

STOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Stoughton Parish Council Held on Monday 9th July 2018 at 7.30pm, at the Walderton Pumping Station, Walderton

Present: Mr. Michael Gauntlett, Mr. Alun Alesbury, and Mr. John Stilwell

Absent: Mr. Andrew Elms, Mrs. Sarah Foxall, Mr. Graham Hockley, Mr. Charles Langmead, Mrs. Mary Williams, WSCC Cllr Parikh, PCSO Booker, CDC Cllr Julie Tassell

Others: Mrs. Fiona Baker (Clerk)

Residents: 1

1. Apologies for Absence

Andrew Elms, Sarah Foxall, Charles Langmead, Cllr Parikh, PCSO Booker

2. Declarations of Interest by Councillors in matters on the Agenda

Cllr Stilwell declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in a planning application, which may be discussed later in the meeting,

3. Minutes of meeting held on 14th May 2018 to be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record

Councillors present agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting held in May. Cllr Gauntlett signed the minutes accordingly.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- a. **Noticeboards:** the Clerk had obtained three quotes for two new noticeboards (for Stoughton and Forestside), the cheapest was ££1900, the Council felt that this was expensive, Cllr Stilwell offered to look into this and approach a local carpenter he knows.
- b. **Velo South;** the Council discussed the growing concern surrounding the event and the lack of information being provided by the organisers and WSCC, the Council is unaware of anyone in the Parish who has received the leaflet/letter informing them of the event. The Chairman is still waiting for a response to his letter to Cllr Goldsmith. Cllr Gauntlett read out the response from Velo South.
- c. **BT Phonebox;** the Clerk will update at the next meeting.

5. Affordable Housing

No update was received; this will carry forward to the next meeting.

6. Report from WSCC Cllr Viral Parikh

In Cllr Parikh's absence Mr Gauntlett read out the following report

"Please accept my sincere apologies.

Velo South: I have heard all concerns from the residents and Parish Council. I have concerns and have raised during CLC, to CSM and will raise again when I am meeting the Leader of the Council.

Care Recruitment: WSCC has recently launched new care recruitment campaign in the Chichester area, which aims to promote the varied and rewarding opportunities available locally who consider a career in care.

As part of the campaign we're hosting the following recruitment event, which is open to anyone interested in a career in care to come along and find out more. **Tuesday 17th July, Chichester Park Hotel, Madgwick Lane, Westhampnett Road, Chichester, PO19 7QL 2-4.30pm**

School Effectiveness Strategy: Thank you to Parish Councillors and residents who took part in the consultation. The conclusion will be published by the Cabinet Member for Education.

7. Report from PCSO Booker

In PCSO Booker's absence Cllr Gauntlett read out the following report;

- On 19th May a report was received that some horse blankets in some stables at Forestside had been damaged. They had deliberately been cut up.
- On 21st May a vehicle was broken into by the car park opposite Stansted House, nothing was stolen.
- On 7th June three vehicles were broken into in the Stoughton Down car park, nothing appears to have been stolen.
- On 8th June a vehicle was broken into in a layby close to Walderton, nothing was stolen.
- On 21st June a vehicle was broken into by the church in Forestside, a horse saddle was stolen.
- On 25th June a male was cycling through Walderton towards West Marden when he was shot at with a pellet gun from a vehicle that was following him along the road. According to the cyclist there were a further two people this had happened too. There have been a few reports of issues involving catapults being used in a similar fashion around the area but no details of the vehicle involved have been identified. If you see anything similar or that looks out of place please report it.
- On 28th June a vehicle was broken into whilst being parked up in a layby close to Stansted house, nothing was stolen.
- Over 3rd / 4th July a few vehicles have been broken into in the car park at Stoughton Down, a few items were stolen from the vehicles.

Unfortunately there have been a few issues in the area since the last meeting, most of which relate to vehicles being broken into. This is an issue across the rural areas of Chichester at present and there is a lot of on-going work between Sussex and Hampshire Police around this issue.

The issue involving the cyclists is quite worrying so please if you see anything that looks out of place please report it.

RE Diddy Bones Vagrant:

If the male is on private land it will be down to the landowner to remove them but if the male is on public land it will be down to the council, usually the Community Safety team get involved in this type of issue and Police will work alongside them.

... Might be worth reporting it officially via 101 (probably better to email though). **Agreed the Clerk to report the issue via 101.**

8. Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The clerk brought the following to the Council's attention.

- A neighbouring council who has concerns over the ditches, which run through Dean Lane End, has contacted the council. The council ask if Stoughton would make contact with the owner and remind them of their Riparian duty. **The clerk will send a letter.**

9. Planning Applications & Decisions

The Clerk made the Council aware that from September the South Downs National Park will no longer be forwarding paper copies of planning applications.

Cllr Gauntlett read out the following from the SDNPA as an update in respect of Markwells Wood; ...I can confirm that our position on the Markwell's Wood site has not changed and we consider that the site remains in breach of planning condition. We could also confirm that during our last monitoring visit in August 2017 it was noted that UKOG had not commenced site restoration and that we are now due to undertake a further monitoring visit in the coming month.

Cllr Alesbury informed the Council that whilst there had been a number of applications this month there was nothing controversial and the Council was inclined to raise 'no objection' to any of them.

10. Cheques Paid & Received

None received.

The following cheques were paid out;

Chq 454 – HMRC (PAYE June) - £91.80

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Chq 456 – Clerk Salary (June £366.95, July £366.95, Home Allowance £60) - £793.90

Chq 457 – Hire of Forestside Hall for May meeting - £15

Chq 458 – Mr M Payne (purchase of IT equipment and Sharepoint) - £838.80

11. Short Opportunity for the Public to raise questions (to be discussed as agenda items at future meetings)

Ahead of the meeting Ann Stewart had contacted the Council with the following update, which was read out by Cllr Gauntlett;

Injunction case.

This took place at the Rolls Building, Chancery Lane, last week and lasted from Monday to Thursday afternoon. The deputy judge said it would not be possible to deliver a judgment this month, and possibly not in August.

The injunction that UKOG is seeking has already been greatly reduced in scope from their original application, and Markwells Wood was dropped on the grounds that "operationally it has ceased to be of importance". I remained a defendant as UKOG are clearly stating to their shareholders that they are pursuing a new application, and although we think this is bluff and bluster, you never know if we might just be constrained by an injunction at some time in the future. Our QC leads us to expect some form of injunction, but that it will be reduced further. The main, remaining issues seem to be, (as far as I understand them.... it was complicated)

1. Preventing slow walking. This is where campaigners use their right to use the public highway by walking on the road, while slowing down the oil company's vehicles. At present most police forces allow and monitor this for a limited time period, usually about 20 minutes.
2. Contacting contractors with the aim of persuading them to stop providing their services to the oil company.

3. Combining with others to break any injunction. For us this is the most worrying, as we could become liable if we encourage people to come to a demonstration and someone decides to break the injunction. It could be that we become liable too.

In court the point was made that UKOG had been less than honest in saying they had all the access contracts in place. Their QC's response to this is that UKOG could apply to the courts for access under the Mines Act 1966, and the grounds of national importance. One of our group has spoken to a QC that he knows, who thought that it would be unlikely that UKOG would get this. Moreover, it does not address the fact that UKOG misled the court.

I have spoken to the SDNPA about the status of restoration. They are determined to pursue this and are consulting with their legal department at present. I have an answer to my Freedom of information request that confirms this. https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/restoration_of_markwells_wood

12. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.26pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th September at 7.30pm at Forestside & Stansted Village Hall