

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting held at Stoneleigh Village Hall, Stoneleigh on Thursday 14th January 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr R.Hancox, Councillors J. Astle, Mrs H Fryer, Mrs J. Mackenzie, Mrs S Malone, County Councillor W Redford and District Councillors N. Harrington and Mrs P Redford.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr M Doody-Chairman Warwick District Council

There were six members of the public present.

Cllr R Hancox welcomed Cllr M Doody to the meeting.

92. Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th December 2015 were circulated and were signed by the Chairman.

93. Matters Arising from Minutes

Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr R Hancox informed the meeting that the next Steering Group Meeting will be held at Stoneleigh Village Hall on the 28th January. Cllr S Malone and himself are meeting with Cllr S Haynes (Bubbenhall Parish Council) who is helping them with the Stoneleigh & Ashow part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk has managed to secure a grant extension to the money from Locality until the 31st March 2016.

HS2 Update

A briefing note was circulated and is annexed as pages 184-185.

Cllr H Fryer and Cllr J Mackenzie presented our response to the *locus standi* challenge on our AP4 petition in Westminster on the 5th January. We sat through several other petitioners' responses and felt that it may have just been a formality as all cases were firmly rebutted...but we will wait and see. We had conferred with Sara Board (WCC HS2 officer) and decided to present separately from STAG (Martin Smith) on the grounds that if one of us succeeds we can then unite going forward. Our MP Jeremy Wright will be presenting on 18 January.

94. Reports

Police Report

The Police had advised the Parish Council that there may be a potential increase in traffic levels during Warwick University's "Winter Degree Congregation 2016" between Wednesday 20th –Friday 22nd January. They will be operating a Park & Ride service at Stoneleigh Park during this event.

Councillor M Doody

Cllr M Doody gave the following report:

- The Local Plan will be coming out soon. The original new housing figures in this Plan were 12,860 up to 2029. This figure is likely to increase to 16,776 up to 2031. This is due to the fact that Coventry City Council cannot fulfil their commitment. It should be known by the 27th January where this proposed extra housing will be located.

- Warwick District Council was asked if they would like to join with West Midlands, Coventry, Solihull and the Black Country with no representation and would have to pay a fee. This idea has been rejected.
- Offa House at Offchurch has planning permission to house 35 refugees every two weeks. At present the Government has not yet agreed to its use.
- On the 27th January Warwick District will consider its budget. There will be no limit on new homes bonus.
- A number of Councillors believe that as the Gateway proposal was rejected then the area that was taken out of Green Belt should be back in Green Belt. However at the moment it has not gone back into Green Belt.

Cllr H Fryer asked what the current situation is with the proposed housing at Kings Hill. Cllr M Doody responded by saying that the area is owned by Coventry City Council but it is in Warwick District Council's boundary. At present he does not know if it will be used but the area could take in excess of 4,000 properties.

Cllr J Astle asked what the mechanism was for taking areas out of Green Belt. Cllr M Doody replied that he has a meeting with Ms T Darke on Tuesday 19th January and he will ask her to produce a written report so that everyone can understand the situation.

Cllr J Mackenzie asked the following two questions:

1. Stoneleigh Park is committed in the master plan to improvements to the junction of Birmingham Road and B4115 and to the creation of a new entrance to the Park off the B4115. We are aware of the current agreement being brokered between WCC and HS2 regarding a new island on the A46 at Stoneleigh. The Parish Council would like to be confident that WDC will ensure that the final proposal will incorporate the rationalisation of the Stoneleigh Park access in view of the likelihood of increased traffic volume in the area following the improvements on the A46.

2. The master plan approved in 2012 for Stoneleigh Park took no account of HS2 (perhaps ill advisedly). This was a commercial decision by the investors. Outline permission was given for development grouped so as to have least impact on the surrounding historic parkland, listed building (Stoneleigh Abbey) and its grounds, housing on the Stoneleigh estate and the adjacent villages. HS2 now cuts a swathe through the development area for which Stoneleigh Park will be compensated by the promoter. Given the location of the park, washed over by Green Belt and close to one of the most important historic buildings in Warwickshire we would suggest that it would not be appropriate to permit relocation of activities within the parkland. Our rural community has lost a significant area of Green Belt due to the development of HS2 and that needs to be taken into consideration when new planning applications and applications under the outline permission are being considered. The Parish Council would welcome Cllr Doody's comments.

Cllr M Doody responded by saying that he did not know the answer to the first question. He responded to the second question that the amount of land HS2 needs in Warwickshire is equivalent to the land required for housing. If HS2 reimburse the Showground then Cllr J Mackenzie said that she did not want to see the buildings moving to another area. This would in effect mean that the Showground had been compensated twice.

Cllr S Malone asked if when planning applications were considered for areas like Stoneleigh Park, Abbey Park etc whether WDC consider the impact on the surrounding areas. What is the Council's plan for addressing the road issues in Stoneleigh Village? Cllr M Doody said that years ago the proposal was to either block off one end of the Birmingham road or make it one-way. He would favour making it one-way.

County Councillor W Redford

Cllr W Redford gave the following report:

- Distributed the results from the recently held Speed Summary and Vehicle Count. He commented that the traffic flow was very little different from the survey taken 10 years ago. The average speed has dropped in this period.
- He said that at present the County Council will not consider either closing the road or making it one way because HS2 have not yet made any definite decisions. He then said that making a lay-by outside the properties of Dudley Terrace has been investigated. The footpath is not wide enough to accommodate this and the Council would have to purchase land from the properties to carry it out. They may find that there are utilities in this land which would cause extra expenditure and would need to go through consultation. At present the parked cars create a pinch-point which helps to slow the traffic down. This would prove to be a very costly exercise.
- The spending review will have a dramatic effect on the current spend. It does not give time to amend the budget. They will need to take about £10m from reserve.

Cllr R Hancox asked what proportion this £10m equates to. Cllr W Redford thought it would be about 5% of the total budget.

District Councillor N Harrington

Cllr N Harrington gave the following report:

- Thousands of new jobs in the automotive industry could be created in Coventry & Warwickshire after Jaguar Land Rover and Coventry City Council announced plans to consult on an expansion of its research and development centre at Whitley where Coventry LEP are bidding for £40million to build the infrastructure needed to support the project. The plans focus on a huge expansion of the company's research and development facilities at Whitley and propose a new campus development covering Jaguar Land Rover's current site alongside part of a new 60 acre site south of Whitley. A planning application to develop the site is expected to be submitted to Coventry City Council and Warwick District Council in early February.
- Cllr N Harrington suggested that it may be helpful to involve a Council Officer, either Mr D Barber or Mr G Fisher to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan so that it does not conflict with the Council's Local Plan. Cllr R Hancox said he will put it to the Steering Group at their next meeting and he will get back to him.
- There will be a Boundary Consultation in February to address the imbalance in the boundaries. This will give Stoneleigh & Ashow an opportunity to raise any issues they may have.
- He had a meeting recently with Mr B Hunt, deputy Chief Executive and he has been told that at present they do not know where the additional housing will be put.

Cllr R Hancox said that Stoneleigh Park had informed him that Mr G Smith, a representative of the travelling community intends to submit a planning application for a permanent gypsy site on the Park. He believes that the planning application is imminent.

Cllr M Doody said that nothing has yet been agreed with Warwick District Council as to where the gypsy sites might be. He understands that one site that has been identified is the Leamington Football Ground but this will only happen when the Leamington Football people move to the new sports site. The second site that has been identified is on the Birmingham Road at the bottom of Hatton Hill.

District Councillor Mrs P Redford

Cllr P Redford had nothing further to report.

95. Public Session

Mr J Mancini has concerns about the Neighbourhood Plan with regards to the infrastructure around the village. Cllr N Harrington responded that in the Neighbourhood Plan a caveat can be put in about the traffic issues, with a one way system as a way to improve this ongoing problem. PC A Towle was in favour of this. Cllr W Redford said that there has been no written agreement from the Police on this issue. Mr W Blagburn asked how the village obtained permission for Police support. Cllr W Redford suggested that the Chief Police Chief Constable is written to.

Mr T Hanselman made a quick comment about the survey but as the results were only handed out at this meeting it was not possible to have a meaningful discussion. Cllr N Harrington asked if the survey could be obtained electronically. Cllr W Redford said the Parish Council would need to contact Mr Roger Harding at Warwickshire County Council.

96. Finance**a) Income/Expenditure**

Income as shown in minute 85a	£45,919.80
Stoneleigh United Charities	£150.00
Less Expenditure 31 st December 2015	(12,702.32)
	£33,367.48
	£33,367.48

b) Bank**Reconciliation**

At Co-operative Bank plc, Birmingham	
A/C 6101168500 (Current)	£2,723.46
A/C 6101168550 (Instant Access)	£261.17
A/C 6101168556 (14 Day Deposit)	£30,382.85
	£33,367.48
	£33,367.48

c) Cheques paid in September

301243 P Maddison (Xmas Refreshments)	£41.65
301244 Xerox UK Ltd	£8.40
301245 SLCC	£103.00
301246 P Whitehouse (Phone Box Light Tubes)	£7.50
301247 Diane Malley	£299.20
301248 PA Maddison Dec Sal & Exp	£512.20
301249 CPRE	£36.00
301250 Royal Mail	£312.00

d) Precept 2016/17

The budget for the next financial year April 2016-March 2017 was discussed. It was agreed to put in £3,000 as a special grant to be used for exceptional expenditure. The total precept for the year 2016/17 is annexed as page 186 is £16,263, which is an increase on the 2015/16 precept of 1.8%. This was proposed by Cllr J Astle, seconded by Cllr H. Fryer and unanimously agreed.

e) Queen's 90th Birthday

A request for a donation towards the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations has been received from Mrs N Blagburn. After discussions it was proposed by Cllr S Malone, seconded by Cllr J Astle and agreed by all that £200 will be given to both Stoneleigh & Ashow if they have a celebration.

f) Defibrillator/The Telephone Box

Cllr R Hancox commented that he had received an email from Mr D Ellwood stating that the telephone box was in need of urgent repair. A replacement door would cost £950 plus VAT or a hardwood frame £250 plus VAT. Mr Ellwood was requesting that the Parish Council covers this cost. Cllr R Hancox said that further investigation needs to take place and this will be discussed further once this has been done. The email is annexed as pages 193-194.

97. Planning***New Planning Application*****W15/2132HR – Hedge at Millburn Grange, Coventry Road, Kenilworth**

Amalgamation of field so more suited to modern farming practices.

No Comment.

Progress of Planning Applications**Mrs Smith – 3 The Bank, Stoneleigh**

Planning permission is not required for:

Removal of a modern brickwork support and steel lintel stack as required. Install a multi fuel burner within the original inglenook fireplace. A double walled stainless steel flue liner will be fitted to protect the old chimney brick bed joints, followed by filling the chimney stack with vermiculite insulation.

W15/1867– 9B The Bank, Stoneleigh

Property converted two semidetached 2/3 bedroom houses into 5/6 bedroom detached house in 1990. Now wish to convert this property back to two semi-detached houses.

Planning Permission is Granted.

W15/1906 - The Orchard, Coventry Road, Stoneleigh

Widening of existing access; erection of a two storey garage/workshop building and levelling of ground levels to part of the site.

Planning Permission is Refused.

98. Future of the Joint Parish Council

Cllr R Hancox informed the meeting that he has not yet written this paper and asked for this to be put on the agenda for February.

99. Traffic Issues

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.55 p.m.

Mr Hanselman had started to record this session but no permission had been asked so he was asked to turn it off, which he did. He said that he had informed some of the Councillors of his intention but he had not informed the Clerk or asked at the beginning of the meeting for permission. He said in future he would follow protocol.

A letter had been received from Mr T Hanselman and this is annexed as pages 187-189. Responses to this letter are annexed as pages 190-192.

Cllr J Mackenzie started by saying that she wanted this matter finally resolved as she is tired of what was becoming a repeated attack on the integrity of the Ashow Councillors and an increasingly personal attack on herself in particular. She said that Mr Hanselman's comments are not factually correct and are not supported by the documentary evidence from that time.

A letter concerning the Stoneleigh Birmingham Road issue was sent by Mr Hanselman to the Parish Council in October. The Clerk confirmed that it is in the Public Domain. Mr R Fryer said that the Parish Council have a public obligation to answer the comments.

Cllr J Mackenzie said that she had referred back to the previous correspondence, emails and minutes. She read out the content of an email which she sent to David Ellwood 13 October 2012 summarising the situation. At the Parish Council meeting in May 2012 a Stoneleigh Councillor had spoken out against road closure and had also questioned the reliability of the petition. The Cllrs were agreed that the problem of traffic on the Birmingham Road needed addressing. Cllr Mackenzie noted that whilst she did not always see eye to eye with District Councillor Bertie McKay he was an experienced Councillor and was well placed to advise on protocol and he had advised that the Parish Council should not tell WCC what to do but should ask for their advice on dealing with this problem. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to WCC asking for their advice concerning traffic management in Stoneleigh Village and to ask the council to propose a solution. This was agreed democratically in the meeting which included Cllrs from the University

After the meeting the Stoneleigh Councillors decided they wished to include the specific request that the Birmingham Road be closed. The Ashow Councillors did not support this as it did not represent the view of the PC meeting. The Chairman, Cllr G Gatwood, sought advice from WALC concerning the best way to present the request to WCC. He was advised by Alison Hodge that two letters could be sent: one from Stoneleigh village asking for closure and a separate letter representing the views of the Ashow Village Meeting. Cllr Mackenzie was on holiday when the letters were agreed to be sent out. The Chairman had acted in good faith with the information available to him at that time. The advice from WALC has recently been acknowledged as incorrect.

At the Parish Council meeting in July 2012 Mr Mancini had asked how it had come about that two letters were sent. Cllr J. Mackenzie explained that the Parish Council went from planning a joint response which was agreed at the Parish Council meeting to sending out two separate letters. Cllr J. Mackenzie stated that she thought this action was ill advised and she did not think that decisions should be overturned outside the forum of the Parish Council meeting.

Cllr J Mackenzie said that following Mr Hanselman's letters and emails in August 2012 both she and Cllr G Gatwood responded promptly. She had a long telephone conversation with Mr Hanselman in August 2012 informing him of the situation and followed it with an email.

This was denied by Mr Hanselman but a copy of an email from Cllr. Mackenzie to him dated the 20th August 2012 confirming this conversation is attached. Cllr Mackenzie indicated that there were emails confirming Cllr G Gatwoods communications with Mr Hanselman.

Cllr Mackenzie said that she was advised by a previous Chairman that back in 2002 Stoneleigh Village residents had voted against road closure. The advice we are currently getting from WCC is that road closure is not an option. She hoped that Mr Hanselman would now acknowledge that his questions have been answered many times and that we could move on to look at other possible solutions.

Mr Hanselman stated that it is an ongoing saga. He decided to go his own way but was told he would need to go back to the Parish Council. He feels like he is going round in ever decreasing circles. This was the reason he had further discussions with the Ombudsman. All he is trying to do is get the support of the Parish Council and to try and move this problem forward.

Cllr H Fryer said that at the November meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would ask WCC what was achievable in respect of traffic issues in Stoneleigh and this has not yet been actioned as it was agreed to wait until the Traffic Survey had been received and analysed.

Cllr M Doody said that this has been a 12 year ongoing saga about the Stoneleigh traffic issue and it is now time to move on.

Mr J Mancini commented that we all need to act as one. Perhaps mistakes have been made in the past but it is now time to move forward.

Mr R Fryer asked Mr Hanselman if he would withdraw his letter but he declined.

Cllr S Malone said that the results of the traffic survey given out this evening need to be assimilated and then the Parish Council can look for a way to move forward.

Standing Orders were re-instated at 9.15 p.m.

100. Correspondence

Highways England – Mr Alan Jones- Tollbar Island

Noted

Nomination to the Royal Garden Party

Noted

101. Questions to Chairman

Cllr J Astle Informed the meeting that he has been re-elected to the Airport Consultative Committee together with Mr Alan Yates from CPRE.

102. Meetings

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00 p.m. on the 11th February 2016. This will be held at Ashow Village Club, Ashow.

103. Closure

The business having been completed the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

Chairman