



# Stoke Mandeville Parish Council



## Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Due the Covid-19 regulations the meeting was held remotely via TEAMS.

Ini.....

Present: Cllrs G Stewart (Chair), R Butler, A Clark, B Ezra, J Hunt, S Kirve, J Magill, C Thorn and P Wood.

Public Attendance: 9 members of the public, 3 Buckinghamshire Council councillors and 2 guest speakers.

Clerk: A Skeggs Assistant Clerk: A-M Davies

The Chairman introduced himself, welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting especially the two guest speakers, Lee Lloyd from Florence Nightingale Trust and Dr Rachel Wood from Fusion JV.

No.	Description
1	<b>APOLOGIES</b> – Apologies were received from Cllr J Robinson.
2	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2019 were <b>AGREED</b> and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record. The meeting scheduled in 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3	<b>ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021</b> The Chairman presented the 2020/21 Annual Report and highlighted the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Council had to switch to virtual working and meetings last spring because of the pandemic. It had continued to operate successfully throughout the year and thanks were expressed to the clerk and assistant clerk.</li> <li>• the creation of the Stoke Mandeville Community Support Group to provide a service to those in need. It was so successful that it won an award. Thanks were expressed to the residents, volunteers, and councillors for making this happen.</li> <li>• operating remotely had made the council reflect on how it communicates with residents, so it had worked with a communications company and it was hoped changes leading to improvements would be made in the coming months.</li> <li>• change in the composition of the council - since the last meeting Marcus Rogers, Gillian Watts, Keith Gomm, Ken O’Sullivan, and Laurence Prestage had left the council. Also, the council was saddened by the untimely death last August of Stephen Pluckwell, whose memory will be commemorated by a bench outside the school. Three current councillors, Santosh Kirve, Richard Butler and Jenny Hunt were stepping down at the forthcoming elections. They were thanked for the contribution to the parish, and they would be missed.</li> <li>• met regularly with HS2 and their contractors to exchange information. The council had joined with other parishes to work together for better mitigation. Highlighted that Marsh Lane was to permanently close to through traffic from the 5<sup>th</sup> May, much earlier than expected. HS2 had agreed to part fund the new burial ground in Marsh Lane.</li> <li>• AGT1 - the area of land that was to be developed for around 1,000 houses. Look out for the coming ‘Vision for Stoke Mandeville’ and the Neighbourhood Plan.</li> <li>• SEALR between the Lower Road and Wendover Road. The parish council had written to the Secretary of State to express its strong disapproval of the design and requesting the Government to intervene.</li> <li>• Councillors giving up their time to attend meetings, workshops, take part in consultations etc.</li> </ul> <p>The Chairman highlighted that there would be four vacancies from May 2021 so if the areas above were a concern to those present then becoming a councillor could be an option.</p>



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	He then introduced the first of the night’s speakers.
4	<p><b>PRESENTATION BY LEE LLOYD, HEAD OF FUNDRAISING FOR THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HOSPICE TRUST.</b></p> <p>Lee spoke movingly about the work of the hospice and focussed on one patient to show how and what the Florence Nightingale nurses provided on a regular basis and how the hospice contributed to the care of patients. The hospice supports around 1,000 people each year. He then went on to explain how the Florence Nightingale Hospice came into being in October 1989 following an experience a lady, Barbara Lucas, had had with her father. The hospice was built and given to the NHS to run and was named after a local competition was held to name it. He then highlighted some fund-raising activities from residents of Stoke Mandeville. All funds raised go towards the In-Patient unit to pay for extra nursing and resources. The home service support continued during the pandemic. There is a Day Hospice, Florries, a children’s unit and a Lymphoedema clinic. The hospice is funded 70% NHS, 30% charity. He ended on the Florence Nightingale Rainbow, a sculpture, which is sponsored by donations and people buying tiles with the money going to the hospice and the nurses’ relief fund.</p>
	<p><b>PRESENTATION BY DR RACHEL WOOD, HERDS MANAGER WITH FUSION JV</b></p> <p>Rachel spoke about the history of the old St Mary’s church site and what work HS2 had done to date and what was to come. The old church sits south of Stoke Mandeville village and in the late 1800’s it was deemed too wet, too far away and rundown so a new church was built in the village. A photograph from 1862 showed the old church before it was abandoned. It was built around 1080 AD, just after the Norman conquests, and incorporates 900 years of history before it was left to fall into ruin. In 1966 it was deemed too dangerous to leave standing and so the Royal Engineers were brought in to demolish it. It has been left as a pile of rubble ever since.</p> <p>The route of HS2 goes straight through the church site. Evaluation work has taken place in the form of surveys, trial trenches, and boreholes. All the rubble was removed to show the church remains. Now at the mitigation stage, which means excavations of various areas of the site. Ten mitigation areas have been identified and split into two phases. Preliminary results have revealed a processing area for wool, washing pits, and enclosed ditches. Photographs have revealed a stone structure known as a Warreners Lodge, which seems to have been dismantled as there is no rubble in the area. Further evidence to support the wool industry has been found with wooden drying racks being identified.</p> <p>It is believed that there were several barns to the west of the church which represent a tythe processing area for the Bishop of Lincoln who owned the site. The church sits on an island, but the archaeologists are still trying to find out why the church was positioned here. They believe there is a mill situated somewhere on the site as they have found a mill pond. A Roman Ladder settlement to the east of the church site has been identified by the pottery remnants found. The Roman site is sat upon iron age, possibly bronze age activity.</p> <p>A large 50m x 80m tent has been installed over the burial site to provide a stable environment for the archaeologists to work and provide some dignity to the remains during the excavation. Welfare units have been put in for the archaeologists as well as processing labs for the remains. Work is expected to continue up to the autumn.</p> <p>It is hoped that some community engagement / visits to the site can be carried out in line with Covid-19 guidelines.</p>



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	<p><b>OPEN FORUM</b></p> <p>A question was raised regarding the SEALR letter to the Secretary of State. Would it be available to residents? It was agreed that it would be put on the website.</p> <p>There were no further questions.</p>
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The meeting finished at 8.05 pm.

Signed:.....Chair

Date: April 2022