

**MINUTES OF STOW LONGA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT  
ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2015 AT 8 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Hayes (Chairman), Allen, Humfryes and Young, the Parish Clerk (Mr D Stowell), District Councillor Jim White and 7 members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr & Mrs Beszant and Mr A Murdoch.

1. **The minutes of the previous meeting held 19 May 2014**, having being displayed on the village notice board and website were taken as read, approved and then signed by the Chairman.

2. **Parish Council Chairman's Report 2014/15**

**Meetings**

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

There was a 76% attendance record by Councillors at those meetings.

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

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

**Planning applications**

There were a number of planning matters dealt with in the year, the most notable of which were Bicton Wind Farm Public Inquiry and New houses at 5 The Lane.

**Proposed Bicton Wind Farm**

The Chairman spoke at the Public Inquiry in June. As everyone knows, the Appeal by the developer was refused.

The Parish Council made a further contribution of £250 to the Stop Bicton Wind Farm Fund to help them with the shortfall if funds to meet the expenses of the Public Inquiry.

**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 has been set at £3,300 for the 2015/16 fiscal year, the same as last year.

**Repairs and maintenance**

The most significant issue that we are trying to address is the damage to the verge opposite the Green, which has seen significant damage in the last year. The Parish Council are coming to the view that the only long term solution to this problem is to have it kerbed.

We have obtained estimates of the likely costs and these are: £8,500 for conservation kerbing and £6,100 for standard kerbing. We would need to obtain actual quotes from contractors. Given current funding levels it is likely that this would need to be funded completely or mostly by the Parish Council

Resurfacing of the main road through the village is unlikely to take place for two years at least. The Parish Council are to consider putting pressure on Cambridgeshire Highways to bring this forward in view of the numbers of times the road has been dug up in relation to services. The Parish should be made aware that the budget for dealing with road and footpath repairs and minor improvements west of the A1 from Hail Weston to Glatton, including Brampton and the Stukeley's is £5,000 per month.

**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 Wickstead.

**Finally**

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

### 3. **Parish Council Financial Report for 2014/15**

The Parish Clerk, Mr D Stowell, presented and explained the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015.

### 4. **Stow Longa Town Lands Trust Annual Report**

Jim Humfryes, Chairman of the Trust gave an introduction to the Charity which was formed in 1922 to administer a parcel of farmland in accordance with the Trust's governing document, which requires any income derived from the land to be used "...for the benefit either of the poor of the Parish of Stow Longa generally or of such deserving and necessitous persons resident therein as the Trustees select for this purpose, and in such a way as they would consider most advantageous to the recipients, and most conducive to the formation of provident habits". Quoting from the document he read out a detailed list of permissible uses of the income.

He explained that following a recent increase in the rent paid for the land, the Trust now has a modest income available to help those who may need financial support. The trustees are currently working with such a resident and hopefully they will be able to make a small improvement to their quality of life. He invited anyone who wishes to know more about the Trust or if there is any way the trustees can help them, to contact him.

In conclusion he gave the following financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2014 as submitted to the Charity Commission: Income £1482; Spending £450.

**Trustee Vacancy** – Due to the retirement of Jim Humfryes on reaching the end of his 4 year term, nominations were invited. There being no other nomination he was nominated to serve a further 4 year term, alongside Martin Allen, Amy Howard, and Jacqui Young.

### 5. **Reports from other organisations** – none

### 6. **Open Forum**

#### **Letter from Mr A Murdoch**

The Chairman reported that Mr Murdoch has asked for the following matters to be considered by the Parish Council

#### Church Lane area

1. Tree branches overhanging highway leave surface damp and slippery with fallen leaves.
2. Drainage ditch abutting play area often full of stagnant water presenting a health hazard.
3. General cutting back of foliage around play area is required.
4. Signs to reduce dog fouling on play area are suggested.
5. Broken seat on play area requires repair.
6. Broken kerbstone opposite 5 & 6 Church Walk is a hazard but still not rectified

#### Spaldwick Road & Kimbolton Road

Both approach roads to the village have tree branch incursions across the highway presenting a hazard to users especially in autumn.

#### Car parking, village green triangle

Is any progress being made to resolve the issues of safe access for drivers to the Church, Church Farm and Church Walk, and 24 hour access for emergency vehicles?

#### **Proposed kerbing of Village Green opposite the triangle**

There was a brief discussion about the cost of the kerbing during which views were expressed that a single kerb would be adequate and that the cost should perhaps be borne by the County Council.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm