

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE VICARAGE ROOM ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2009 AT 8 PM**

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman), Allen, Humfryes and Young, and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell). There were no members of the public present.

92/09 Apologies for absence - Cllr Millington (working overseas)

93/09 Declarations of Interest - as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item - none.

94/09 Welcome to new councillor

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Susan Humfryes to her first meeting, following which she signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

95/09 Minutes of Meeting held 7 September 2009 were approved and signed.

96/09 Matters arising – none.

97/09 Finance

Conclusion of External Audit - It was noted that the audit was completed on 18 September, and the following report issued: "On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met" (signed) Moore Stephens, External Auditor

Quarterly budget review - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 30 September 2009 which were in line with the budget. He also tabled copies of the cash book, bank statement and bank reconciliation at 30 September which were examined and accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.

NALC / SLCC agreement re Clerks salaries - It was resolved to increase the Clerk's salary by 1% to £10.198 per hour (SCP22) with effect from 1/4/09 in line with this agreement.

The following payments were approved:

100269 F D Stowell, Clerk's Salary & Exs., July - Sept (inc. back pay from 1/4/09) £360.18

100270 Moore Stephens, Audit fee 2008/09, £57.50 (inc. £7.50 VAT)

98/09 Health and Safety / Risk Assessment

Cllr Allen presented his quarterly report which drew attention to three items requiring action.

Village Green - Seat needs treating; Sign Post awaiting repair

Land adjacent to Old Vicarage - Bench seat needs replacing.

99/09 Roads, footpaths, verges, trees (other than those covered by item 101/09)

Progress in reopening footpath 3 - John Nicolson, Rights of Way Officer, reports that he is negotiating with the owners of 14 Spaldwick Road and Church Farm, and with Peter Webster, a diversion around 14 Spaldwick Road, a gate into the land to the rear of Church Farm and removal of an electric fence.

Trees on verge, Kimbolton Road - Clerk to follow up request for advice from HDC Aboricultural Officer.

100/09 Repairs / replacements of village assets (other than those covered by item 101/09)
Action in response to Inspection Report on play area.

The Clerk to obtain more details of link gap criteria on swing chains.

The Chairman to investigate the need for repainting the top bar of swing

101/09 Outstanding Issues - progress

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| 1. Installing picnic table on play area | Completed |
| 2. Repairing seat near phone box | It was resolved to procure a Revive Recycled seat with backrest from Green-tech at £295 + VAT. |
| 3. Tree for Peggy and Ray Convine | Cllr Hayes to arrange planting in Feb. Probably flowering cherry at end of play area nearest the church. |
| 4. Sign to Church | Mr Griffiths will repaint |
| 5. Damage to Green and sign by plant hire company | Green repaired by Rose Plant. Clerk to collect sign parts for repair by Rose Plant Hire. |
| 6. Damage to Green & verges by Anglian Water | Working party to level sunken areas with soil & reseed. Consider turfing damaged banks. Clerk to obtain turf costs |
| 7. Border to planted area around village sign | Cllr Millington has provided details of 2 types of border - bamboo 0.3m high x 1m @ £9.99 and willow 0.3m high x 2m @ £6.99. Cllr Hayes agreed to look for further types. |
| 8. Moving post box | Royal Mail regret delay due to current industrial relations problems, but will look at locating the box on verge outside the Old Chapel adjacent to telephone pole ASAP. |
| 9. Kerbing on village green & drain | CCC have agreed to relocate the drain. Clerk to get specification & quote from CCC for kerbing. |
| 10. Townlands Charity | Andrew Murdoch is liaising with Mrs Wakefield to hand over management to the new trustees. |

102/09 Planning
New planning application

0901156FUL, Conservatory to rear of Station Master's Cottage, Kimbolton Road.

It was resolved to recommend approval, as the proposed development will have no adverse effect on the neighbouring properties or on the street scene.

Proposed Bicton windfarm

The Clerk reported that, in response to his email of 25 September regarding a rumour that sites for four turbines had been chosen, he had received this reply from Lisa Ross of Broadview:

"We are still considering the layout which we expect to have finalised later this year or early next. Following this the photomontages and transport routes will be produced. We will hold further community exhibition to show the final layout and photomontages to the local communities, and will keep you informed of these."

The Chairman tabled a draft of a letter to Broadview stating that the Parish Council had decided to withhold comments on the proposals in general until sufficient detail is available,

but pointing out that any proposal which includes unsuitable transport through the village is unlikely to be considered favourably. The content was accepted as representing the views of the Council. The Clerk is to write to Broadview accordingly.

103/09 Correspondence

Circulated 10/9/09

Have your say on the future of the East of England

East of England Plan >2031 Information Pack

(Both refer to a series of Public Consultation Events throughout the Region including September 30, 7 pm, Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon)

Victim Support - Request for Donation

Rural Services Network -State of Rural Services Report & copies of survey forms

Circulated 19/9/09 - Cambs ACRE Impact Report 2008/09

Circulated 3/10/09 - Bridget Halford's e-mail and attachments re Parish Planting Scheme.

Circulated 9/10/09 - Letter from A. Roberts re Co-option of independent members to District Council Overview and Scrutiny Panels dated 2/10/09

Circulated with last minutes - HDC letter re Small Scale Environmental Improvement Schemes 2010-11. No scheme proposed

New Correspondence

Parish Electoral Review in Huntingdonshire

HDC advise that SI 2009/2091 "The Huntingdonshire (Parishes) Order 2009" comes into effect on 1 April 2010. This includes the boundary changes proposed between the parishes of Stow Longa and Kimbolton & Stonely, which moves three properties previously outside the parish into Stow Longa parish. From that date these properties will be subject to the Council Tax rate applicable to Stow Longa, and the occupants will be eligible to vote in elections to Stow Longa Parish Council. Consequential changes to the boundaries of district wards and county electoral divisions will take place later, but are expected to be in place by 2011. Changes to the parliamentary boundaries will, however, not take place until after the next General Election at the earliest. This means that special arrangements will have to be made for those electors in the 3 properties concerned to vote in the Huntingdon Constituency instead of in the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency.

104/09 Any Other Business

Stow Longa Sign, Kimbolton Road

Cllr Humfryes queried whether the sign should be replaced due to it being damaged and re-positioned to take account of the change to the parish boundary.

105/09 Forthcoming meetings

Monday, 30 November 2009

Monday, 11 January 2010

In the absence of any other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08 pm