

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs Telephone: (01296) 613888

Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre on Tuesday 13 September 2022 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Ezra (Chairman of Communities Committee), Cllr P Wood, Cllr K Shanahan, Cllr J Magill, J Durden-

Moore

Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs Absent: None
Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner Residents: Three

C22/34					
	the Parish Council at the King's proclamation on Sunday and also thanked all those involved in organising it				
C22/35	5 APOLOGIES None				
C22/36	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS				
	 A resident made the point that the gas station and crash barrier by the Lower 				
	Road/Risborough Road/Station Road roundabout is unsightly. Weeds need				
	removing, grass seed needs sowing and it was suggested that some shrubs in front				
	of the barrier would camouflage it. The Parish Council agreed to look into it.				
	 A resident explained that having attended the proclamation on the village green 				
	with a wheelchair user it became very evident that the green is not accessible for				
	wheelchair users. The Parish Council agreed to take it up with Buckinghamshire				
	Council.				
	 It was reported that there is a 30cm hole on the village green near the noticeboard. 				
	The Parish Council agreed to investigate.				
C22/37					
	None				
C22/38	8 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.				
C22/39	PRUNING TREES				
	a) Village Green – There is the option to prune all the trees or cut down the lime tree				
	and prune the rest. The lime tree is multi stemmed and has a split which will eventually				
	need attention. If the lime is removed the remaining oak trees will be better displayed.	A Classic			
	It was confirmed by the Assistant Clerk that Buckinghamshire Council had been	Asst Clerk			
	consulted and said we could go ahead and do the work. It was AGREED to accept the				
	quote from P Kernan Tree Surgery for £1,500 to remove the lime and prune the other				
	trees. It was requested that since the green and trees are actually owned by				
	Buckinghamshire Council, we should write to them to make the point that we were				
	paying for the work without precedent or prejudice				
	b) Ligo Avenue – Residents have complained that the tall conifer trees around the				
	substation at the start of Ligo Avenue are dangerous. Investigations found that	Claul CII			
	although on Buckinghamshire Council land the trees belong to neither the council or	Clerk, Cllr			
	UK Power Networks. It appears that the trees were planted many years ago by an	Shanahan			
	unknown resident to camouflage the substation. Committee members were				
	concerned that having already agreed to pay for pruning the trees on the village green				
	we would be creating further precedent of the Parish Council paying to prune trees				
	that were not their responsibility. It was agreed to get a quote to lop all the trees				
	and the state of t	1			

	around the substation but also push back on Buckinghamshire Council to try and get them to pay. It was thought that if Buckinghamshire Council will not pay then we should investigate getting the affected residents to pay 50%.	
C22/40	 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ON VILLAGE GREEN The quote from Sparkx was discussed. This is to take power from the top of the nearby lamp post and string lights on the trees to be left their permanently. The provision of power via sockets for use at other times had been previously discussed but was not part of the proposal. It was pointed out that we should get something in writing regarding how long the lights would ne expected to last if we leave them on the trees permanently. It was agreed that power sockets on the green can be dealt with separately. Alternative ways of lighting the trees such as shining lights from below which could have different colour filters was discussed. However, the point was made that if we delayed a decision on the Sparkx proposal while we investigate that then we would not get lights in time for this Christmas. The proposal from Sparkx was based on dressing the lime tree which we are now going to have removed. There was a difference of opinion whether to use the 400m of lights to dress one tree well or spread it among the trees. It was agreed that decision can wait. It was AGREED to recommend the Sparkx quote for £7,350 to the full council. 	Asst Clerk
C22/41	 PATH AROUND THE PLAYING FIELD The path was only installed approximately 18 months ago and cracks were repaired last summer but this summer severe cracking has appeared due to the dry weather. When the contractors were chosen the Council agreed opted for an expensive design of path which was supposed to be durable While we did not get that in writing it could be considered implied terms and conditions. The company has been to look at the path and have recommended what repair work is required but want to charge £11,147 for it. There is concern whether we will get it repaired only for the same thing to happen next year. It was AGREED that we should go back to the supplier to ask them to repair the path at cost price. It was also AGREED we should seek a second opinion, possible from the other companies that quoted originally, on whether the original work had been done to the correct standard and whether the proposed repairs are likely to rectify the situation for good. 	Clerk
C22/42	FALLEN SOLDIER There are various options. There are half size black silhouettes for approx. £40, full size rusty silhouettes for approx. £100 and full size black silhouettes from the Royal British Legion for approx. £350. It was AGREED to purchase a full size black silhouette from the Royal British Legion.	Asst Clerk
C22/43	 Cllr Wood presented her research on the current status. There are defibrillators at the village and Hawkslade community centres available 24/7. There is one at the Weston Way industrial estate which is supposed to be available 24/7 but is inside a building and not easy to find. This will be put outside at some time in the future. The school, the Belmore Centre and Buck Goat Centre all thought a defibrillator was a good idea but didn't have one. Some councils place defibrillators in old phone boxes but unless you already have an unused one they are very expensive to buy - £3-5,000 for a rusty one and £20-30,000 for a refurbished one. The cost of a defibrillator plus cabinet is approx. £1500 plus there is an ongoing cost to replace pads and batteries. 	

	The Village Society are willing to try and get sponsors to pay for a phone box if the				
	Council pay for the defibrillators.				
	Clir D Field offered to donate one defibrillator if the Council pays for one. There was a discussion about where it would be best to place defibrillators but it.				
	There was a discussion about where it would be best to place defibrillators but it was decided that this peeds to be given more thought and a proposal will be made.				
	was decided that this needs to be given more thought and a proposal will be made for the next meeting.				
	It was agreed that the location of existing defibrillators needed to be better				
	publicised and we could put it on the noticeboard on the village green.				
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C22/44					
	The noticeboard previously had a footpath map that had become weather damaged and has				
	been removed so the noticeboard is now unused. Short term it was agreed we could use if to publicise defibrillator locations but the favoured long term use was to use it as a heritage information board. We would need to provide content and artwork then commission an artist				
	information board. We would need to provide content and artwork then commission an artist. I Durden-Wood agreed to work on the content.				
	J Durden-Wood agreed to work on the content.				
C22/45	BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION				
	The results of the best kept village competition were discussed. We were marked down on				
	various aspects of the village green including the noticeboard. It was agreed that next year we need to plan ahead and the Village Society should come up with a plan and present it to				
C22/4C	the Parish Council so that we can make a joint effort to carry out the plan.				
C22/46					
	Most areas of concern are the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council so we discussed the process for reporting issues.				
	All issues need to be reported via FixMyStreet.				
	Reports must be accompanied by photographs, a good description and the map				
	function used to accurately describe the issue otherwise they will be ignored. Maybe				
	also use what3words to describe the location if the map function does not allow you				
	to add the location accurately.				
	It is a good idea if multiple people report the same thing as this might get more				
	attention.				
	We should look for ways of better publicising how to fill in a FixMyStreet ticket, maybe via				
	social media, although it is already in the parish magazine and on the noticeboards.				
C22/47	BUCKS HIGHWAYS FUND 2023				
	There is a 31-October deadline to submit requests for funding. We agreed that improvements				
	or repairs to existing infrastructure should be handled via FixMy Street and only requests for				
	new infrastructure should be submitted. It was agreed that all should send items for				
	consideration to the Assistant Clerk who will collate it for submission.				
C22/48	SPEEDING WORKING GROUP				
	J Durden-Moore explained that there is a phone app for recording speed and agreed that the				
000/00	Village Society will undertake speed surveys.				
C22/49	HOSTING EVENTS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN				
	It was agreed that the Village Society could organise events on the village green without asking				
	permission but the Parish Council should be informed in advance. Nothing is planned for Halloween and the next events will be at Christmas.				
	There was a question over why the annual fireworks display had stopped a few years back. It				
	was because once the rugby club stopped theirs, a lot more people came to Stoke Mandeville's display and there were problems with parking, crowd control and volunteer marshals were no				
	longer willing to put up with the abuse they were getting. Also, insurance costs increased.				
C22/50	TREE PLANTING				
	We agreed not to do any tree planting at present because:				
	Buckinghamshire Council should be left to decide on tree planting on their land				
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	We will be planting a lot of trees in the new burial ground	
	SEALR and HS2 will be planting trees	
	We will contact Buckinghamshire Council to find out their tree planting plans for the parish.	
C22/51	1 ENGAGEMENT POLICY This will be discussed at a future meeting.	
C22/52	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting date will be Tuesday 8 November 2022	

The meeting closed at 21:28.

Signed	Dated:	8 November 2022	
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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 in waste pipe that runs along the side of the Community Centre where the PC	Clerk	In Progress
		office is. Update – Agripower were due to attend in October but didn't. waiting response.		
09/03/22	C22/06f	Purchase dog bag dispenser and a supply of bags for a trial on the playing field. Update – dispenser identified.	Clerk	Complete
12/05/22	C22/18	As a follow on from the original survey, send a parking review questionnaire to additions roads where commuter parking may be displaced to. Update – decided Hampden Road solution is yellow lines on corners so process started.	Clerk	In progress
12/05/22	C22/21	Continue discussions on providing electricity to the village green.	Clerk	Complete
12/05/22	C22/22	Plant a small Christmas tree on the village green and purchase decorations.	Asst Clerk	In progress
13/9/22	C22/39	Investigate what can be done to camouflage the gas station.	Asst Clerk	Complete
13/9/22	C22/39	Cllr Shanahan to draft a letter which the cleck can send to Bucks Council regarding getting them to pay for lopping trees in Ligo Ave. Update – needs to be reassigned.	Cllr Shanahan/ Clerk	
13/9/22	C22/39	Get recommendation and quote for lopping trees in Ligo Ave.	Asst Clerk	Complete
13/9/22	C22/40	Ask Sparkx to put in writing how long they expect the lights to last if left outside permanently and what maintenance is required.	Asst Clerk	Complete
13/9/22	C22/41	Go back to path company and ask them to provide a cost price quote. Also get second opinion. Update – Bucks Council Local Area Technician has confirmed cracks are due to weather rather than poor design/workmanship.	Clerk	In Progress
13/9/22	C22/42	Purchase fallen soldier.	Asst Clerk	Complete
13/9/22	C22/43	Add defibrillator locations to noticeboard by the school	Asst Clerk	Complete

13/9/22	C22/43	Write a proposal for defibrillator locations for the November meeting.	Cllr P Wood	In Progress
13/9/22	C22/44	Produce draft content for heritage notice board.	J Durden- Moore	In Progress
13/9/22	C22/47	All Cllrs to forward suggestions to the Asst Clerk for inclusion in the Bucks Highways Fund submission by Monday 24-Oct then Asst Clerk to submit by 31-Oct. Update – Bucks contractor is changing on 1-April so there is no Bucks Highways Fund bid process at present.	All	Deferred
13/9/22	C22/50	Contact Bucks Council to find out their tree planting plans for the parish.	Cllr Shanahan	Complete
13/9/22	C22/51	Circulate engagement plan for discussion at next meeting. Update – has already been discussed so no need to discuss at next meeting.	J Durden- Moore	Complete