

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ST.
BOTOLPH'S PARISH CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2015 AT 8 PM**

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman, presiding), Allen, and Butcher, and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

Prior to the start of the meeting County Councillor Simon Bywater was present and participated in a brief discussion on how he might help the Parish Council. It was pointed out to him that the main concerns of the Parish Council in respect of CCC services were related to the deteriorating condition of the highways. It was felt that too much money was diverted to projects which appeared to have little benefit to taxpayers. Cllr Bywater asked that next time such a project is identified he should be informed so that he can investigate further.

079/15 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Humfryes and Young

080/15 Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Cllr Butcher made and delivered to the Council a signed declaration of acceptance to the office of Member of the Council.

081/15 Declarations of Interest in relation to any agenda item - none

082/15 Public Open Forum – none, no public present

083/15 Minutes of Annual Meeting held 13 May 2015 were approved and signed.

084/15 Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda) - none

085/15 Finance

Internal Audit Report for 2014/15

This had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Apart from two minor typing errors in the minutes, no matters of concern were noted by the auditor. He made one recommendation: Consideration should be given to reviewing and updating as necessary the Risk Assessment document annually. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange to implement this recommendation.

The following payments were approved

100383 Wicksteed Leisure, playground inspection, £54.00 (inc. £9.00 VAT)

100384 JC Shears, Internal Audit, £50.00

100385 F D Stowell, Salary £259.10 & expenses £42.68, April – June, Total £301.78 (Inc £5.61 VAT)

100386 HMRC, PAYE, £64.60

100387 HDC. Cost of uncontested election 7 May 2015, £75.00

086/15 Planning

Application 15/00057/OUT was re-considered in the light of further information received (Site Layout drawing Revision A). HDC Consultation letter 29 May refers, and EC Doughty's letter of 3 June. It was resolved to respond that the minor changes incorporated in revision A of the site plan are considered not to justify any change to the opinion of the Parish Council, which remains identical to that of 25 March 2015.

The response will also draw attention to the sections of Mr E C Doughty's letter regarding Great Crested Newts and ask for assurance that the question of protecting them will be resolved to the satisfaction of the experts in this field before the application is determined.

The following new planning applications were considered

15/00456/HHFUL, Two storey rear extension, 6 Church Lane - It was resolved to respond that the Parish Council has no objection to this application and recommends approval

15/00919/HHFUL & 15/00920/LBC, side/rear extension and re-thatching, 2 Church Lane - It was resolved to respond that the Parish Council has no objection to these applications and recommends approval

To note any decisions by the Local Planning Authority – none

087/15 Assets and infrastructure

Children's Play Area – It was agreed to allocate responsibility for taking appropriate action with regard to recommendations in the recent Wicksteed Inspection Report as indicated in brackets.

Swing – monitor wear and clean seats to reduce dirt transfer (including bird faeces) to hands and clothing. Paint top bar and castings to combat corrosion (MGH)

Park Bench - replace damaged slat(s); rub down and treat slats to reduce dirt transfer to clothing and improve weather protection. (MGH)

Sign - provide sign giving: Emergency telephone number. Name & address of playground, telephone number to report damage. (Clerk)

Health and Safety – no other problems were highlighted.

088/15 Highways, byways, footpaths

Proposed kerb to green outside the Old Vicarage – the clerk is to try to obtain 3 quotes for single kerbing (conservation and standard), following which sources of funding will be investigated.

Highway faults – The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr Murdoch who explained his concerns. In consequence, the following faults were reported to CCC on 23 May – they are currently reported as being 'closed' – the Clerk is to investigate the reason and to ascertain what remedial action CCC propose to take.

NM-92885, standing water in ditch, Church Lane

NM-92886, overhanging trees, Church Lane

NM-92887, trees on verge overhanging the carriageway, Kimbolton Road

NM-92888, trees on verge overhanging the carriageway, Spaldwick Road

Damaged kerb on Children's play area – awaiting confirmation of HDC liability.

Litter picking – It was noted that a volunteer from Kimbolton School participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is undertaking litter picking in the village, and with a volunteer from Spaldwick, has carried out a litter pick on the road verges between the villages.

089/15 Progress Review of current projects

Relocation of Post Box – this is currently held up as Royal Mail require written confirmation that the owners of the proposed site outside the Old Chapel (CCC) and the alternative at the corner of Church Lane /Church Walk (believed to be Luminus) are prepared to give permission. The Clerk is awaiting a reply from Luminus to confirm their ownership.

Village Cross renovation – with a view to resuming this project the Clerk has passed the file to Cllr Young who will convene a meeting of interested parties.

090/15 Correspondence

CCC Key Issues for May 2015 - circulated by email June 7

091/15 Any Other Business - none

092/15 Next Meeting – Wednesday 22 July,

Future Meetings – Wednesdays 23 September, 21 October (Reserve), 18 November, 16 December (Reserve).

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm