

**MINUTES OF STOW LONGA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, STOW LONGA ON 10 MAY 2010 AT 8 PM**

Councillors Hayes (Chairman), Allen, Humfryes, Millington, Young, the Parish Clerk (Mr D Stowell), and 16 members of the public were present. Apologies for absence were received from Mr & Mrs Beszant and Mr Murdoch.

1. **The minutes of the previous meeting held 9 May 2009**, copies of which had been given to those present, were approved and then signed by the Chairman.
2. **Parish Council Chairman's Report 2009 / 2010**
The chairman gave a report as appended hereto. During a brief discussion which followed, the Chairman gave a fuller explanation of the task to be carried out by the working party at the weekend. Mr Ray Convine spoke of the new sign to the Church, and said that Andy Griffiths was to be congratulated on having done an excellent job. It was also agreed to record the thanks of villagers to Mrs Anne Beszant for again looking after the planting around the village sign.
3. **Financial Report for 2009/2010**
The Parish Clerk, Mr D Stowell, presented the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010.
4. **Town Lands Charity**
Speaking on behalf of Mr Murdoch, the Chairman said that there are no trustee vacancies to be filled this year, and that Mr Murdoch is continuing to regularise matters in accordance with Charity Commission requirements.
5. **Other Reports**
Funding of new projects
Susan Humfryes spoke about various sources of funding which are available for community projects such as a new boiler in a village hall; setting up a new community organisation; and providing a toilet and increased storage in a Church to enable its use for extended community activities, and queried what villagers would like to see pursued by the Parish Council and/or Parochial Church Council.
There was favourable response to the suggestion of improving the Church facilities to increase its use for the benefit of the wider community. Adding items to the children's play area were also suggested.
Telephone Kiosk
Tiggy Bays-Griffiths referred to a notice which had obviously been in the kiosk for some months which stated that the payphone was to be disconnected and that the kiosk (an iconic K6 model) was being offered for adoption for £1. Although the closing date of the offer was well passed she suggested that the Parish Council should consider adopting it if the offer is still open.
6. **Open Forum**
Trees obstructing footpath in Kimbolton Road
The Chairman stated the Parish Council would deal with this problem
Straw falling from passing lorries
One person said that this problem was recurring
Dog fouling
It was suggested that as dog owners may find it inconvenient to bag their dog waste and to carry it home, a dual purpose litter bin near the Church would be helpful in reducing the amount of waste not picked up.

Neighbourhood Watch

Vivienne Schorer Nixon reported that villagers are continuing to be informed of local criminal activity and of precautions to take to avoid becoming victims.

Village Cross

It was reported that slow progress is being made with plans for its restoration.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Stow Longa Parish Council Chairman's report 2009/10

Meetings

The Parish Council met on 9 separate occasions since the last Annual Parish Meeting.

There was an 88% attendance record by Councillors at those meetings.

There were no Extraordinary Parish Meetings in the year.

The Clerk continues to publish the minutes of the Parish Council meetings on the village website.

During the period since the last Annual Parish Meeting the Parish Council has dealt with the following issues:

Changes to the membership of the Council

Sue Humfryes was co-opted to the Council to fill the vacancy following John Dickins resignation.

Planning applications

There were 3 routine planning matters that the Council were asked to consider this year. There was nothing remarkable regarding any of these. There have been no enforcement issues.

Finance

During the year the Parish Council dealt with its financial obligations including both an internal and an external audit. The results of both of these audits were satisfactory.

The precept was once more set at £3,000 for the 2010/11 fiscal year. This amount was set after considering the budgeted expenditure for the forthcoming year both in respect of overheads but also in respect of possible contributions to improvements to the infrastructure.

Repairs and maintenance

Damage to the Green by Anglian Water:

The Council were disappointed to note that after written and verbal representations and a site meeting, CCC Highways agreed with Anglian Water that no further work could be done to repair the damage to the verges and the Green.

There is going to be a working party on Saturday to spread additional topsoil to certain areas where damage can easily be repaired. Your support is encouraged. 10.00 am on the Green . Saturday 15th May 2010.

It is proposed that the Parish Council pay to have the Green kerbed along the side of the Chapel. The HDC Conservation Officer has agreed to this in principle. Further, grant funding has been provisionally agreed which may enable two sides to be kerbed (and maybe three). If all works out as envisaged the cost to the Parish Council could be as little as 25% of the total cost.

Relocating the post box to the Green is being considered for safety reasons and also to reduce damage to the verges around the pull-in next to the existing post box. A site has been selected adjacent to the telegraph pole outside the Chapel. Post Office agreement has been delayed due to earlier industrial action.

The bench seat next to the telephone kiosk has been replaced. Thanks to Mr Wakefield who made the fixings and other villagers who helped him install the seat. The planting area around the village sign is to be replaced with a new border of brick construction.

Other repair issues include:

The sign on the Green (car accident in the snow).

The £tow Longaqs sign as you approach from Kimbolton.

Repainting the swings.

Treating the seat on the Green.

Health and Safety

Martin Allen regularly inspects the Parish Council assets to ensure that there are no health and safety issues. Where necessary, appropriate action has been taken to ensure that any potentially dangerous matters are dealt with.

The play area equipment is regularly inspected by Wicksteed.

Proposed Bicton Wind Farm

The Parish Council have been monitoring the position regarding the proposed wind farm. For the most part this has involved gathering information from various sources regarding wind farms generally and the outline proposals for this particular scheme. This includes:

Visiting the Burton Wold Wind Farm at the invitation of the developer, Broadview.

Attendance at the initial exhibition hosted by Broadview in the Church.

Attendance at the more detailed exhibition hosted by Broadview at Kimbolton School.

Attendance at a meeting organised by Stop Bicton Wind Farm at the Mandeville Hall.

Discussions with Richard Murphy from the Stop Bicton Wind Farm Group.

Discussions between the Chairman and our HDC Councillor, Mike Baker.

Reviewing the HDC Supplementary Planning Document on Wind Power.

Discussions with HDC Standards Department regarding our obligations as Councillors, particularly in relation to personal and prejudicial interests.

Agreement that an open Parish Meeting will be held as soon as a formal planning application is made. This will be to gauge the views of villagers. Discussions with the Chair of Kimbolton Parish Council show that they have taken the same approach.

The only additional action that we have taken is to write to Broadview indicating that we are concerned about construction traffic going through the village. The letter says:

%This is a very sensitive issue for Parishioners and you need to be aware that the Parish Council is of the view that any proposal which includes unsuitable transport through the village is unlikely to be considered favourably.+

We have made it clear that we have reserved our position on other aspects of the scheme and will comment if and when a planning application is made.

Finally

I would like to express my thanks to all the Councillors and the Clerk for their support and work over the last year.