

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST
July 2016 AT 7.15PM AT STENSON FIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, STENSON FIELDS**

Present: - Cllr C Fellows (Chair from 7:20), Cllr R Lisewski, Cllr P Richardson, Cllr K Rogers, Cllr I Baker, Cllr K Butterworth, Cllr G Dhillon, Cllr P Bonnell

In attendance: Mr J Storer (Locum Clerk), County Cllr R Davison (to 8:04pm), District Cllr D Shepherd (from 7:25 to 8:04pm)

Meeting started at 7:21 as Cllr Fellows was late and Cllr's wished to postpone the start and wait for Cllr Fellows.

Apologies: - There were no apologies.

660/16 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

No variations were identified.

661/16 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTEREST

No Changes were announced or discussed.

662/16 PUBLIC SPEAKING

a) Public

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

b) Police

No representative from the police was present and no report had been provided.

c) County Councillor Rob Davison reported on the following topics. Observations and suggestions were discussed between Councillors: -

There has been a hedge damaged, reportedly by a car, on the East side of Stenson Road to the South of the railway bridge. This has already been raised with the County Council and the possibility of temporary fencing to cover the gap is under discussion and debate. There are desires for the hedge to be re-planted with the temporary fencing to remain in place whilst the hedge grows to an acceptable size.

The County Council has received complaints that there are excessively tall trees on the north side of Wragley Way which are affecting TV reception as well as restricting natural light. The County Council are looking into whether the tops end of the trees could be reduced rather than removing the trees completely.

Cllr Rob Davison also expressed his willingness to raise a contribution of 50% up to £750, from his personal allowance, towards the hard standing surface required for the installation of a concrete table tennis table that is being negotiated with SDDC Parklife Officers.

Cllr Dave Shepherd reported on the Community Governance Review which included the prospect of changing the speed limit on Stenson Road from 40mph down to 30mph as well as the attempts to gain a pedestrian crossing along the same stretch of road. During an investigation into the usage of the road, it was noted that around 5000 cars pass through each day each averaging 32.8mph with 1500 cars registered at 55mph. The pedestrian usage may be under investigation when the contractors leave. As part of the construction work, high hedges have been planted which dramatically reduce visibility to an almost dangerous level, especially with speeding vehicles. Counter thoughts were raised that changing the speed limit may not change the situation much if at all as the average speed is close to 30mph already. Many residents believe that the speed limit actually is 30mph. It was also stated that even if

there is a reduction in the speed limit, cars will still exceed the limit as they are currently choosing to do so and will continue to do so regardless of a change.

Safer Neighbourhoods have received complaints about parking throughout the area especially with cars parking on pavements. Traffic Wardens have been seen being very active in certain areas although sometimes they have been some inconsistencies.

The continuing grass cutting problems persist although it is noted that all are aware and accept that it is a work in progress. Unfortunately though this is not currently rectifying the situation.

The trees, bushes and hedges on Wragley Way may need to be investigated as the right shrubs need to be in the right place which on Wragley Way, they may not be following some complaints and disruptions.

Some anti-social behavior near Beaufort Road and Eggesford Road revolving around football being played against the substation's wooden doors has created some noise complaints as well as fears of the young children running onto the road and risk colliding with oncoming traffic. There is a fear of public falling which could be addressed with the planting of shrubs, although this has proven implausible due to the power cables present within the substation. In regards to the review of boundary changes and ownership many residents have expressed confusion as to the intentions and wording of the letters and pictures that were distributed. The descriptions used by some residents are that it is legal wording and therefore unclear to the un-legal minded. Therefore it was raised that a clearer and shorter release would be beneficial and aid integration of the new estate into Stenson Fields as well as quelling any concerns as to the changes and intentions.

Cllrs' Davison and Shepherd left at 8:04pm

663/16 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH MAY 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2016; as previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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665/16 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH MEETING HELD 16TH JUNE 2016**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16.06.16; as previously circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

666/16 **TO DETERMINE WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE TAKEN WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED**

No items were deemed necessary to be taken with the public excluded.

667/16 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS**

The Chair would like to inform the Cllr's that Willington Power Station site has changed ownership as NPower have sold onto a currently unknown buyer. The current planning permission is for a gas-fired power station but the new owners will have the right to apply for a change of use and as yet have not done so. The Chair wanted to stress that there is no official news yet, just rumours and opinions.

Other matters on the Chairs' report have already been discussed and don't require recovering.

668/16 **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk's report had been previously circulated to all Councillors.

The Clerk is to chase up the tree doctor in regards to the damaged trees on Fox Close playing fields.

The noticeboard decoration put forward by the Clerk with the involvement of the local primary school has been declined due to health and safety restrictions.

The 'Bairstow Eves' advertisement board remains in place although lying flat on the floor. The paving advertisement blocking Glenmore Drive road sign has been removed.

The Clerk is to continue to liaise with Yvonne, the PING IN THE PARK officer, regarding the installation of the concrete table tennis table as well as the hard standing surface. There was a problem raised by the Cllr's which was that in the past, in the location that was highlighted, drainage has been a problem. The area has been known to become boggy and there was a drainage hole installed a few years ago to help the situation. The Parish Council do not have a problem with the location although want to make sure all the information is available and all decisions are informed.

The Clerk is to contact DALC and enquire as to whether document storage can be done electronically as well as physically. Further price checks and comparisons are to take place.

669/16 **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. The summer activities spreadsheets have already been circulated and the Cllr's will upload and circulate the relevant Stenson Fields dates.
2. The governance review that was previously discussed was agreed that a few concise words should be uploaded onto the website which Cllr Fellows will write and the Clerk will add the map photo.
3. It was raised in the meeting about whether the website could contain a hit counter so the council can monitor its use. This is something the Clerk will enquire about.
4. The Clerk is to investigate the legal requirements involved in the pension auto enrollment and will report back.

670/16 **FINANCE**

a) Accounts for payment

<u>Cheque No</u>	<u>Payee & Description</u>	<u>£</u>
2004	June 2016 Salaries	92.0
2005	June 2016 Salaries	194.4
2007	June 2016 Salaries	191.96
2008	Clerk Training	50.0
2009	Clerk Expenses	7.65
2010	HMRC Reimbursement	90.8
2011	Chairmans allowance	25.69
2012	HMRC	71.0

b) No changes to risk assessment

c) Actual vs Budget was previously circulated and there were no problems. One question was raised on the wording of a category but was resolved.

d) Proposals to sign up to online banking was agreed and the forms signed for the Clerk to put into motion.

671/16 **PLANNING**

Applications

No applications received.

Decisions

a) No Decisions

B) There has been a fence erected in open space by a property on Wragley Way. The individual has now been asked to apply for planning permission after having made many previous attempts to buy this land outright themselves in the past. It is now currently unclear who actually owns this land as well some other plots within the Parish and an investigation is underway with the SDDC. A map will be circulated to the Cllrs courtesy of Cllr Lisewski. One reported problem with this fencing is that it now encloses at least one manhole cover which

was previously accessible. Cllr Shepherd has been informed and aware of the situation.

POLICE ISSUES/ SPEED LIMITS/ ROAD SAFETY

672/16 The only matter raised was the speed limit and speeding along Stenson Road. Cllrs have been informed that a petition can be raised and presented to Cllr Davison who will represent it on our behalf. The current speed limit is a major safety risk as it indicates to motorists into believing the road is sufficiently safe to travel at 40mph. As previously mentioned, the vast majority deem it not safe or comfortable to drive at 40mph and choosing 30mph. The legal recommended stopping distance travelling at 40mph accounts 12metres for thinking and 24metres for braking although this combined distance of 36metres does not fit into the stretch of road.

A vehicle activated mobile speed sign was a possibility but the change in highway criteria in 2012 now restricts the granting of permission to use one.

The speed safety charity 'BRAKE' could be a possibility for gaining support and action in reducing the speed limit.

SAXONGATE

673/16 There is nothing further to report.

LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

674/16 There are no issues raised.

ENVIRONMENT

- 675/16
- a) The Parish Council no longer has its own contractor to cut grass, plant bulbs and fertilise. Cllr Baker is looking for suggestions for locations to plant bulbs and is in hand.
 - b) The memorial bench concept has been welcomed and a couple of locations have been earmarked for further investigation; one in Fox Close that is already owned by the council or a new bench installed in Ledbury Chase. The new bench in Ledbury Chase is the preferred option as it would be a complete memorial for Mrs P Harvey as well as being in an area where Mrs P Harvey spent time maintaining the area. The wordage for the plaque will be discussed and agreed at a later date and may need authorisation from SDDC.

TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

676/16 There was nothing further to report as already discussed.

REVIEW OF OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE THROUGHOUT THE PARISH OF STENSON FIELDS

677/16 Nothing further to add after already been discussed.

CONSULTATIONS

678/16 There were no further matters to discuss.

TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK AND REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

679/16 The next meeting of the PPG meeting is Thursday July 28th 2016. Description on the Parish Council website of what the PPG stand for is unclear and clarification is required.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

680/16 The reports over the meeting have been up to date.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 15th September 2016, commencing at 7:15pm and will be held in the Stenson Fields Primary School.

The following resolution was agreed

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (in respect of the personal situation of an employee) it is advisable in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.”

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

The Parish Council has been in contact with candidates regarding the full time position and have received some positive feedback. Following this feedback, the Chair and Vice Chair will be arranging interviews.

A change in the National Joint Council for Local Government Service (NJC) Clerk’s pay scales came into effective from 1st April 2016. The Locum Clerk is currently on NJC salary point 20. In line with the new pay scale the Locum Clerks pay should be increased from £9.900 ph to £9.999 ph and backdated to 1st April 2016. This change also affects the previous Clerk who should also have a pay increase within their current scale rate 25 from £11.545 ph to £11.660 ph. A further increase in Clerk’s pay scales will take place from 1st April 2017.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:33pm.

Signed..... Date.....