

# STEWKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Stewkley Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.30pm

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**Attendees:** Cllr P P Smith (Chair), Cllr W A Lyttle, Cllr A R Dickens, Cllr J R Thornback, Cllr R L Webb, Cllr ME Burgess, Cllr Mrs J Wodey, Cllr A Kennedy, District Cllr Janet Blake, Alison Cooper (Clerk) Sue Mordue (Clerk) and 6 members of the public attended.

*Closed session :*

1. **Appointment of new Clerk and RFO:** Cllrs resolved to ratify the appointment of a new Clerk Mrs Sue Mordue with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and approved costs relating to this appointment.

*All members of the public, Sue Mordue and Cllr Janet Blake rejoined the meeting.*

Cllr Smith on behalf of the Council expressed his thanks to Alison Cooper who had been an excellent Clerk and would be missed by all.

2. **Co-option of Councillor to remaining seat:** As a point of fact it was explained to applicants that in the previous meeting the minutes had stated that unsuccessful applicants would be asked to 'still join the Council but as non voting Cllrs'. The new Clerk advised that this was not legally allowed and that they would have to be treated as any other member of the public: could speak in the Open Forum and only if the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman to allow a member of the public to speak. The Council accepted this procedure.

*Applicants for co-option left the room during voting.*

The Council resolved to co-opt Alison Kennedy to the Council.

*Applicants for co-option rejoined the meeting.*

Cllr Kennedy's declaration of acceptance of office was received by the Clerk. Her Register of Interests would be received at the next meeting. **ACTION AK**

3. **Open Forum:** to allow public participation during adjournment.

The Council had been notified of the death of Sir Desmond Fennell OBE who had been instrumental in his role as Chairman of Wing Airport Resistance Association. Letter to be written to his wife offering the Council and Communities condolences. **ACTION CLERK**

4. **To receive apologies:** none.

5. **To receive any declarations of interest:** none.

6. **Stewkley Community Enterprise** – David Lett and Cllr Smith had a meeting with BCC about the setting up of a Social Enterprise Company so that the youth of the village including the Youth Club, Cubs, Scouts, guides etc could undertake such tasks as grass cutting on behalf of the Council but at a much lower rate than contractors. Kingsbridge Picnic Site would also be included in this scheme therefore Cllr Webb agreed to hand over this to David Lett before she looked at any other alternatives. Cllrs expressed some concerns and the Council resolved that he would do a business case to see if it is viable and put the case to the Council in September for further discussion. (See also item 14). **ACTION DL**

7. **Cllrs to discuss a letter received from 1<sup>st</sup> Stewkley Scouts concerning a new scout base in the village:** This stated their desire was to have a permanent home owned by a village body rather than a private commercial concern. They wanted to be considered if any PC land became available. The Rec C'tee had agreed at its AGM to produce a plan for the Rec Ground which would involve all potential users in these discussions and wish list. Cllr Webb had been investigating legislation for Rec C'tee. The Council agreed to support the Rec committee in its plan to solicit advice from users on the future function and nature of the Rec and its facilities **ACTION REC C'TEE**

8. **To confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** The Council resolved to sign off the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 as a true record of the meeting.

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## 9. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a. Local Emergency Planning – Cllr Wodey will email update. **ACTION JW**
- b. Current Banking Arrangement – a new sub c'tee was to be formed however it was suggested the new Clerk brings her recommendation to the next Council meeting. **ACTION CLERK**
- c. Data Protection – Cllr Webb advised all Cllrs to individually review whether they considered they need to register with the governments Data Protection Officer/Agency. She would re-circulate email from NALC. **ACTION RW**
- d. Cllr Lyttle had sent in amendments to the solicitors in respect of his Statutory Declaration stating that the PC had owned the land for at least 60 years in order to get it Registered. He would sign in due course. **ACTION AL**
- e. Diamond Jubilee celebration – to be added to next agenda **ACTION CLERK**

10. **To confirm the minutes of the previous Planning Meeting:** The Council resolved to sign off the minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 as a true record of the meeting.

## 11. Correspondence for information and action:

- a. BCC Travellers Consultation – The Council resolved no response required.
- b. BCC School Transport Costs – issue closed with no changes to be reviewed next year.
- c. HS2 – to be added to Julys Planning Meeting agenda. **ACTION CLERK**
- d. Lack of BCC representation by Cllr Brenda Jennings – BCC Leader aware and response received from him. In the meantime we can ask BCC Cllr Netta Glover to assist us.

12. **Items of interest for/reports from County and District Councillors.** District Cllr Blake updated regarding the state of 27 High Street. Environmental Health had agreed to visit however it appears that there were only squirrels in residence and they could take no action unless there were rats and mice. The property also is classed as the main residence of the owner, despite the fact they did not live there, so no enforcement action can happen to force the house onto the open market. She agreed to continue to monitor the situation. 104 High Street had now been put up for sale.

## 13. Finance -

- a. **To discuss and authorise expenditure incurred with The Stewkley Wildlife Reserve:** Cllr Dickens reported he had ordered some seed. 22 parishioners had been on walk there with Matt Dodds. AVDC had collected seeds and Cllr Dickens had collected cow slips seeds from around the village to sew. Aylesbury Vale Volunteers would be collecting yellow rattle seed from the preserve.
- b. **To agree payment to PA Communications Ltd for Stewkley web site domain address –** Council agreed to pay on presentation of an invoice. The passwords had been given to Cllr Thornback so amends to the site can now be made by him.
- c. **To authorise the monthly expenditure for the period 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2011:** The Council resolved to make the following payments:

A Cooper June Clerking and 3 mths office allowance and petty cash owed	chq 101411	£424.83
HM Rev & Customs A Cooper Tax Mar Apr May June 11	chq 101412	£318.20
Internal Auditor	chq 101413	£260.00

A Payment was requested for work at the Rec by the Rec however Council requested an invoice made to the Parish Council before payment.

- d. **To authorise first quarter budget monitoring –** the Council resolved to accept this.

14. **BCC Centenary Plantation and plaque, Kingsbridge Picnic Site and Airport Spinney –** Cllr Lyttle had received confirmation that the probationers could assist in maintaining these sites along with other village groups. Cllr Lyttle had contacted Mike Walker BCC and offered £5 per year for the sites. A formal proposal should be made with BCC paying the legal costs. The Council resolved to add this to the agenda of the next meeting to discuss in full and to clarify who is taking responsibility for each site. (See also item 6). **ACTION CLERK**

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15. **Stewkley Recreation Ground Association** – Cllrs to continue planning necessary and most suitable legal agreements between all parties. Cllr Mrs Webb has contacted BCC legal dept and is awaiting a response on how to progress. **ACTION RW**
16. **Empty Houses in Stewkley:** 104 High Street now understood to be under offer. See also item 12 above.
17. **Parsons Close** – BCC had agreed to do the works. Landscaping would be required when completed at PC cost. Council resolved to ask for a donation from Cllr Jennings Leader Fund for the landscaping of Parsons Close following completion of the works by BCC. Cllr Dickens would bring suggested costing to next meeting. **ACTION AD**
18. **BMX Project:** There was still concern over the dilapidated buildings which have not yet been removed. Item to be added to next agenda for discussion in full on how to progress. **ACTION CLERK**
19. **Traffic Group** –
- a response had been received from John Bercow MP to Cllr Webbs letter (regarding interpretation of DFT guidelines and criteria) stating that he had asked the Transport Secretary (MP Hammond) to review the letter.
  - Clarification would be gained from BCC re Speed Limit review for Stewkley as to whether it is still progressing. **ACTION JT**
20. **AVDC Vale of Aylesbury Plan and Neighbourhood Planning Consultation:** Cllr Mrs Webb had contacted Great Horwood PC however they were not in the same position as Stewkley as they are just commencing a Parish Plan. Cllr Thornback attended a drop-in session and was advised that AVDC had purchased a licence to enable Parishes to use Survey Monkey to gain on line responses to questionnaire. This would be considered at the planning meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July. The AVDC cabinet report on this would be available on 8<sup>th</sup> July.
21. **Milton Keynes Core Strategy** – Cllrs Mrs Webb and Smith advised that the draft strategy is in danger of being unsound and there is an additional consultation in progress and there may be an enquiry. It was agreed that Whaddon PC will draft response on its affects on the north bucks parishes on behalf of the NBPCC members. SPC have agreed not to respond.
22. **Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendations:**
- 11/01110/APP Silkwell Stud Dunton Road – change of use of land for animal training and retention of mobile home - the Council resolved it had no objections however commented that the mobile home should be a separate new application as it was only approved for the purpose of the previous owners and was to be removed on change of ownership
  - 11/01300/ATC - 135 High Street North - fell no1 conifer - The Council resolved it had no objections to this application.
23. **To approve any memorial applications:** Application received which exceeded the height and width rules as laid out. Council refused the application and Alison Cooper would respond asking them to adhere to guidelines and advising that it is difficult for the mowing of the grounds otherwise. **ACTION AC**
24. **Councillor's General Items:**
- Pot holes at War memorial and Tythe Close. **ACTION CLERK**
  - Book on history of the village by the school – the Council resolved to purchase a copy and to put in the village archives. **ACTION AL**
25. **The dates of the next meeting were agreed as: Planning Meeting – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at The Methodist School room 7.30pm. Parish Council Meeting – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 at The Village Hall 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 10.37pm

Signed

Date