

STONHAM PARVA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL
SOCIAL ROOM ON MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2021

21.103 PRESENT: Cllrs T Benjamin, I Richardson, K Dawson; J Baldwin & M Goodrum
1 member of the public

21.104 APOLOGIES : Cllr S Dinc

21.105 Public Forum: None

21.106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – K Dawson declared a non-pecuniary interest in 21.110.1 Report from Councillor Hicks as her children use the school bus service.

21.107 DISPENSATIONS – None

21.108 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19th JULY 2021 - Minutes confirmed as correct - Proposed by J Baldwin, seconded by M Goodrum.

21.109 COVID-19 – Risk assessment has been updated and will be placed on the website.

Action – T Benjamin to add risk assessment to website

21.110 REPORTS

21.110.1 Report from C Cllr Hicks for September which was sent ahead of the meeting.

Key points:

- Make one simple change to tackle Climate Change
- Solar panel buying scheme returns

A resident had asked K Dawson to raise a query regarding the school bus provision as the nearest school was now Stowupland but the catchment school is Debenham High meaning parents now have to pay for school transport and for those willing to pay they were not told about seat availability until after the term had started. Cllr Hicks confirmed that a few years ago SCC changed their school bus provision to the statutory minimum to save money (the statutory minimum being travel to nearest school and not catchment school). The reason for not being offered seats until the term has started is because priority goes to those children who get a seat for free even if they have not accepted the offer, it must be kept available for them. Also, under new disability legislation seats on buses cannot be 'hired' unless the bus meets this legislation and not all of the fleet do.

A query was also raised about the pothole repairs on Clockhouse Lane, so far there have been 4 visits to repair different potholes with a further one needing repair. Cllr Hicks advised that potholes are assessed on size/depth and that in turn sets the limit for when a repair should be complete by. The workers do have discretion and can fix more potholes on the same stretch but also have to bear in mind they only take out enough materials for the jobs they have been allocated.

Cllr Hicks was thanked for sorting out the HGV signage for Clockhouse Lane and a request was made for the invoice, Cllr Hicks thinks this has been paid for from his Highways budget in 20/21, if this is the case then we do not need to contribute.

21.110.2 Report from D Cllr Morley for September:

Key points:

- Statement on behalf of all Suffolk Councils re Afghan refugees
- Devolution talks have started for Suffolk.

£500 has been received from Cllr Morley's Locality fund but if Cllr Hicks has funded the signs we will need to pay this money back.

Action – W Brame to email Cllr Hicks to check funding for signs.

Action – If signage paid for by Cllr Hicks then to contact MSDC to repay locality grant.

21.110.3 Footpaths – Diversion discussions are still ongoing and both landowners details have been passed to SCC & MSDC to discuss.

Footpaths were cut approx. 10 days ago and will be done again soon.

A local resident has cleared the overgrown areas around the allotments/public footpath area.

Action – W Brame to send letter to thank him for his work on this and to offer payment towards consumable costs.

It is not clear which footpaths the local farmer is responsible for under the grant scheme and so some footpaths may be missed.

Action – W Brame to write to farmer to ask about the grant requirements and which footpaths he is responsible for.

21.110.4 Cemetery – The Cemetery was cut in July.

There is an interment happening on 24th September.

Need to look at headstones which were at an angle.

Action – T Benjamin to co-ordinate cemetery visit to decide on headstones

21.110.5 Play Area – Vertas were emailed about the mound for the slide and although no reply was received they have started cutting this.

M Goodrum is checking the play area monthly and on his last reports noticed that there appears to be some minor trimmer damage, discussed the use of guards.

Action – W Brame to check guarantee and if under guarantee to contact Sovereign to get recommendations.

No reply has been received to the email regarding the play inspection, this is to be chased up.

Action – W Brame to chase up play inspection

The slide mound needs grass seed put down.

Action – T Benjamin to put down grass seed.

It has been noticed that a car has been parking by the play area gates and could block access, agreed to purchase a sign regarding 'No Parking'

Action – W Brame to purchase 'No Parking' sign

21.110.6 Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report

21.110.7 Tree Warden – Article was put in the latest newsletter and 4 residents contacted us about trees/hedgerows.

The trees to form a community orchard on an allotment plot has been approved.

J Baldwin checked the criteria for wildflower seed and this must go to something which would benefit the whole community, I Richardson confirmed the land is owned by a local charity and then rented out.

Action – J Baldwin to check if this land meets the criteria

J Baldwin confirmed that we cannot get a TPO on the oak tree as planning has already been applied for.

21.110.8 SALC – T Benjamin attended the SALC AGM in July 2021 – nothing of note to report.

21.111 COMMUNICATION – Noticeboard still needs to be installed.

Action – T Benjamin and volunteers to put up noticeboard.

Public Realm at MSDC have confirmed that the spare litter bin we have can go on the noticeboard and they will empty it on their route.

21.112 PLANNING INCLUDING APPLICATIONS – None

21.113 TRAINING/CONFERENCES – J Baldwin is now signed up for all 6 Councillor training sessions starting in November. K Dawson will check availability and if all 6 dates available will sign up.

21.114 GRASS/VERGE CUTTING – Letter sent to car wash owner regarding his sign and it is believed the sign has been moved as the visibility is much better.

21.115 CASUAL VACANCY – Proposed by I Richardson, seconded by J Baldwin it was agreed to co-opt Matthew Sealby on to the Parish Council.

Action – W Brame to make contact with M Sealby and provide documents.

21.116 GOVERNANCE – Awaiting external audit report.

21.117 FINANCE – Clerk's finance report for July & August was emailed to everyone ahead of the meeting. No questions raised.

Proposed by K Dawson, seconded by I Richardson it was agreed the following Councillors would start the internal control measure for online banking:

Apr – June – J Baldwin
July – Sept – M Goodrum
Oct – Dec – S Dinc
Jan – Mar - M Sealby

Discussed insurance, 3 quotes had been received and it was agreed to go with Parish Protect. Proposed by J Baldwin, seconded by M Goodrum.

Action – W Brame to accept insurance quote and make payment.

21.118 FUNDRAISING – Information has been provided to the Asda green token scheme and we are awaiting a decision.

There is some cash to pay in from plant sales.

21.119 MAGPIE SIGN – The son of the owner of the Magpie sign (Grade II listed) gave permission for the Parish Council to store the sign safely as it has been left in the car park and was at risk of theft. Discussions around the replacement of the wood/sign are taking place but not much can happen until

probate has been granted.

W Brame had emailed the Heritage Officer regarding responsibilities for ownership of a Grade II listed item and is awaiting a reply from a colleague as the Heritage Officer has now left MSDC

Action – W Brame to chase up Heritage Officers

21.120 ROADS/ROAD SAFETY – T Benjamin to chase up white line repainting.

Action – T Benjamin to email Cllr Hicks re white line painting

The SID at the south of the village is not displaying properly so needs to be taken down and checked as well as the data taken off.

Action – T Benjamin and volunteers to remove SID

Email with letter attachment was sent to Earl Stonham Farms but no reply has been received. Agreed to post a copy also.

Action – W Brame to post letter to Earl Stonham Farms

21.121 CORRESPONDENCE – None

21.122 REVIEW OF ACTIONS NOT COVERED ABOVE – No contact re village sign yet.

21.123 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 18th October 2021 at 8pm

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 9.44pm

ISSUED