

**STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL****MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2015 AT STANSTED VILLAGE HALL, MALHOUSE ROAD, STANSTED AT 8.00 pm**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr Harry Bott	Chairman
	Cllr John Brooker	
	Cllr Mrs Polly Falconer	
	Cllr Mrs Sheila Goodworth	From item 6
	Cllr George Goring	
	Cllr Miss Janet Howie	
	Cllr Michael Osborne	
	Mrs Roxana Brammer	Clerk
In attendance	Cllr Mrs Sarah Hohler	Kent County Council
	Cllr Robin Betts	Wrotham Parish Council
	12 members of the public	

**Item** *Action point*  
Minute no 2014/15/

**1 APOLOGIES**

345 All parish councillors present. An apology for late arrival was received from Cllr Mrs Goodworth. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Matthew Balfour and Mrs Ann Kemp, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ALTERATIONS TO THE REGISTER**

346 None.

**3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2015**

347 It was proposed by Cllr Brooker, seconded by Cllr Osborne and agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be signed as a true record.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

348 No matters were raised.

**5 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2015**

349 It was proposed by Cllr Miss Howie, seconded by Cllr Brooker and agreed the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 be signed as a true record.

**6 STANSTED SCHOOL**

350 The Chairman suspended the meeting for Cllr Mrs Hohler, Cllr Betts and members of the public to speak.

Cllr Mrs Hohler apologised for not having been able to attend the extraordinary meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January. She stated she would do everything she could to support the Parish Council

and to keep the school open. She referred to the Headteacher's contract. She confirmed he was off sick and the IEB would not make any decisions until his return to work. Reserving places for pupils at other schools was standard practice and it was legal requirement of the admissions code to make prospective parents aware of the current situation. She confirmed that the inspector had worked for KCC over 5 years previously and that this should be raised with HM Inspectorate for Schools. The last Ofsted report had been littered with criticism. After the school had been put into special measures, she had attended some meetings of the governors and had suggested people who could have been co-opted, but the governors had been happy with the Chairman and the way the school was being run. The IEB could only operate for 2 years. A federation had been considered but this had failed with other primary schools. Cllr Mrs Hohler had also asked about federation with secondary schools – this had also failed. The funding was linked with the number of children in any October. In October 2014 there had been 34 children in the school, with a consequent reduction in the budget. The Local Authority had put in more money than usual and Cllr Mrs Hohler was disappointed this had not been acted upon.

Cllr Goring commented that Kent was short of 8,500 primary school places. Mr Shaw said the school could not become an academy due to the low number of pupils. He had spoken to Roger Gough about the 7 months with an inappropriate head and had said the school had been robbed of time.

Cllr Betts suggested the Parish Council seek to have the school listed as a community asset.

Cllr Bott asked if the community could raise money to help keep the school open. Cllr Mrs Hohler pointed out that this would need to be sustainable over more than 1 year. She thought the break figure was 60 pupils. She confirmed that the consultation document had been received by other schools.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Mrs Hohler and Betts and reconvened the meeting.

After discussion it was agreed the Chairman prepare a draft response to the consultation, for agreement at the next meeting and submission by 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The Chairman suspended the meeting to allow Cllr Mrs Hohler give her report.

Cllr Mrs Hohler said the County Council was in the process of setting the budget. They were considering commissioning some services.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Hohler and reconvened the meeting.

#### **7 PLANNING**

##### **351 a Applications**

None

##### **352 b Decisions**

The decisions as listed on Appendix A were received.

**c Enforcement**353 **i Byways, Vigo Road**

Cllr Mrs Falconer reported that the roof being constructed was not as she remembered from the plans.

354 **d Appeals**

None

**e Other Planning Issues**355 **i Crabdene Cottage, Hatham Green Lane**

It was understood from Mr Durrant that permission had now been granted.

**8 FINANCE**356 **a Bank Balances**

The bank balances as listed on Appendix B were noted.

357 **b Cheques signed since Last Meeting**

None.

358 **c Accounts for Payment**

It was proposed by Cllr Goring, seconded by Cllr Mrs Falconer and agreed the accounts for payment as listed on Appendix B be paid (cheques 720 - 723).

**9 FUNDING REQUESTS**

359 None.

**10 BROWNES BEQUEST**360 **a Woodland**

Cllr Bott said that he had not been contacted by the Borough Council's tree officer.

361 **b Wrotham Bowls Club**

Wrotham Bowls Club had written, wishing to explore further their possible use of the field. Cllr Bott said that he would take this item together with the next item.

362 **c Medway Croquet Club**

Cllr Bott said that the croquet club were also interested in pursuing further use of the field. He suggested setting up a meeting with both clubs to see if it would be possible for them to share the field and facilities.

**11 MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S LAND & PROPERTY****a Recreation Ground**

363 i. General Matters. Nothing to report.

364 ii. Hire of Ground. Gravesend Rotary Bike Ride, 19<sup>th</sup> April – use of car park. This was agreed.

**365 b Playpark**

Cllr Mrs Goodworth reported the equipment was on order.

**366 c War Memorial and Garden**

It was reported a post was damaged. Cllr Brooker said he had looked at it and it would need replacing. It was proposed by Cllr Bott, seconded by Cllr Osborne and agreed Cllr Brooker should proceed, at a cost of up to £300. *JB*

**366 d Church Bank**

It was had been reported the sign was still on the land, but had been moved to a more appropriate place.

**367 e Telephone Kiosk**

Cllr Miss Howie said that the Knitting Group was engaged on the project.

**368 f Village Green Land, Hatham Green Lane and Parsons Lane**

Nothing to report.

**12 POLICE MATTERS****369 a Police Representative's Report**

Cllr Mrs Goodworth said there had been several break-ins.

**370 b Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Mrs Goodworth had nothing to report.

**13 HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT****371 a Parking at Junction of Vigo Road and Platt House Lane**

Another complaint had been received about the parking for the livery yard. The owner would be asked to create more parking spaces. *RB*

372 **b Pond, Hatham Green Lane**

The soakaway and pond in Hatham Green Lane had filled up quickly. It was understood from Mr Durrant that he had contacted the highways officer, who had told him the bore hole had not yet been put in.

**14 VILLAGE HALLS**

373 **a Stansted Village Hall**

Cllr Mrs Goodworth reported a race night would be held the following Saturday.

374 **b Fairseat Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

**15 BROADBAND**

375 Cllr Bott had no update to give.

**16 WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET**

376 Nothing to report.

**17 ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS AND DATES OF MEETINGS**

377 The Clerk had forwarded an email from the election office at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council about the Parliamentary, Borough and Parish elections to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May.. The first Monday in May was a bank holiday and normally the parish council meeting would have been held the following Monday. However, the count for parish councils would not be carried out until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. It was decided that if the election was uncontested, the meeting would be held on 11<sup>th</sup> May and if contested, would be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The first Monday in April was also a bank holiday. The meeting would be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April and would be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

**18 CONSULTATION**

378 No documents received.

**19 CORRESPONDENCE**

379 None.

**20 REPORTS & CIRCULARS**

380 None received.

**21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

381 **a Generator, Vigo Road**

Cllr Mrs Falconer said that the generator should be removed by the end of the week.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr Sefer said that the night club's final opening had been on Boxing Day.

The Chairman thanked councillors and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 9.53 pm

Signed .....Chairman

On the .....day of .....2015