

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2020 AT 8 pm
ON ZOOM DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS**

PRESENT: Cllr Harry Bott Chairman
Cllr Mrs Polly Falconer Vice-chairman
Cllr Tom Brooker
Cllr Daren Sefer
Cllr Kevin Sparkes

Mrs Melita Gandolfo Clerk

In attendance Cllr Harry Rayner Kent County Council
Cllr Martin Coffin TMBC
Four members of the public

Item *Action point*
Minute no 2020/21

1 APOLOGIES

187 Following the meeting, apologies for absence due to computer issues were received from Cllr Yvonne Tisson.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ALTERATIONS TO THE REGISTER

188 None.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2020

189 It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Sefer and agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2020 were a true record and would be signed when Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

4 MATTERS ARISING

190 There were no matters arising.

Cllr Bott reported with sadness the death of Penny Goring and expressed thanks for all that George and Penny Goring did for the village, and said he would like to use Chairman's allowance to send flowers to Penny's daughter Theresa, this to be agreed under item 6 e.

Suspension of meeting for County and Borough Councillors' Reports

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow TMBC Cllr Martin Coffin and KCC Cllr Harry Rayner to give their reports.

TMBC Cllr Coffin reminded the Parish Council that government grants were available through TMBC for businesses impacted by Tier 3 COVID-19 lockdown regulations. Details were available on the TMBC website.

Cllr Coffin was aware that Lucy's Barn Campsite had had its Caravanning and Camping

Club licence removed, and that Enforcement were investigating issues at the site and at the adjoining Janes Farm.

A decision re Oak Tree Stables in Fairseat was still awaited.

Cllr Coffin said that TMBC was currently receiving very few complaints re the rubbish collections, and a greatly increased volume of recycling was taking place.

KCC Cllr Rayner said that incinerated waste “bottom ash” could be recycled to make aggregate materials. It was planned that this ash material could be moved by barge from Allington to Ridham Dock in Sittingbourne for this purpose. This would effectively eliminate landfill.

Cllr Rayner said that new facilities were being prepared at Ashford for lorry parking and customs functions. 7,000 HGV parking spaces were confirmed and this number could increase.

Cllr Rayner reported an increase in Covid19 cases in Kent. In Tonbridge and Malling, the areas with most cases were East Malling and Bluebell Hill.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Coffin and Rayner and reconvened the meeting.

5 PLANNING

a Applications

- 191 i 20/02654/FL | Construction of single storey 3 bedroom holiday let, along with a new access driveway, footpaths, parking spaces, cycle store shed, hedgerows and fencing within the residential curtilage of Westwood Lodge | Antlers South Ash Road Ash Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7ER

Following discussion, it was agreed to reply that there was no objection to this application.

- 192 ii 20/02467/FL Demolition of extensions and outbuilding and change of use of public house to 1 no. 6 bedroom dwelling together with erection of 1 no. 4 bedroom dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping Anchor and Hope South Ash Road Ash Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7ER

Following discussion, it was agreed to object to this application, because it reduced the number of houses to be built on a site that could usefully be used for more housing.

- 193 iii 20/02350/FL Change of use of land from agricultural to a mixed agricultural and equestrian use Horse and Groom London Road Wrotham Sevenoaks TN15 7NT

No objections were raised.

b Decisions

- 194 The decisions as listed on the Agenda were noted.

c Appeals

195 Treehouse at Littlefields, Stansted TN15 7PE - The Clerk had contacted Enforcement for an update following dismissal of the Appeal. Enforcement confirmed that they were considering how to proceed.

196 Parsonage Farm – TM20/01208/FL - The applicants had launched an Appeal, following refusal of the planning application. It was agreed that the Clerk should reiterate the Parish Council's original objections to the Appeal panel, and should ask that the applicants provide SBI number to confirm that the property is an agricultural holding.

d Other planning issues**i Lucy's Barn Camp Site, Ash Lane – licence conditions and Enforcement – update**

197 It was noted that Lucy's Barn campsite had had its Camping and Caravanning Club licence revoked. It was also noted that further works were being carried out at the property, including the construction of a new entrance and internal "road", and Enforcement had been notified.

ii Thriftwood - update

198 Thriftwood had said they would like to offer their presentation at the January meeting.

iii Oak Tree Stable - update

199 There were no updates to report, the application still showed the status Awaiting Decision. It was thought likely that if the application was eventually refused, the applicants would appeal against the decision.

6 FINANCE**a Bank Balances**

200 The bank balances as listed on Appendix A were noted.

b Accounts for Payment

201 It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed that the accounts for payment as listed on Appendix A be paid online.

C To agree budget 2021-2022

202 The draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed that the 2021-2022 budget be adopted.

d To set Precept 2021-2022

203 It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed that the Precept for 2021-2022 be set at £17,260.

e Other Finance issues

204 It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Falconer and agreed that the Clerk should arrange for flowers should be sent from the Parish Council to Theresa Goring following the death of Penny, the cost to be allocated to the Chairman's allowance.

7 Highways**a Traffic Plan, Highways Improvement Plan, Signage**

205 The Clerk reported that Highways Engineer Les Henry was willing to refine / improve Cllr Falconer's Traffic Plan with a view to it being presented to KCC, and to specifically make suggestions on eight points as explained by Cllr Falconer, and had quoted £1,050 for the work involved. It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Sparkes and agreed that this quote be accepted and that Les Henry be asked to do the work.

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow KCC Cllr Rayner to speak.

206 Cllr Rayner said that a KCC grant might be given towards this cost and that the Clerk should request the necessary forms, to be completed before Christmas. It was agreed the Clerk would do so.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rayner and reconvened the meeting.

207 Cllr Falconer suggested and it was agreed that areas of the Traffic Plan be allocated to individual Councillors as below.

Signage

Before new signs are ordered, the hedges surrounding the signs should be trimmed back and signs should be cleaned so that a full audit could be made. Cllr Falconer agreed to ask Mark Haley for an estimate of the cost of this trimming and cleaning, and to continue to consider design and prices of new signs. Prices were thought to be in the region of £105 per sign and post.

Banking up of earth to protect green areas

Cllr Brooker agreed to submit a quote for Cllrs Brooker and Saunders to build up banks and sow grass seed where required, and to liaise with Cllr Falconer to specify the exact areas, and with TMBC Cllr Coffin who can provide loads of earth.

Parish gateways

Cllrs Sefer and Sparkes agreed to investigate Parish gateways, and to ask Cllr Tisson to be involved. It was thought that gateways could be installed near the Hill Top, in Plaxdale Green Road, Stansted Hill, and Vigo Road in Fairseat; possibly the slogan "Old Chalk New Downs" could be used. They also agreed to look at the possibility and design of planters to be installed. It was agreed that final proposals could be approved by Highways Engineer Les Henry.

Hedges

Cllr Bott agreed to ask Cllr Saunders to quote for the cost of cutting all hedges.

b Other Highways issues

208 It was noted that new hedges had been planted in Plaxdale Green Road. As whips were planted outside the wire fence, these could eventually encroach on the verges

when mature. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owner Cllr Saunders to ask him to ensure hedges were kept trimmed back.

8 MANAGEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL LAND AND PROPERTY

i Hire of ground
209 Nothing to report

ii Play park
210 Nothing to report

iii Lights around Stansted Village Hall and on path to School

211 Further to the previous month’s discussions, Cllr Bott had sought an alternative solution to the problem by spraying the lights with water-based orange paint as a temporary measure.. This had been effective and it was agreed that permanent paint would be applied. Two lights on the side of the village hall would be removed.

iv Other issues
212 No other issues were raised.

9 PARISH MAGAZINE

213 Cllr Falconer had discussed the Parish Council’s proposals with Reverend Chris Noble and the PCC . She reported that the PCC would like to keep overall control of the editorial content of the magazine. The PCC had suggested that they publish the magazine online, and the Parish Council could then pay for the printing of hard copies to be distributed door-to-door in the Parish. Cllr Falconer said the cost would be for a 20-page magazine per annum: £2,015 for 230 copies / £1,944 for 200 copies. Details were still to be confirmed, including the administration of and revenue from advertising.

10 SUPPORT DURING TIER 3 COVID RESTRICTIONS

214 Cllr Falconer said that Stansted Church / Mandy Clampin continued to provide support to residents needing help with shopping etc. The Clerk said she would mention TMBC support again in the Parish Notes.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

215 No issues were raised.

PUBLIC SESSION

No matters were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.45 pm

SignedChairman

On theday of2020