

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ST.  
BOTOLPH'S PARISH CHURCH ON MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 8 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Hayes (in the Chair), Allen, Humfryes, Millington, Young, the Clerk (Mr D Stowell) and one member of the public (who left following planning item ref: 1001201FUL)

**096/10 Apologies for absence** – none, all members present.

**097/10 Declarations of Interest** - as to personal and prejudicial interest in relation to any agenda item – Cllr Allen declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest in planning application 101212FUL as he occasionally acts as mechanic to his brother-in-law when he takes part in races.

**098/10 Public Open Forum** – not required.

**099/10 Minutes of Meeting held 19 July 2010** were approved and signed.

**100/10 Matters arising from minutes**

The Clerk reported that he had attended meetings of the Town/Parish Council Planning Forum on 26 July and of the NW Hunts Neighbourhood Forum on 28 July.

**101/10 Finance**

**External Audit**

It was noted that the audit had been completed with no matters giving cause for concern being raised. A Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be posted on the noticeboard.

**The following payments were approved:**

100283 Moore Stephens, audit fee, £58.75 including £8.75 VAT

100284 Wicksteed Leisure, inspection of play area, £52.88 including £7.88 VAT

100285 R P Johnson Builders Ltd., £461.00

100286 Suffolk ACRE, insurance premium for year commencing 1/10/10, £232.67

100287 Stow Longa PCC, churchyard maintenance, £335.00

**102/10 Planning**

**To consider new planning applications**

**1001201FUL** - Erection of 4, up to a height of 125 metres wind turbines, together with associated crane pads, access tracks, site compound, ancillary works, central building, meteorological mast and access to public highway - Land West of Bicton Industrial Park including disused airfield.

In discussing this matter the views expressed at the public meeting held on 25 August and copies of twelve letters sent by residents to the Local Planning Authority were taken into account. On being put to the vote it was resolved by four in favour and one abstention to recommend **refusal** of the application on the grounds that

(a) it does not comply with HDC's Wind Power Supplementary Planning Document as it fails to respect adequately key views to church spires, the site and setting of the local historic villages and the requirement to avoid locating turbines on valley crests where they will be out of scale with the landscape and settlements such as Kimbolton;

(b) the turbines are likely to distract motorists on the nearby narrow, twisting roads and create the risk of accidents; and

(c) a substantial proportion of the residents oppose the project as they feel that a wind farm on this site would have an unprecedented and detrimental visual effect on this small community and change forever its rural nature.

**1001212FUL** - Variation of operating conditions, Hunts Kart Racing Club

(a) change the right to operate on 3 Bank Holiday Mondays to the preceding Fridays; and (b) change the operating hours from 10.00 – 18.00 to 09.30 – 17.30 from October to March.

In discussing the matter the Council took into consideration copies of eight letters sent by residents to the Local Planning Authority objecting to both changes. In the opinion of the Council, however, the change from Monday to Friday operation on 3 Bank Holidays would benefit the majority of residents, and the change of permitted operating hours from October to March would most probably be acceptable to them. It was, therefore, resolved unanimously to recommend **acceptance** of the application.

**1001340FUL** - Single storey extension to rear, under existing overhanging roof and erection of open framed and glazed pergola - 10 The Lane.

There being no objections, it was resolved to recommend **acceptance** of the application.

**103/10 Assets and infrastructure**

**Children's Play Area** – The contents of Wicksteed's Inspection Report dated 9 August 2010 were noted. This stated that the swings are generally satisfactory except that the chains fail the link gap criteria. The cost to replace them was quoted as £172.20. Regular removal of bird faeces and painting of the top bar and castings was recommended.

It was noted that since the inspection the top bar has been re-painted. Bird faeces will be removed as and when the routine parish council inspection shows the need. It was agreed to take no action regarding the replacement of the chains as the risk from the failed link gaps is considered to be minimal.

**Telephone Kiosk** – Awaiting removal of telephony and receipt of completion notice & information pack from BT.

**Dog waste** – (1) It was noted that a request has been published on the village website asking dog walkers to go equipped to remove waste. (2) The Clerk tabled details of 2 types of dog waste bin costing around £125 each. After discussion it was decided not to proceed with the proposal to provide bins in order to avoid "urbanisation".

**Village Cross** – It was noted that the Clerk had asked County Councillor Viv McGuire if she could take up this cause within the County Council organisation and see whether something could be done to answer Max Turner's questions and get the project moving on lines which are likely to be acceptable to the people of Stow Longa. To date no reply has been received.

**Border to planted area around Village Sign** – It was noted the Council and residents who have expressed an opinion are pleased with the appearance of the new brick wall and surrounding cobbles.

**Kerbing of Village Green** – members were unanimous in their approval of the outcome of this project. The Clerk is to pass on the thanks of the Council to HDC for providing the bulk of the funding and managing the project.

**104/10 Progress of current projects** - The report was updated (see appendix to Minutes)

**105/10 Potential ideas for Lottery funding**

Cllr Hayes reported that it had not yet been possible to arrange a meeting with the PCC to consider ideas for making the Church more suitable for community use.

**106/10 Correspondence**

CCC – letter re Winter Service – Gritting Arrangements.

NW Hunts Neighbourhood Forum – next meeting Wednesday, 27th October 2010 -  
Venue to be confirmed

Cambs ACRE AGM, Burgess Hall, St. Ives, Tuesday 28 September at 5.30pm  
followed at 6.30 pm by a presentation on Localism and the Big Society – a finger  
buffet will be available – names of attendees required by 17 September.

**Circulated 2 September:**

Clerks and Councils Direct, September 2010

Life on the Verge – CCC newsletter about Protected Road Verges

HDC Standards Committee Annual Report 2009/10

HDC Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10

DCLG Consultation on Local referendums to veto excessive council tax increases  
(for information only – NALC is considering a reply on behalf of parish councils).

**107/10 Any Other Business - none****108/10 Next meeting**

Monday 11 October 2010, St. Botolph's Parish Church at 8 pm

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

## Appendix

### Progress report on current projects at 6/9/10

| Project                                    | Report   | Action by            |
|--|--|----------------------|
| Tree for Peggy & Ray Convine               | To be planted at church end of play area. Exact position to be chosen to avoid future root growth damaging any underlying structures.  | M. Hayes             |
| Border to planted area around village Sign | Brick wall completed and planting replaced.  | Completed            |
| Post box                                   | Royal Mail awaiting confirmation from J Baker that he has no objection to the box being sited on the verge outside the Old Chapel. Clerk has spoken to Mr Baker who has agreed to confirm acceptance. If necessary, Parish Council will restore any damage to verge. | Royal Mail           |
| Kerbing on village green                   | Conservation kerbing on all three sides of the green was carried out during August.  | Completed            |
| Townlands Charity                          | Management being handed over to the new trustees. Mr Murdoch will advise Chairman when complete.   | M Hayes & A Murdoch  |
| Swing                                      | Top bar repaint  | Completed            |
| Seat on Green near Cross                   | Rub down & treat wood with preservative. Repaint frame.  | Completed            |
| Seat on play area                          | Rub down & treat wood with preservative  | M Hayes to ask J & D |
| Damaged milestone on Green                 | Broken parts have been recovered. Tony Wakefield has been invited to quote for repair – reply awaited.   | M Hayes to progress  |
| Phone Box                                  | Adoption agreed with no electricity supply. Handover date to be advised by BT. Renovation and future use to be considered later.   | Council              |
| Damaged street name sign, Church Walk      | New mounting posts have been installed   | Completed            |