2018/2019 accounts. He recommended that based on his findings and as shown in his report, that he and the Clerk should conduct a further internal control later in the year and suggested the members administer a review of their website to ensure it complied with current small authorities' standards and regulations.

The Clerk referred the members to the correspondences she had circulated prior to the meeting, providing further hard copies of the internal auditor's report, the 'Certificate for Exemption – AGAR 2018/2019 Part 2', the 'Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/2019', the 'Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019', the 'Accounting Statements for 2018/2019', details of any variances, listings of any high reserves (none), a bank reconciliation for the financial year ending 31st March 2019, and the notice of the 'Dates of the period for the exercise of public rights'.

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Min 1634:19 After careful consideration the accounting statements and annual return for Local Councils in England and Wales for the year ending 31st March 2019 were approved. It was proposed by Cllr G. Blackman that these documents be accepted, seconded by Cllr J. Cole and unanimously agreed.

Min 1635:19 In turn the members all read through the 'Certificate for Exemption – AGAR 2018/2019 Part 2, the 'Annual Governance Statements (Section 1)' and the 'Accounting Statements (Section 2)'. It was proposed by Cllr J. Wallace that these documents be authorised, seconded by Cllr R. Bridge and unanimously agreed.

Min 1636:19 A discussion ensued in relation to the endorsement of the 'Certificate for Exemption – AGAR 2018/2019 Part 2', the 'Annual Governance Statements (Section 1)' and the 'Accounting Statements (Section 2)', where it was proposed to by Cllr J. Wallace, seconded by Cllr R. Bridge and unanimously agreed the Chairman should sign these documents.

In turn both the Chairman and the Clerk signed this correspondence in front the members, where it had also been agreed the relevant items would be sent by the Clerk after the meeting, to make the Parish Council exempt for the year 2018/2019 (following spendings of less than £25,000 for the year).

5. **Any other business (no votes may be taken)**

Min 1637:19 The members addressed their concerns, following receipt of the two (2) most recent planning applications, sent by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

After a brief discussion the members asked the Clerk to submit an objection to both applications, prior to the highlighted expiry date and sustained on the following grounds:

- **MC/19/0847 ~ Retrospective application for part change of use from residential to dog breeding business**

Fears the property would be turned into a 'Puppy Farm', concerns of noise pollution, offensive smells, the accumulation of dog waste (only cited to be collected 5 times a year in the application) and the analysis of the number of dogs at any one given time (where the application also highlighted a total number of 19).

- **MC/19/1246 ~ Land Adjacent To Parsonage Cottages**

Concerns for the removal of the original conditions were discussed, where the members suspected the land had been primarily used for agricultural purposes previously. The significance of a safeguarding strategy was highlighted, and the members felt the preventative measures to stop the spread of any containments that could have been used / stored on this plot, needed to be upheld.

Min 1638:19 The members collectively discussed an email received from a resident at Heron Way (backing onto the Recreation Ground), complaining about the encroachment of weeds into her garden, which apparently was damaging her back fence.

It was decided that Cllr R. Bridge would visit the property to take photographs, in order to circulate these to the members to address the situation. The members unanimous agreed not to use a glyphosate weed killer, due to the residence of her young family and a pet dog living at this address.

Min 1639:19 The members also spoke about the village notice boards, where Cllr J. Wallace proposed to ask one of her regular punters at the Nags Head Public House for his contact details,

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Where she understood this local tradesman might be able to help with either the repair or the replacement of the damaged boards.

Cllr R. Bridge also spoke to inform the members that his ex-girlfriend had a qualification in site carpentry, he therefore offered to make contact with her in case she might be able to assist.

6. **Close of meeting**

Min 1640:19 The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.