



# Stoke Mandeville Parish Council



## Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville.

Ini.....

Present: Cllrs G Stewart (Chair), B Ezra, J Robinson, G Shrivastava, C Thorn and P Wood.

Public Attendance: 11 members of the public, 3 Buckinghamshire Council councillors and a guest speaker.

Clerk: A Skeggs Assistant Clerk: A-M Davies and P Rayner

The Chairman introduced himself, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting especially the guest speaker, Matthew Barber the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley.

No.	Description
1	<b>APOLOGIES</b> – Apologies were received from Cllrs A Clark and J Magill.
2	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2021 were <b>AGREED</b> and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3	<b>ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022</b> The Chairman presented the 2021/22 Annual Report and highlighted the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All change at Eskdale Road where a new 500m pathway around the playing field had been provided as well as additional car parking spaces. Planned for late summer was an exciting new playpark to replace the current one.</li> <li>• As the current trustees of the Community Association were standing down in July it was looking likely that the Parish Council would take over the running of the community centre.</li> <li>• HS2 – work was continuing across the parish particularly around Hawkslade. The council met regularly with HS2 and its contractors to monitor progress. A verbal go ahead had been given by HS2 for work on the Marsh Lane burial ground to accommodate the reburial of remains from the original St Marys churchyard.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Plan – a consultation had been held in the summer of 2021, which had shown a high level of support for the plan. Before a final version is produced the parish council must show that the ideas are achievable, so work is underway to prove this. Currently, the group were meeting with stake holders to share ideas and get their support. The aim was to complete this work in the summer and hold a referendum in late 2022.</li> <li>• SEALR between the Lower Road and Wendover Road – Preliminary work was underway for the link road. The council met regularly with Buckinghamshire Council to monitor progress against the proposed plans.</li> <li>• Dates for the diary – Two drop-in consultation events on the future of the ex-BCC S&amp;S club on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of April. A visit from the HS2 mobile visitor centre on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, and lastly Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Picnic on the Playing Field to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.</li> </ul> He then introduced the night’s speaker – Matthew Barber.
4	<b>PRESENTATION BY MATTHEW BARBER, POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE THAMES VALLEY.</b> Matthew explained that he was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An elected representative,</li> <li>• His specific role was to work with the Chief Constable and hold him to account. There was a document of priorities that had to be achieved. Engaging with the public was a key aim of his.</li> <li>• Recruitment was key and he was pleased to say that numbers were on the increase in the Thames Valley. More use of the PCSO Neighbourhood Teams to tackle crime.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He felt crime prevention was a key aim. It was better to prevent crime rather than deal with the effects of crime.</li> <li>• Unfortunately, over 20% of 999 calls were related to domestic abuse. All calls had to be responded to which leads to a lot of time being concentrated in one area.</li> <li>• Fighting organised crime. Organised crime was very good at carrying out their activities at a level which meant that they fell in between local level and national level policing.</li> <li>• Fraud and Cybercrime – this was an area that the police needed to improve as currently it was not very well dealt with. This area of crime was on the increase and more monitoring and detailing of crimes was required.</li> <li>• Criminal Justice System – the reoffend rate was around 50%, which was too high, so he was working on an initiative to reduce this.</li> <li>• Illegal Encampments – new legislation was on its way to make it easier to move people on.</li> <li>• Thames Valley – He informed the meeting that he was the one responsible for the amount on the council tax bills for the police. The annual cost was around £½ billion, which was needed to meet the costs of 9,000 employees of which just over 4,600 were police constables. Currently, it was difficult to fill general civilian posts.</li> </ul> <p>Matthew then took questions from the public that covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The public had lost trust in the police particularly around dealing with crime and getting through on 101.</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour increasing. Make more use of the neighbourhood teams to police areas. There was a problem of miss reporting of instances, so the police were not always aware.</li> <li>• Drug problem.</li> <li>• TV programmes are they true to life. They don't portray daily policing, leave the routine just pick out the exciting elements.</li> <li>• Mental health issues increasing, more links with social services.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood teams – who are they, what areas do they cover. Could they attend PC / Community Board meetings?</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>PRESENTATION BY JO DURDEN-MOORE</b></p> <p>Jo, a local resident, gave a presentation on the new Stoke Mandeville Village Green Association that she had founded. The areas of focus, which would be linked to local businesses, would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage,</li> <li>• Green Spaces,</li> <li>• Community,</li> <li>• Amenities,</li> <li>• Green Initiatives.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>

The meeting finished at 8.05 pm.

Signed:.....Chair

Date: April 2023