



The Minutes of the Stoughton Parish Council Meeting on **Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7.00pm in Stoughton Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Bob Battey (BB) (Chair)
Cllr Tom Richardson (TR) (Vice Chair)
Cllr Kirsty Volpe (KS)
Cllr Tracy Mee (TM)
Victoria Webster (VW) (Clerk)

91/24. Welcome, Introductions and Chair's Opening Remarks

Good evening to all. BB declared it is felt that central Government is pushing too hard with housing, and this is a democracy.

92/24. Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr June Sparrow (JS).

93/24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared.

94/24. Public Participation

There were several members of the public present.

A villager asked if the Parish Council would consider purchasing poppies for some of the village lamp posts for the 2025 Remembrance Day. KV proposed but this was not seconded by another Councillor. Motion not carried.

95/24. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 10th September 2024

The minutes were agreed and approved by all Councillors.

96/24. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting of 10th September 2024

There were no matters arising to discuss that aren't already on tonight's agenda.

It was confirmed that the bench in memory of Paul Creswell is now in situ. Thanks were given to the villager who helped the Parish Council install this.

97/24. Planning

Those in bold are either new applications since the previous meeting or a decision has been made since the last meeting.

- Application 23/01487/PDN. Appeal. Notification to determine if Prior Approval is required for the proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to 5 dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Qa and Qb). **This has been refused.**
- **Application 24/01319/TCA. 34 Gaulby Lane. Tree fell. No decision has been made.**

The tree in question is to be felled to make space for additional parking as the homeowners currently have to park one of their vehicles on the road and this has been damaged several times. The tree in question is a diseased cherry tree. No Councillors contested this application.

Chair Signature: _____

98/24. Accounts

a. Approve the Schedule of Payments

This was approved by all Councillors and the cheques and Schedule of Payments were signed.

Payments made were:

1. Victoria Webster September and October salary	£606.31
2. M&BG October invoice	£220.49
3. HMRC Tax for Victoria Webster October salary	£12.00
4. Waterplus Community Gardens water	£43.58
5. D. Sparrow Magnets for village notice board	£14.39
6. T. Richardson Community Gardens expenses	£85.05

Payments agreed and paid outside of Parish Council meeting since the previous meeting.

7. Cuttlefish VAT for invoice INV-1346	£62.00
8. J. Brown (Inside & Out) Slabs for bench. Fix broken sign. Cement post.	£75.00
9. J. Brown (Inside & Out) Change batteries and position of speed camera	£100.00
10. Waterplus Community Garden water	£9.62
11. Giant Repair village notice board	£410.00
12. M&BG September Grounds maintenance	£220.49
13. Harborough District Council Playground Inspection	£114.00
14. HMRC Tax for Victoria Webster September payroll	£12.00

b. Councillors to review and approve the bank reconciliation.

The bank reconciliation was reviewed, approved and signed.

c. Budget 2025-2026. Councillors to review and approve.

Councillors reviewed and approved the proposed budget. Councillors agreed to increase the precept from £11,311 to £12,121 which equates to £0.70p per household per month. Proposed by TR and seconded by TM and BB.

99/24. 23 Gaulby Lane Update

A seconded review of the property by HDC Environmental Officers took place earlier in the year but the Parish Council are still waiting for the report despite chasing HDC several times. BB proposed the Parish Council now approach the media in relation to this ongoing issue. This was seconded by TM.

Action: BB to draft a statement and distribute to Councillors.

Action: KV to gather details of media contacts and send to VW.

Chair Signature: _____

100/24. Village Dog Attacks

There have been no further incidents. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday 14th November to discuss this and other ongoing issues. The issue is also being discussed with the local MP Alicia Kearns.

Action: Report on meeting of the 14th November at the next meeting.

101/24. Playground Inspection

There are some actions needed. TR and JS to meet to review the report and look over the equipment. There is nothing urgent that needs to be done and a number of items have already been addressed.

Action: TR and JS to report findings at the next meeting.

102/24. Effectiveness of our Local Councils. Should the media be contacted?

Local MP Alicia Kearns has advised the Parish Council they should ensure Simon Galton and Peter Elliot hold their respective councils to account and the Parish Council should inform them when members of their team are not responding/doing their job etc. It was therefore proposed the Parish Council write to Simon Galton and Peter Elliot and highlight the issues the Parish Council have faced and continue to face at the lack of response and effort by their staff and give them the opportunity to respond prior to taking this issue any further.

Action: VW to draft a letter to Simon Galton and Peter Elliot.

Please also see item 99/24.

103/24. Updated Financial Regulations

All Councillors approved the updates.

104/24. Cheese and Wine event

Defer to the January meeting.

Action: Include on the January agenda.

105/24. Councillors Email Address

Defer to the January meeting. TM is not able to attend the January meeting but is in favour of Councillors having an individual .gov email account.

Action: Include on the January agenda.

106/24. Rubble left next to the Recreation Ground

No longer an issue.

107/24. Change the Day of the Parish Council Meetings

The below dates for the 2025 meetings were agreed.

21st January 2025

11th March 2025

13th May 2025

15th July 2025

16th September 2025

4th November 2025

108/24. Feedback from the Meeting with our two M.P.s regarding proposal by Government to build on land around our village

This meeting was hosted by MP's Neil O'Briant and Alicia Kearns.

Background: Wellcome Trust aim to build a new town of 25,000 homes between Thurnby/Oadby/Great Glen. They bought up Urban and Civic to plan this. The new Government wants a new town on the same footprint as part of its New Homes Accelerator.

Chair Signature: _____

Alicia and Neil presented what facts they had on this as very little is currently known.

Any proposals must be contained within the new Harborough District Council Local Plan. The unveiling of plans is scheduled for later in December and a public consultation will follow. The Government is bringing in compulsory purchase measures to obtain green fields for development. The Government have slashed building targets for urban areas such as Leicester and loaded the targets for rural districts. HDC has at present built more than its allocated share of new homes. Leicester City Council have never met their target.

It was anticipated that the first area of development could be on both side of the A47 in Bushby towards Houghton. Solid building all the way from Oadby to Great Glen, stretching across to the whole length of Gartree Road, but not crossing to the north. Plus, a large area south of Glen towards Wistow, which is a well-known area for flooding.

If this is correct, all new developments will be served by the A47, the A6 and partly by Gartree Road.

Concerns were raised about current flooding and sewage problems in Oadby, Great Glen and Thurnby which can only be made worse with additional housing.

To confirm, at this stage, this is hearsay and speculation.

To Note: Following the Parish Council meeting and distribution of minutes, Simon Galton provided two letters in relation to this which are now attached to the minutes.

109/24. Matters to Discuss at the Next Meeting

No further items.

Date of Next Meeting

21st January 2025.

Meeting closed at 8.23pm

Mrs Victoria Webster
The Clerk, Stoughton Parish Council, 22 Rockingham Road, Mountsorrel, Leicestershire LE12 7UJ

Chair Signature: _____

Date: _____

Chair Signature: _____