STOWEY SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at**

7.30pm on Wednesday 1st March 2017, The Link, Bishop Sutton

[www.stoweysuttonpc.org](http://www.stoweysuttonpc.org)

Present: Councillors K Betton (Chairman), C Brookes, H Clewett (Vice Chair), E Balmforth, R Brent, E Daly, L Kingston, J Knibbs, and District Councillor V Pritchard

Also in attendance J Howell (Clerk) and four members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor P Gleave, R Brewer and B Braidley and accepted.

1. Declaration of interest

There were none.

1. Confirmation of minutes

That the minutes of the meeting dated 1st February 2017 were approved.

1. Matters arising from the minutes

At the February meeting it was reported that the road sign for Bonhill Way was missing and a resident on Bonhill Road had been bombarded with parcels destined for Bonhill Way. It has been confirmed that the road sign for Bonhill Way is in place and clearly legible from the roadside in front of the bungalows.

1. Chairman’s Report
There were no additional items to report.
2. Being a Good Councillor Training
RESOLVED
That the Parish Council will undertake ‘Being a Good Councillor’ training delivered by Deborah White, Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) at a cost of £200 plus Chapel hire on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 to start at 7.30pm. Training will be tailored to cover the requirements of both new and existing members. The session will also include a short input on Neighbourhood Plans.
3. Meeting updates
Updates were provided in relation to the Parishes Liaison, Chew Valley Forum, and Bishop Sutton Village Hall Committee meetings.

The Clerk reported back from attending the Parishes Liaison meeting and provided the headlines. This included a summary of topics raised by the Leader of the Council Tim Warren. In addition, items of note included an update on the Dog Warden Service – a comprehensive review of the service will be undertaken in 2017/18. The cost of bi-elections will be passed onto Town and Parish Councils a rate of 50% in 2017/18 and 100% thereafter. It was noted that this had not been known at the time of setting the Parish Council budget and can typically cost £2-3,000. A copy of the minutes from the meeting will be circulated.

Cllr Clewett attended the Chew Valley Forum and provided the Parish Council with a summary of matters discussed. This included the Boundary Review, a briefing on changes to waste collections, the Joint Spatial Plan and Mayoral Election and a presentation on Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change. Of interest to the Parish Council was the new Community Empowerment Fund available from 1st April 2017. There will be a total of £92,000 available to enable local areas to bid for match-funding and improve their public realm and support for community initiatives. The Parish Council are keen to explore this fund further once details are published.

Cllr Brent provided an update from the recent Village Hall Committee AGM. All members were re-elected. A major project undertaken this year was the new air ventilation system. Cllr Brent also reported that the fundraising events had been a success.

1. Grant Application
The grant application from DIAL A RIDE was considered for 2017/18 and requirements of the scheme discussed.
RESOLVED
That the Parish Council approved the grant request from DIAL A RIDE for £45 for the year 2017/18. Statistics of local use will be requested to support any future applications.
2. Recreation Ground Updates
The Chairman provided an update on the delayed start to the drainage works at the Recreation Ground. A Councillor raised concerns that further delays would impact the deliberate break built into the timetable between drainage works and seeding to allow the ground to fallow. The new anticipated start date is Monday 6th March 2017.
3. Community Places of Safety
The Parish Council discussed the new B&NES Community Places of Safety scheme. Councillors suggested ideal locations could include the Red Lion Public House, the Primary School, The Village Hall and The Link.
RESOLVED
That Councillors will forward ideas for suitable locations to the Clerk and administrative responsibility will be delegated to the Clerk to liaise with B&NES and report back next month.
4. Planning
A. Applications
Three Planning Applications were considered against the Adopted Neighbourhood Plan by the Parish Council.
RESOLVED
That the Parish Council support the following Planning Applications:
* 17/00501/FUL – Lomas, Wick Road (Erection of two storey front extension).
* 17/00234/CLEU - Stowey Mead Farm (Use of the annex as a separate dwelling unit, certificate of lawfulness for an existing use)
* 17/00698/FUL - Langley Sutton Hill Road (Enlargement of chalet bungalow to two storey dwelling with internal alterations and erection of detached double garage).
* The full responses will be sent to Development Management at B&NES Council.

B. Results of planning Applications
The following results and updates were noted

* 16/05045/OUT - Ellens Farm, Hinton Blewett Road – Permit.
* 16/02554/ADCOU - Poole Farm - Permission quashed Oct 16. The B&NES Council Planning Portal has now been updated to reflect this.
* 16/00752/OUT - Milford Head, Stitchings Shord Lane - Appeal dismissed. This went to planning inspectorate on appeal as B&NES Council had failed to determine in the agreed time. The B&NES submission to planning inspectorate including that B&NES supports reference to Neighbourhood Plan and that proposed development is not an appropriate location for housing due to it being within the AONB and not a sustainable form of development.
1. District Councillor’s Report
The District Councillor reported that the joint application for a Neighbourhood Plan by seven remaining parishes in the Chew Valley had been approved (endorsed by over 90% of those who voted).

Cllr Pritchard spoke about the forthcoming change to refuse collections. Residents will receive a personalised letter between 9-13th March 2017 in addition to their Council Tax letter.

Lastly, Cllr Pritchard reported he had been contacted by the Football Club regarding the state of the access to the Football Club. At present, it can accurately be described as a quagmire particularly when cars park on one side. Enquiries have been made with Property Services and it has been confirmed that this is Council owned land. Improvements could be made by putting down chippings. Despite some initial reluctance due to the cost, B&NES Council have agreed to put down chippings.

1. Hedgerows, roads, pavements, ditches and drains
A member of the public contacted the Clerk to raise an overgrown hedgerow at Bonhill Road. The Clerk has raised this with B&NES Council. The crown of the A368 was reported to be breaking up on the route from Stowey Cross Road towards Chelwood (on what is known locally as Hayes Pond Corner). A huge pot hole and a series of smaller breaks in the road was reported at the Chew Magna turning on the A368 as you climb the brow adjacent to Knighton Sutton Farm. The route to Chew Magna at Denny Lane was also reported as a concern. This road is regularly being used to avoid the current road closures.

RESOLVED
That the Clerk will follow up the overgrown hedge and ownership of land at Bonhill Road with B&NES Council and report the potholes to B&NES Highways Team. The Clerk will also write to the Clerk at Chew Magna regarding the condition of the road from Denny Lane to Chew Magna.

1. Footpaths
The Parish Council consideredimprovements to pedestrian access at Summer Leaze / Oak Court to Sutton Hill Road. A Councillor suggested that improvements would help to integrate the new estate into rest of the Parish and provide a safer route to the school. Communication from Cllr Braidley was summarized and included discussion around the badger set. It was reported that the badgers set was not active and recently a telegraph pole had been installed which required massive earth works. There has been no sign of any activity or bedding present at the set since. The Parish Council discussed that this could be a useful and inclusive project using gravel or bark and a volunteer workforce. The kissing gate could be altered to allow wheelchair access. The District Councillor said that he supported the idea and was approached by a resident last summer who asked for improvements to use the footpath as a safe route to school. As a result, the Parish Council approached B&NES Council and the footpath was cut back. Consideration was given to whether use could be made of the Community Empowerment Fund where applications are welcome from 1st April 2017.

RESOLVED
That the Clerk will approach B&NES Council to determine what can be done to improve the footpath at Summer Leaze / Oak Court ideally using volunteer labour.

The Parish Council considered the proposal to divert the footpath at Little Hayes. The footpath at Little Hayes was first reported as impassable at the January PCM. Work was undertaken by Bath Ramblers to cut back the overgrowth and repair the stiles however B&NES stated that they could not take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and future responsibility would have to be met by the Parish Council. District Councillor Vic Pritchard made some enquiries within B&NES about diverting the footpath, the likely costs and how this could be funded. The proposed diversion would join the A368 at the Stowey crossroads thereby avoiding walking along a busy main road and providing a safer walking route. It has now been established that a diversion would be acceptable to B&NES Council. The cost would be £3-4,000 but would enable the overgrown section cleared by Bath Ramblers to be adopted by B&NES Council. District Councillor reported that there would be the ability to fund this through membership allowance.

RESOLVED
That the Parish Council would progress efforts to divert the footpath at Little Hayes funded by the District Councillors membership allowance.

1. Finances
The following items were considered by the Parish Council and approved:
* Clerk mileage expenses to be paid at Revenue & Customs Rate.  (Currently 45p per mile).
* Increase in hourly rate of the Parish Cleaner in line with increase in National Living Wage from £7.20 to £7.50 (from 1st April 2017).
* Increase in hourly rate of Parish Clerk at 1% in line with NALC/SLCC agreed pay scale increase
(from 1st April 2017).
* £85 plus £10 carriage ex VAT for Stowey Sutton Parish Council Noticeboard Header from Whitehall Direct Limited.
* To support for Holy Trinity Flower Festival by funding a portable toilet for the event at a cost of £96.
RESOLVED
That the Clerk will progress administrative requirements.
1. The Financial Statement was notes and the following cheques were approved and signed:

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| **March 2017 PCM** |   |
| Clerk Wages | £306.54 |
| Clerk Expenses - stamps | £2.84 |
| Cleaner Wages | £129.10 |
| Filers Coaches (4 weeks surgery bus Feb 17) | £100.00 |
| HMRC (Tax on salaries) | £76.60 |
| New Leaf (Millen Garden and V Hall) | £130.00 |
|   |   |
| **Total payments to approve at March PCM** | **£745.08** |

The details of the current financial situation were reported and after payment of authorised cheques:

Current Account: £1,044.04
Reserve Account: £64,134.10

1. Date of the next meeting
The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 7.30pm at The Link, Bishop Sutton.** A Surgery is also held from 7.15pm onwards where members of the public are welcome to attend and speak to their Councillors in the Baptist Church.

The meeting was concluded at 8.20pm.