Stoke Mandeville Parish Council
Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs
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LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY

Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 12 Jul 2022 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs B Ezra (Chairman of Communities Committee), P Wood & K Shanahan (substitute for J Magill)
Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs   Absent: None
Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner   Residents: One

C22/69	**APPOINTMENT OF KIRSTY SHANAHAN TO THE COMMITTEE** It was AGREED that Cllr Shanahan should join the Communities Committee.	
C22/70	**APOLOGIES** Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Magill.	
C22/71	**OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS** A resident informed the group that the Village Green group is broadening its remit and is rebranding itself as the Village Society having found that such a society existed in the early seventies.	
C22/72	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION** There were no new declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.	
C22/73	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 10 April 2022 were unanimously **AGREED** as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.	
C22/74	**CO-OPTION ONTO THE COMMITTEE** The co-option of a resident onto the committee was discussed and there was a difference of opinion over whether they were suitable. One school of thought was that they would bring too many new ideas, many of those would be for social events and there would be too many ideas to follow through on and that would be disruptive to the committee. The other school of thought was that new ideas were good, they would bring access to a group of volunteers to help implement the ideas and it would be a good way for the parish council to engage with the community. Given the difference of opinion and the fact that there were only 3 councillors present, it was **AGREED** to defer the decision to the next Communities Committee meeting and ask the Parish Council chairman to attend to take part in the decision.	
C22/59	**CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN** The paper provided by the Assistant Clerk was discussed. It was thought that as well as there being disadvantages of each option, the cost of either a large planted or annual cut tree was too high and we could create the desired effect by decorating the existing trees on the green as was done last year. The position of the proposed electricity supply would need to be reconsidered to facilitate this. It was suggested we might just put lights on the full height of one tree rather than decorate the bottom of several trees. It was suggested we investigate whether it is better to hire lights rather than purchase them so we can better take advantage of changes in technology. It was suggested that if we buy small planted tree we could involve the schoolchildren in decorating it and have a planting ceremony and maybe a plaque. It was also requested that the assistant clerk investigates getting the existing trees pruned. The following was **AGREED**: a) To decorate existing trees b) To complete the installation of electricity but near the trees where we want lights c) To buy a small planted tree	Asst Clerk

	d) To purchase 0r hire lights for the large tree(s) e) To buy decorations	
C22/61	**PARKING REVIEW** The Clerk sent a questionnaire to all properties in Carters Ride, Dorchester Close and Walnut Close. There was a 50% response and 77% of those wanted a parking review with most opting for single yellow lines. The next step is now to send a questionnaire to those roads nearby to which the commuter parking may be displaced such as Hampden Road and the side turnings off it and Eskdale Road. It was suggested that in further communication with residents we continue to make the consequences of parking restrictions clear.	Clerk
C22/62	**ESKDALE ROAD PLAYING AREA & PLAYING FIELD** The Clerk reported that the planning application for the new playground was submitted on Thursday 7th July. Buckinghamshire Council have not provided any information on how long it may take to get a decision. A September installation date is therefore at risk.	Clerk
C22/63	**NEW BENCH SWALLOW LANE BURIAL GROUND** A request from a resident to put a bench in the burial ground was considered. The Clerk reported that there is space for the bench and the resident would be funding the purchase. It was unanimously **AGREED** to allow the bench.	Clerk
C22/64	**POLLYANNA PRE SCHOOL** It was NOTED that under delegated authority, the Chairman of the committee after consultation with the committee members AGREED a grant of £1,135 to Pollyanna Pre-school.	
C22/75	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The next meeting date will be Tuesday 13 September 2022	

The meeting closed at 8.35.

Signed _____   Dated: 13 September 2022

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
14/09/21	C21/43	Contact Agripower to obtain costings and proposed solution to fix drainage problems at the Community Centre. Update - the issue is the regular blocking of the waste pipe that runs along the side of the Community Centre where the PC office is.	Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/60	Purchase dog bag dispenser and a supply of bags for a trial on the playing field.	Clerk	In Progress
11/05/22	C22/60	Obtain quotes for replacement community noticeboard. Update – measurements of the existing board have been taken and the Clerk is looking for a board that can utilise the existing post and structure rather than replacing everything.	Clerk	In Progress
12/05/22	C22/61	As a follow on from the original survey, send a parking review questionnaire to additions roads where commuter parking may be displaced to	Clerk	
12/05/22	C22/59	Obtain quotes for purchase/hire of Christmas lights, and annual fitting/removal.	Asst Clerk	
12/05/22	C22/59	Obtain quotes for pruning of trees on village green.	Asst Clerk	

12/05/22	C22/59	Continue discussions on providing electricity to the village green but review where we want outlets given the decision to have lights on the existing trees.	Clerk	