

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr P Wood, Cllr D Field, D. Wilmer, J Durden-Moore
 Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs Absent: None
 Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner Residents: One

C23/11	It was announced that Cllr D King had resigned from the Parish Council.	
C23/12	APOLOGIES – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr B Ezra.	
C23/13	<p>OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS</p> <p>a) There was a presentation from Adrian Payne of Little Hampden Forge on proposals for a memorial bench. Various ideas were discussed and the following points made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bench should be accessible and usable by all so there should be arms at a single person width and it should not be too low and wheelchair users should be considered. • If we end up with multiple proposals that the Parish Council are happy with, we should consider public consultation to help make a final decision. • The designs being considered are curved benches with a separate commemorative/ memorial feature. • Adrian will continue to work on some alternative designs and send them to the Assistant Clerk <p>b) There was a question about the reason why the fallen soldier had been removed from the village green. It was explained that there was no specific guidance on how long remembrance displays should be kept in place and while many parishes do keep their fallen soldiers on display all year, the members of the communities committee had decided that the Stoke Mandeville one should only be displayed during the annual remembrance period. The rationale was that it creates more impact having it displayed for a short period of time. This year we can put an agenda item on the September Communities Committee meeting so that a formal decision can be made on how long to keep the fallen soldier in place prior to it being erected.</p>	
C23/14	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</p> <p>J Durden-Moore declared an interest in the agenda items covering the war memorial and heritage board as she is a member of the Village Society which produced the proposals.</p>	
C23/15	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 10th January-2023 were unanimously AGREED after correction on item C23/06 as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.</p>	
C23/16	<p>VILLAGE GREEN</p> <p>a) War Memorial</p> <p>A proposal from the Village Society to form a working group was discussed and the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoke Mandeville was one of the few villages in the area without a visible war memorial. • With the amount of development planned for the parish, it may be better to wait and see whether new suitable sites emerged as development progresses. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If we went ahead now and purchased a war memorial it might be possible to move it later on if a more appropriate location was identified even though that might be expensive. <p>It was AGREED to defer any further discussions on the provision of a war memorial for 5 years.</p> <p>b) Village Green Street Furniture The planned site visit to discuss replacing or relocating benches and bins did not take place due to inclement weather. Discussion will be deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Heritage Board A proposal from the Village Society was discussed and their ideas were welcomed. They have collated a lot of information that now needs to be turned into a design for the display board. Rather than pass it on to a design company at this stage it was AGREED the Assistant Clerk will first produce some mock ups with different numbers of features included for different size boards.</p>	Asst Clerk Asst Clerk
C23/17	<p>COMMUNITY CENTRE INFORMATION BOARDS A proposal from the Village Society was discussed and it was AGREED to use existing noticeboards to display posters showing facilities available in the local area.</p> <p>The footpath map at the Eskdale Road Community Centre is in need of replacement and it was AGREED to replace it but not until HS2 work is complete and it is clear where footpaths have been rerouted or closed.</p>	Asst Clerk
C23/18	<p>VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN At the last Communities Committee meeting it was agreed to purchase a solar powered VAS however additional information had become available since then. The committee discussed the fact we now have access 50% of the time to the MVAS we share with Weston Turville Parish Council and also that the measurements taken with that along Lower Road and Risborough Road do not appear to show much excessive speeding. It was AGREED to reverse the previous decision</p>	
C23/19	<p>PLAYGROUND Work on the new playground is in progress but has been delayed by the weather and the large amount of concrete requiring removal. It is still hoped the work can be completed before the start of the school Easter holidays.</p>	Clerk
C23/20	<p>RAILWAY STATION GREEN SPACE It was AGREED we will consult with residents via social media on what their ideas are for making use of the green space. It was also AGREED we should ask Chiltern Railways to plant 2 trees of their choice and the Parish Council would offer to provide a plaque celebrating the King's coronation to place in front of one of them.</p>	Asst Clerk
C23/21	<p>NOTICEBOARDS It was AGREED to purchase 3 more noticeboards to be installed at the Roylands estate off Risborough Road and the Harbourne Estate opposite Mandeville Park.</p>	Asst Clerk
C23/22	<p>STOKE MANDEVILLE JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB It was AGREED to offer the football club rental of the field for £500 per season.</p>	Clerk
C23/23	<p>PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES It was AGREED to book 4 play ranger sessions with Oxfordshire Play Association: 2 at Eskdale Road and 2 at Hawkslade.</p>	Asst Clerk

C23/24	BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION It was AGREED to enter the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition.	Asst Clerk
C23/25	POWER TO THE VILLAGE GREEN A quote of £6,220 had been received to provide power to the village green but after consideration it was thought that the limited use would not justify the cost. Cllr Field pointed out that if required, a silent generator could be purchased for a much lower cost. It was AGREED to not proceed with installation of power.	
C23/26	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE a) It was AGREED to continue the existing grounds maintenance contract for another 12 months and to review after 6 months what to do beyond that. b) It was AGREED to continue the contract with Buckinghamshire Council for cutting the grass on the playing field for a further 12 months.	Clerk
C23/27	DEFIBRILLATORS a) Cllr Field reported that the Belmore Centre have agreed for the Parish Council to site a defibrillator on their building. The assistant clerk will follow up to implement this. b) Cllr Field reported that the staff at the social services building in Winterton Drive are willing to have the Parish Council to site a defibrillator on their building but permission is needed from Buckinghamshire Council. The assistant clerk will follow up. c) It was AGREED to install a solar powered cabinet and defibrillator on Stoke Grange near the noticeboard on Dalesford Road.	Asst Clerk
C23/28	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting date will be Tuesday 9-May-2023.	

The meeting closed at 21:39.

Signed _____ Dated: 9-May-2023

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
12/05/22	C22/18	Work with Buckinghamshire Council to get yellow lines on corners in Hampden Road.	Clerk	In progress
12/05/22	C22/21	Continue discussions on providing electricity to the village green – quote received.	Asst Clerk	Complete
13/9/22	C22/44	Produce draft content for heritage notice board. Update – an illustrator has been found and draft ideas provided.	J Durden-Moore	In Progress
8/11/22	C22/65	Work with the Village Society to approach Buckinghamshire Council to try and progress devolving ownership of the village green to the parish council.	Clerk	In Progress
11/01/23	C23/16	Work with Little Hampton Forge to agree a design for a non-denominational/non-conflict specific war memorial bench.	Cllr Field Asst Clerk	In Progress
11/01/23	C23/16	Prior to the next communities committee meeting, organise a site visit to the village green to discuss positioning of street furniture, heritage board and war memorial.	Asst Clerk	In progress
14/03/23	C22/51	Complete the review of the engagement strategy.	Asst Clerk	In progress

14/03/23	C23/16	Produce some mock ups of artwork for the heritage board.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/17	Design community information posters to put in the noticeboards.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/17	Replace the footpath map on the Eskdale Road Community Centre but not until it is clear what the post HS2 situation is.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/20	Consult with residents via social media on what their ideas for using the railway station green space are.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/20	Contact Chiltern Railways to confirm we would like them to plant 2 trees and offer to provide a plaque commemorating the coronation.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/21	Purchase and arrange installation of new noticeboards in the Roylands and Athens Avenue estates	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/22	Offer Stoke Mandeville Juniors football club the hire of the playing field.	Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/22	Circulate the agreement for the football club playing field hire to the members of the communities committee	Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/23	Book play ranger sessions for the summer holidays.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/24	Enter the best kept village competition.	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/26	Extend the existing grounds maintenance contract for 12 months.	Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/26	Extend the existing grass cutting contract for the playing field for 12 months.	Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/27	Follow up with the Belmore Centre and Bucks Council Winterton Drive site regarding supplying them with defibrillators	Asst Clerk	
14/03/23	C23/27	Arrange for purchase and installation of a solar powered defibrillator cabinet and defibrillator on Dalesford Road.	Asst Clerk	