

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs B Ezra (Chairman of Communities Committee), C Thorn, J Magill, and P Wood & PC Chairman
Graham Stewart

Absent: Clerk – Tony Skeggs.

Assistant: Mrs Ann-Marie Davies

Residents: Two

C22/01	<p>APOLOGIES No apologies were received.</p>	
C22/02	<p>OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS A resident addressed the group. She referred to ‘The Village Survival Guide’ and initiatives to promote and enhance village life of which she was keen, along with like-minded others, to bring to Stoke Mandeville. A further resident supported her address and said that he had felt the positive community spirit rise over the past two years and felt it was the right time to build on this momentum. He reported that no war memorial for example existed within Stoke Mandeville, we had a thousand-year history and yet nowhere was this highlighted in the village through plaques of interest. The Chairman thanked them for their presentation to the group and highlighted areas where the Parish Council had acted on the previous presentation and were actively seeking funding towards electrical trenching on the village green (to provide energy safely to any future Christmas tree) and white gates, which were currently under consideration by Bucks Council. Cllr Thorn suggested the group considered taking over the running of the Community Centre as it seemed a good fit for the kind of things they wanted to see happen in the village. It was AGREED the Assistant Clerk would forward details of the resident to the Chairman for her to pass to the Chairman of the SMVCA so that they could link up and talk through this proposal. It was also AGREED the Assistant Clerk would send through sites chosen for the white gates to the resident for her information.</p>	<p>Asst Clerk Asst Clerk</p>
C22/03	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION There were no new declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.</p>	
C22/04	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 8 November 2021 were unanimously AGREED as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.</p>	
C22/05	<p>XMAS TREE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN The Clerk had proposed buying a semi mature tree and planting it on the green as a first step. Cllrs AGREED unanimously to this proposal. The Assistant was asked to advise the Clerk and to ensure a tree of at least ten foot was purchased. Suggestions of who to buy from were put forward. The Assistant would impart this information to the Clerk.</p>	<p>Clerk/ Asst Clerk</p>
C22/06	<p>ESKDALE ROAD PLAYING AREA & PLAYING FIELD a) Play Area site visits – The Chairman NOTED that she had accompanied the Clerk on at least six site visits from potential play contractors and it had been enlightening and informative. Tenders should be received by 23 March 2022 for consideration. b) To confirm winners of the School Design Play Area Competition – The Chairman told the group about her, and Cllr Stewarts visit to Stoke Mandeville Village school the previous week to present the prizes for the competition. It had been a lovely experience and four winners were chosen to receive £25 book vouchers with 31 runners up each receiving £5!</p>	

	<p>c) To consider the installation of lighting to the playing field footpath – This suggestion had been raised by a resident on Facebook who asked whether the Parish Council would consider lighting the playing field footpath so that runners and others such as skateboard users could still use once darkness had set in. After discussion it was AGREED the Assistant and Clerk would investigate the costs of solar lighting and bring back to the group for consideration.</p> <p>d) To receive an update on the plans for the Queens Jubilee – Picnic on the Playing Field – The Chairman reported the main events had been booked – Alan Becks a singer of all genres would do two spots and the Ellesborough Silver band would also perform. Cllr Wood confirmed she had received the Queens Jubilee pack she had requested and would drop into the PC Office on Thursday morning.</p> <p>e) To consider the introduction of a smoke free play area – The Assistant Clerk explained the background to this initiative and the potential funding available from the Wendover and Villages Community Board for signs to say, ‘We copy what we see, let’s make our sport smoke free.’ The group AGREED for this proposal to be taken forward.</p> <p>f) To consider the provision of dog bag dispensers on the playing field – Whilst Councillors agreed in principle with this initiative, they recognised it could be needed in more areas of the Parish than just the playing field. They AGREED in the first instance to trial in the playing field it for a brief period to see if there was any improvement.</p>	<p>Clerk/ Asst Clerk</p> <p>PW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
C22/07	<p>STOKE MANDEVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB</p> <p>a) To consider a request from the football club to provide a storage shed for their goalposts – The Chairman NOTED that lots of the children who took part in the competition asked for the football goals to be ‘put back on the green’ – she asked whether the Football Club could be made aware of this for their consideration. Cllr Magill said he would contact the Manager of the Football Club to discuss this issue and bring it back to the Committee. It was also NOTED that the proposed storage unit was noticeably big and could conflict with the Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust rules of allowing at least 15ft around the entire playing field. It was AGREED the Assistant Clerk would investigate this and report back to the group.</p> <p>b) To consider the request of the Football Club to use the playing field on Saturday for training sessions – Stoke Mandeville Football Club had approached the Clerk to enquire if training sessions could be held on the Playing Field on Saturday mornings. The Chairman NOTED that bookings for the Community Centre would be impacted for car parking space if this was agreed. Cllr Magill AGREED to ascertain the kind of numbers expected in his meeting with the Football Club Manager and would report back to the group.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>JM</p>
C22/08	<p>POINTS FOR INFORMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To NOTE the purchase of litter pickers, bag hoops, hi-viz vests for loaning out to litter picking groups – The Assistant Clerk NOTED the first Stoke Mandeville Wombles litter pick was planned for Sunday 13 March 2022. Equipment was to be collected from the Parish Council office on Thursday 10 March 2022. Cllr Thorn enquired as to the progress of the Parish Council taking over the responsibility of Hawkslade Play Park. The Assistant Clerk AGREED to check progress with Bucks Council. 	<p>Asst Clerk</p>
C22/09	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting date will be Tuesday 10 May 2022</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.45.

Signed _____

Dated: 8 March 2022

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
14/09/21	C21/43	Contact Agripower to obtain costings to fix drainage problems at the Community Centre	Clerk	In Progress
09/11/21	C21/53	Contact Thames Water to obtain date for revisit	Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/02	Pass contact details of Jo Durden Moore to Cllr Ezra	Asst Clerk	Complete
09/03/22	C22/02	Send agreed sites for white gates to Jo Durden Moore	Asst Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/05	Purchase a Christmas tree of at least 10 foot in height	Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/06c	Source quotes to install solar lighting to the playing area footpath	Clerk/Asst Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/06d	Cllr Wood to drop off publicity material for the Queens Jubilee	PW	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/06e	Advise Wendover and Villages Community Board of our willingness to have Smoke Free Zones signs	Clerk	Completed
09/03/22	C22/06f	Purchase dog dispenser and bags for trial on the playing field	Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/07a	Cllr Magill to speak with Football Club about storage unit and numbers of children training on Saturday Mornings	JM	In progress
09/03/22	C22/07b	Check rules on installation of storage unit with Fields in Trust	Asst Clerk	In Progress
09/03/22	C22/08	Speak to Bucks Council to check on progress for taking over Hawkslade Park	Asst Clerk	In Progress