

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 2011 was held on 9th May 2011 at Stewkley Village Hall. Those present were Councillors W A Lyttle, AR Dickens, PP Smith, JR Thornback, Mrs R L Webb, Mrs J Wodey, Mrs ME Burgess and Mrs AM Cooper (Clerk). District Councillor Mrs Janet Blake and PCSO Paula Boston, for part of the meeting, were also present.

Public Participation

PCSO Paula Boston was present for a question session made available to any parishioners. No concerns had been raised and the session had been advertised in the Grapevine. Cll'r Mrs Webb raised the concerns of possible Bank Holiday illegal traveller encampments being created as was the case at Easter 2010. Stock piling of hardcore had been reported. PCSO Paula Boston was not aware of any being created over the recent Bank Holidays. There had been incidents of car crime targeted in High Street South recently and an incident in Stockhall Crescent requiring a high level of police presence. Speeding is still a major concern in the village. Cll'rs were informed that Cublington and Stewkley are "top of the list" for some speeding enforcement activity in the next few months. Cll'rs indicated that all entrances into the village could be targeted. Cll'rs were also concerned about aggressive farm traffic travelling too quickly through the village creating a serious hazard at the war memorial intersection, in particular. Cll'rs were informed that a PC is not involved in any local licence applications as they are not a statutory body required to be consulted with. Cll'rs expressed their dissatisfaction with this legal shortfall.

1.05/11 To receive any apologies for absence

None received

2.05/11 Election of Chairman

Two nominations for the position of Chair person were made at the meeting. Cll'r Mrs Webb proposed Cll'r Lyttle, Cll'r Thornback seconded. Cll'r Mrs Burgess proposed Cll'r Smith, Cll'r Mrs Wodey seconded. Both candidates were asked to leave the room whilst voting took place. Voting took place by a show of hands by the remaining Cll'rs and Cll'r Smith was elected. Cll'r Smith signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form as Chairman.

Cll'r Mrs Webb congratulated Cll'r Smith. A vote of thanks was proposed to Cll'r Lyttle for all his many dedicated years as Chairman of Stewkley Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed.

3.05/11 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cll'r Dickens proposed that Cll'r Mrs Webb be re-elected as Vice-Chairman. Cll'r Smith seconded the proposal, which was unanimously agreed, as there were no other nominees.

4. 05/11 Completion of Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and signed before clerk.

Completed by all other Councillors and signed at the meeting.

5.05/11 Updating of Register of Financial and Other Interests by Councillors.

Councillors completed new forms, dated and signed them. These were passed to the clerk together with the necessary declaration forms for AVDC.

6.05/11 To discuss and confirm Council representation on committees

It was agreed that Cll'rs Dickens, Thornback and Mrs Wodey should sit on the Recreation Ground Committee, Cll'r Dickens should continue to sit on the Village Hall Committee and continue as a trustee of the Towns and Poor Land Charities. Cll'r Mrs Webb become the Parish Council representative on the Grapevine Management Committee, continue as the Parish Council representative on the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium (NBPPC), Bucks Association of Local Councils (BALC), London Luton Airport Consultative Committee (LLACC), Local Councils Planning Liaison Group (LCPLG) and be the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils (AVALC) representative together with Cll'r Mrs Burgess. Cll'r Mrs Burgess also agreed to have her name put forward to be a member of the AVALC Executive Committee, if required. Cll'r Mrs Burgess would sit on the Aylesbury Vale Housing Trust reporting to the Parish Council when necessary. Cll'rs Smith, Lyttle and Webb would endeavour to attend Local Area Forum meetings.

7.05/11 To receive any declarations of interest

None declared

8.05/11 To confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Parish Council Meeting 4th April 2011.

Cll'r Lyttle pointed out a typing error – a £1000 grant had been agreed for St Michael's School, not £100 as written. The minutes were amended.

The minutes were then signed as a correct record of the meeting held on the above date.

9.05/11 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Donation of trees from Mr L Sheldrick- Cll'rs agreed to approach the school as a possible site for planting more trees. **ACTION**

CLERK

The launch of Specialised Legal Services for Local Councils – this event was attended by Cll'rs Mrs Webb and Lyttle on 13th April. BCC are now offering cheaper specialised legal services to PC's on top of the general points of law PC's can draw upon from BALC. (Approx £75 per hour – cheaper than commercial legal services) Cll'rs resolved to use these services when required. There is an issue with registering with freedom of information/ data protection and the PC need to decide whether they consider SPC should be registered. Agenda item for June PC meeting.

Recreation Ground Sub Committee – The PC requires a copy of the Recreation Ground charity's founding constitution from Stewkley Recreation Ground Association. Cll'r Mrs Webb to follow up with Mr George Gater prior to contacting the charity commission for procedures.

ACTION RW

Parish Liaison Project- a report to follow from Cll'r Mrs Webb following the next BALC meeting

ACTION RW

Membership to Aylesbury Vale North Sports Council – Clerk still waiting to hear what plans the AVNSC has for 2011 and if Stewkley are to be included. **ACTION CLERK**

10/05/11 To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2011 and discuss any matters arising from them.

Deferred as minutes not presented.

11.05/11 To confirm the minutes of the previous Planning Meeting – 18th April 2011

The minutes were then signed as a correct record of the meeting held on the above date.

12.05/11 Items of interest for/reports from County and District Councillors.

District Councillor Janet Blake was congratulated on her recent election victory. She informed Cll'rs that there were now two new labour and two new UKIP councillors on AVDC making it a four party council. A group meeting was taking place on 10th May.

Cll'r Lyttle expressed his disbelief at the extensive paperwork and area road closure signs involved in closing part of the High Street for barely 30 minutes on 18th June for the School's summer fete. District Councillor Janet Blake stated AVDC were controlled by statutory regulations in such matters.

Mrs Blake enquired about the empty housing issues in Stewkley. Cll'r Lyttle had recently spoken with Martin Chuter at AVDC and was informed the house in question would be put on the market within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable market price. Cll'r Wodey to inform Mr Ken Lamb. Cll'r Lyttle also informed Cll'rs that he had been informed that BCC paid AVDC 50% of the rateable value of the old library flat whilst it was empty.

Mrs Blake enquired about any outstanding AVDC enforcement issues. It was agreed for the clerk to contact Christine Hack at AVDC to get any updates. It was noted that Mr Binney was on the electoral role against Clack Farm. Mrs Blake would check the significance of this. **ACTION CLERK AND JB**

Cll'rs thanked Mrs Blake for her support against the planning application for the EfW incinerator at Edgcott.

13.05/11 Correspondence for information and action not covered in agenda

Meeting with AVDC re Vale of Aylesbury Plan- Cll'rs Mrs Webb and Lyttle to attend a meeting at AVDC 12th May. Feedback from meeting to be passed on at Planning Meeting and full report to Cll'rs for June PC meeting.

ACTION AL AND RW

AVALC Event in Buckingham Information about an AVALC event in Buckingham on 26th May about rights of access, parish foot and bridle ways to be passed on to Mr Peter Wade of SROWA.

ACTION CLERK

Temporary road closure on 18th June for school fete – noted

Play Around the Parishes – dates to be passed onto The Grapevine. Thursdays- 28th July 11th Aug 16th Aug and 25th Aug 2-4.30pm. At the Recreation Ground.

Buckinghamshire Armed Forces Day Saturday 25th June 2011 - 11am to 11pm at Aylesbury Rugby Club. Cll'rs noted.

Report from London Luton Airport Consultative Committee – LLACC – Cll'rs noted report from Cll'r Mrs Webb. Cll'r Mrs Webb drew attention to paragraph 12 – funds still available from London Luton Airport Community Trust Fund to local communities.

Wing North Neighbourhood update – 2nd March to 30th April 2011 – Cll'rs noted contents. Cll'rs queried why a name had been mentioned under Offenders Brought to Justice in only one instance? There seemed to be a lack of consistency which could be misconstrued? Cll'rs Mrs Webb and Lyttle had attended the Stewkley Coffee Stop at the Recreation Ground Pavilion on 7th April.

Thank you letter from Kieran Salter, Head teacher at St Michael's School – Cll'r Lyttle presented a letter from Kieran Salter to the Parish Council expressing thanks for the recent £1000 grant from the PC for display boards to be used at the 150th birthday of the school celebrations. The boards can also be used by the community. Cll'rs were invited to attend the birthday 'party' on Saturday 16th July which is a free event open to the whole community.

ALL CLLRS TO NOTE

Letter from Andrew Gurnett, Automotive Engineers – Cll'rs agreed to contact Mr Gurnett to acknowledge receipt of his letter seeking PC's support in his forthcoming planning application for change of use. The PC would comment on the application once received and take into consideration the contents of his letter dated 26th April 2011 when submitting their comments.

ACTION CLERK

14.05/11 Finance

- a. To discuss and authorise expenditure incurred with The Stewkley Wildlife Reserve** – Cll'r Dickens reported that he had no expenditure this month.
- b. To agree premium for joint Stewkley Parish Council and Stewkley Recreation Ground Association insurance with Came and Company.** – Cll'r Thornback proposed the PC opt for the special offer 3 year long term agreement with effect from 1st June 2011 to 30th September 2014 for £2,296.38 inclusive of 6% insurance premium tax, Cll'r Mrs Wodey seconded and unanimously agreed.
- c. To authorise the monthly expenditure for the period 5th April to 9th May as listed under correspondence**
Cll'rs agreed to pay the following:

£300	Sidleys Grazing Licence for BMX land April 11 to March 12	(101390)
£500	1 st Stewkley Scout Group – grant for 50 th birthday	(101396)
£926.78	EON street lighting Jan 11 to Mar 11	(101397)
£70.45	Mrs S Flewin – bunting for Royal Wedding celebrations	(101398)
£91	SJ George Printers Ltd – Airport anniversary A5 leaflet	(101399)
£21	Stewkley Village Hall – hall hire for Airport anniversary	(101400)
£556	SLHG – loan for printing follow up to Stewkley Lads	(101401)
£74.70	Fire Safety Services – fire equipment service at pavilion	(101402)
£60	Safe and Sound Playground Equipment – annual equipment inspection at Rec	(101403)
£2025	LJ Corkett – new metal doors to tractor sheds at Rec	(101404)
£2296.38	SPC and Stewkley Recreation Ground insurance – cover to Oct 2012	(101405)
£318.18	Mrs A M Cooper- clerking duties net tax	(101406)
£62.80	BALC – new Cll'r Induction courses for JT and MB	(101407)

Income

£15,000	First half of precept
£31	Tennis Club rent
£160	Donation from G Palmer, deceased, for upkeep of war memorial

15.05/11 Empty houses in Stewkley– a further report from Cll'r Lyttle

See minute 12.05/11.

16.05/11 BCC Centenary Plaque at Centenary Plantation and current unkempt condition of plantation – Cll’rs to discuss course of action

Cll’rs agreed to ask Mr Hugh Mellor of BBOWT to see if they would be interested in maintaining Kingsbridge Picnic Site as it is a site renowned for its population of owls. Cll’r Lyttle to approach The Explorer Scouts to see if they would be interested in maintaining the Airport Spinney. The BCC Centenary Plaque at Centenary Plantation and results to be discussed at June PC meeting.

ACTION CLERK & AL

17.05/11 Local Emergency Planning – any update report at meeting

Cll’r Wodey will email to Cll’rs the progress to date. (Apologies for the June meeting from Cll’r Wodey)

ACTION JW

18.05/11 Parsons Close – any update report at meeting

Cll’rs agreed for the clerk to contact Paul Foot at BCC to see if a schedule of works had been drawn up. Cll’rs have noted that AVDC cut the grass in this area.

ACTION CLERK

19.05/11 BMX Project – any update report at meeting

Andrew Robson from Sidley’s had clarified the anomaly with the land boundary and the land to be rented was within the original red line. Access would be over the farm track from the road but no parking on the farm track is permitted as access to the field is required at all times by the farmer. When the land is ready for use a fence must be installed on both sides of the land with the field, a post and wire fence should suffice. Cll’rs agreed to sign a new grazing licence for a year.

It was with regret that Cll’r Lyttle stated that unless there was still interest in the village by the young people to use the land with their bikes the project should cease next year. Cll’rs agreed the Youth Club should be made aware and an article should be placed in the Grapevine. Should nothing should come to fruition, the PC would cease renting the land.

ACTION AL

20.05/11 Traffic Group – any update report at meeting

Cll’r Mrs Webb would produce a report from the Traffic Sub Committee for the June meeting. This would form the basis of a discussion and seek PC’s approval before a ‘wish list’ is forwarded onto BCC. Cll’r Mrs Webb is also awaiting a reply from John Bercow MP on clarification of some Department for Transport issues with regards to road markings and other traffic calming measures available to a local authority.

ACTION RW

21.05/11 Planning: 11/00766/APP 12 Ivy Lane – two storey side extension, first floor rear extension and porch.

Deferred to May Planning meeting

22.05/11 Councillor’s General Items

Clerk resignation – Cll’r Lyttle reported that Mrs Alison Cooper’s resignation had been received dated 6th April 2011. This was due to increased work load at school and home-life changes. A period of one months notice is required but Mrs Cooper agreed to stay on until a replacement clerk was found and have a hand over period. An advert had been placed in the May edition of the Grapevine. Cll’rs agreed for Cll’rs Mrs Webb, Lyttle and Smith to interview candidates. Mrs Cooper would also be available if required during the interview process. Date to be arranged.

HS 2 Summit – Cll’r Mrs Webb and Thornback had attended and they reported that BCC are now opposed to the whole concept of a new HS2 line. Cll’r Mrs Webb is to attend another HS2 event on 10th/11th May at Aylesbury and would report back.

ACTION RW

Public Footpath off South Lane – Cll’r Wodey reported the overgrown state of this footpath and Cll’rs agreed for Cll’r Wodey to report this to SROWA.

ACTION JW

Co-opting another Cll’r – Cll’rs agreed to give this some thought and report back at the June meeting.

Grass growing through the pavement by 41-45 Dove Street – Cll’r Dickens reported. Clerk to inform AVDC.

ACTION CLERK

23.05/11 Next Planning Meeting – Monday 23rd May 2011 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

24.05/11 Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 6th June 2011 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 10.20pm

Minutes accepted Date