

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2018

At the Methodist Church, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, @ 7.00pm

Ini.....

Present: Cllrs J Hunt (Chair), R Butler, S Pluckwell, M Rogers, D Starr, and G Watts.

County Councillor S Bowles.

Public Attendance: 33 members of the public.

Clerk: A Skeggs

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

No.	Description
1	APOLOGIES
	Apologies had been received from Cllrs B Ezra, K Gomm, S Kirve and P Wood. Absent Cllr A Clark.
2	PRESENTATION LED BY THE HS2 SENIOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AND COLLEAGUES ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR STOKE MANDEVILLE.
	<u>Andrew Harris – Archaeologist from Fusion</u> , gave a rundown of what was going to happen over the next couple of months. There were three main things, Ecological Surveys, Archaeological work and looking for a site for the reburials.
	The survey and trenching work would be non-obtrusive. For the old church site there would be a walkover photographic record before any work would be started along with the use of drones for the aerial photographs. Due to the delays in procuring the work, we were now in the bird nesting season and, if nesting was confirmed the drone work may be delayed. General photographs would be taken and it was hoped the existing metal fencing would be preserved. The rubble mound covering the church would be removed and in order to preserve a legacy a 3D image of the Church would be created from existing pictures.
	HS2 have to rebury the remains in a new site. The memorial garden will take longer to provide, with plans commissioned in late summer / early autumn. Land had been identified for the Memorial Garden but no contact had yet been made with the landowner.
	Questions:
	It was asked if the old Church could be rebuilt at the new site. The answer was no but the intention was to reuse some of the stone in the Memorial Garden.
	Was it still the aim to get the local school and public involved? The answer was yes and an educational programme was currently being worked on.
	Simon Matthews – Interface Manager from Eiffage Kier, gave a rundown of what Eiffage Kier were responsible for. They covered the 80 kilometres from Great Missenden to Leamington Spa, interacting with 45 parish councils, constructing 5 kilometres of green tunnels and responsible for 22 kilometres of road closures.
	They were currently at the "Scheme Design" stage, which involved a team of 150, with 200 designers. It was hoped this would be completed by the end of November and a proposal submitted to HS2 detailing how it was to be delivered, when it was going to be delivered and how much it would cost.



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Between April and June they hoped to start accessing 17 sites, with work to start between April and June 2019. This would be clearing the route for the earthworks, which would be completed in quarter 4 of 2022 with the railway completed on 2026.

The construction would consist of site clearance and utility movements. They would be looking at offsite manufacturing with a private road alongside the rail line to allow delivery of the infrastructure. For the earthworks, they were working on a "move it once" process, removing it from the cuttings and delivering it to where the embankments were required.

With the Risborough Road diversion, there would be an underpass for cyclists and pedestrians but the road would go under the HS2 line. Merging in the new diversion road with the Risborough road would be done at off peak times. They had yet to start talks with Transport for Bucks regarding bus routes. As for the SEALR (South East Aylesbury Relief Road), hopefully planning would be granted in summer 2018, with work starting in 2019 and completed in 2021.

There were a number of undertakings and assurances that they had to keep to relating to Noise and the Environmental Impact. Mitigation would be required if they exceeded the limits with the petitioners being informed.

The core working hours would be 8.00 am to 5.30 pm, Monday to Friday and 8.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays. The earthworks were scheduled for April to October, weather permitting, and were covered by S.61 of the Act.

The Risborough Road diversion had been delayed but they were pushing for work to start as soon as possible, but not before 2019. But as there was a delay, a temporary bridge was required over the Risborough Road between the Fremantle Nursing Home and the Goat Centre. It would be there for at least 12 months and this was the least impact scenario and was required for the large construction diggers.

Before then more bore holes were required along the route.

Community engagement with a common message was being planned with a public exhibition in quarter 3 and schools engagement planned for May 2018. An Agricultural Liaison Officer, Nick Smith, had been appointed to work with the farmers.

Questions:

It was felt a single point of contact was required rather than 4 separate people. Vernon Loo was the HS2 Engagement Officer and there was a HS2 helpline and a new website.

How much higher was the Aylesbury to Risborough rail line going to be? The line was only going to be raised by 1.5 metres.

Where were all the workers going to stay? Two compounds, one at Fleet Marston and one at Small Dean would be created to house all the workers, which would include all amenities.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2017 were **AGREED** and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

The Chairman highlighted the growing workload for the Council, particularly around HS2 and the concerns about the potential delay to the diversion road. Planning was another growth area with major speculative applications being submitted on land all around the village. The Council was



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working on securing a new burial ground in Marsh Lane as the existing burial ground in Swallow Lane was reaching capacity. During the year the Council had been awarded the Quality Status award for the way it conducted its business. She added that 2019 would see the Parish Council elections for the next four year term. Whilst current Councillors could stand for re-election it was hoped that new people would come forward. The Chairman concluded the Report by thanking fellow councillors, the Stoke Mandeville Community Association and Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity for their support and to District and County councillors who attended monthly meetings. The Annual Report was adopted.

The Chairman of the Governance and Resources Committee, David Starr, reported on the financial position, which showed a healthy position at the year end. The target of the Council was to provide good value for the precept that was raised. The 2018/19 precept equated to an increase of just 7 pence per week. The 2017/18 year would be the last year that the Council would receive the devolved services subsidy from now on the Council would be funding the devolved services activity. The large underspend for 2017/18 was due to the Council still waiting for planning permission for the burial ground site, until this had been received no work could start on the site.

It was proposed and seconded that the Annual Report be adopted.

5 STOKE MANDEVILLE AND OTHER PARISHES CHARITY

The clerk read out the Report which had been received from the Stoke Mandeville and Other Parishes Charity. It was noted that a number of grants had been awarded to the benefit of a large number of parishioners. Examples being lifeline alarms for the elderly and vulnerable, senior railcards and a family day out in the summer. Several clubs and organisations had been supported in addition to the School and the Parish Council for non-statutory items.

The printing and the distribution of the Parish Magazine was, also, funded by the Charity.

6 **OPEN FORUM**

A question was raised regarding the bus shelter on the Risborough Road. The glass panels were filthy and needed cleaning properly. This would be investigated.

There were no further questions.

Councillor Steve Bowles informed the meeting that any parishioner could contact him once HS2 starts with any problems that arise.

The meeting finished at 8.45 pm.