

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ST.
BOTOLPH'S PARISH CHURCH ON MONDAY 7 MARCH 2011 AT 8 PM**

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman), Allen, Humfryes, Millington, Young and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

015/11 Apologies for absence - none

016/11 Declarations of Interest as to personal and prejudicial interest of councillors in relation to any agenda item – none.

017/11 Public Open Forum – not required.

018/11 Minutes of meeting held 17 January 2011 were approved and signed.

019/11 Matters arising from minutes – none

020/11 Finance

The following payments were approved

100293 F D Stowell, Clerk's salary & expenses, Jan – Mar £372.83

100294 Stow Longa PCC – use of church for meetings 2010/11, 2 x £20, 8 x £10
= £120.00

Taxation of Parish Clerks – It was noted that HMRC has issued new guidance which requires all parish councils to register as an employer and to operate PAYE on payments to the clerk. The Clerk has initiated the process to register with effect from April 2011.

021/11 Assets and infrastructure

Village Cross – this item now included in the Appendix

022/11 Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Scheme

The Area Traffic Engineer has reported that speed surveys showed an average speed of 34.1 mph in Kimbolton Road and 37.1 mph in Spaldwick Road. She has consulted with Cambridgeshire Constabulary who are concerned that a 30 mph limit will not be well observed unless traffic calming is provided to gain self-compliance. She pointed out that the County Council has no funds available for such measures, but their third party funding policy encourages others to procure and install the measures.

The Clerk has responded by questioning some of her supporting statements; requesting full details of the speed survey to which she refers; and asking for advice on the type of traffic calming CCC would recommend for Stow Longa, with an estimate of the cost.

The Council agreed to await a reply before considering whether to pursue this matter further.

023/11 Progress of current projects – The report was updated – see Appendix.

024/11 Potential idea for Lottery funding - alterations to the Church to facilitate community use - Cllr Hayes reported that the PCC have raised this matter with the Diocesan authorities in Ely, who are very positive about it. The Council agreed the content of a joint PC/PCC letter to be sent around the village to canvass opinion and seek ideas as to what events it could reasonably be used for.

025/11 Planning**Bicton Wind Farm - Appeal by Broadview against refusal of planning permission - Planning Inspectorate ref: APP/H0520/A/11/2146394/NWF**

The Grounds of Appeal document was circulated to members on 18 February followed by a draft response prepared by the Clerk. This was incorporated in a draft letter to the Inquiry Inspector prepared by the Chairman which also describes the Council's approach to obtaining the informed opinions of the villagers and emphasises the key points in the Council's case for objecting to the proposed wind farm. The contents of this draft, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, were discussed and approved. The Clerk is to make a submission to the Planning Inspectorate incorporating the agreed content.

Request for financial contribution to Stop Bicton Group

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that it is permissible to give a donation as there is a power in LGA 1972 s.222 to make representations in the interests of the inhabitants at public inquiries (which includes planning appeals), provided the local authority consider it expedient for the promotion or protection of the interests of the inhabitants of their area.

In considering the request the Council was of the opinion that it should be left to individuals to decide whether to contribute and, therefore, resolved not to make a contribution from Council funds.

026/11 Parish Council Election, 5 May 2011

The Clerk reported that he had produced a notice inviting nominations, which he would post on the notice board shortly. The Chairman requested a copy for use in a letter which it was agreed should be delivered to residents.

027/11 Correspondence**Town Land Charity**

The Chairman reported that he had received two letters from Andrew Murdoch dated 6 March 2011. The first explained that he is uncomfortable with the guidance from the Charity Commission that a formal Deed of Retirement and Appointment of New Trustees is not necessary, and that he is therefore withdrawing his nomination as a Trustee of the Charity. The second is a formal withdrawal of the nomination minuted at the Annual Parish Meeting held 8 May 2008.

It was agreed that the Chairman would acknowledge withdrawal of his nomination as Trustee and that the Clerk would take custody of the Charity documents in Mr Murdoch's possession until such time as the Trust is fully functional.

028/11 Any Other Business

Managing HCV Movements – Cllr Humfryes gave a brief report on a meeting she had attended at Swavesey the previous day in which CCC introduced a proposed scheme to manage and monitor HCV movements across the County. The intention is that Parish Councils would monitor complaints; determine priorities; and with the assistance of CCC officers determine action plans to resolve problems.

029/11 Date of next meeting

Monday 18 April 2011

Appendix

Progress report on current projects at 07/03/11

Project	Report	Action by
Tree for Peggy & Ray Convine	A revised proposal to plant 2/3 trees to replace a dead tree on the northern boundary of the churchyard to be discussed with Ray.	M. Hayes
Post box	Awaiting confirmation from Royal Mail that the Capital Sanction Request has been granted – this had been expected by the end of January.	Clerk
Town Lands Charity	Bank mandate change form was obtained and passed to Mr Allen. Email from the Charity Commission confirming the arrangements for the appointment of trustees was passed to Mr Murdoch. Subsequently Mr Murdoch wrote to M Hayes withdrawing his nomination as Trustee, Receipt to be acknowledged and Mr Murdoch asked to give any Charity documents in his possession to the Clerk.	M Hayes
Damaged milepost on Green	The broken arm has been repaired by Mr Wakefield and with the help of Mr Griffiths refitted to the post. The question of payment to be resolved.	Complete M Hayes
Phone Box	Ownership vested in Parish Council with effect from 11 October 2010. Notice of ownership to be posted on box Renovation and future use to be considered later.	M Hayes Council
Village Cross	CCC has asked Skillington's for the cost of surveying the parts held at Rookery Farm and for making any relevant amendments to their proposal for restoration of the Cross.	Clerk