



MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH JULY 2022
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, STOKE SUB HAMDON

PM/22/01 **PRESENT:**

Members: Mrs Lyn Foley (Chairman), Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk) and 65 members of the public

PM/22/02 **OPEN SESSION:**

Cllr Foley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Foley explained that due to the Covid pandemic a Parish Meeting has not been held since 2019 and said that this was not a parish council meeting but a meeting for residents and village organisations to forward any ideas and suggestions that need to be brought to the parish council's attention. The village organisations in attendance were:

Afternoon Tea Club	Stoke Performing Arts Group	Sports & Recreation Trust	Charity Shop
Stoke Working Men's Club	Hamdon Youth & Family Centre	Village Artist Group	Gardening Club
Stoke Community Shop	Friends of Castle School	Litter Pick Group	Hamdon Youth Group
History Group			

Each organisation gave a brief outline of their activities, and where and when they meet.

Cllr Foley explained that it was the Parish Council's intention to form a 5-year plan and invited residents to take part in write down their suggestions on 'sticky-notes' and place them on the relevant boards around the room. The comments from these notes are attached to the minutes. This informal section of the meeting also gave residents the opportunity to meet with the various village organisations.

Cllr Foley asked everyone to be seated for the general question session

- What are the Parish Council's views on the proposed plans for the Visitor Centre on Ham Hill especially the infrastructure regarding road improvement in Stoke. Any additional traffic will come through Stoke via North Street and Ham Hill Road. Cllr Foley said the meeting was held in Norton sub Hamdon and Stoke has been left out of the consultation. The Countryside Manager for SSSC said they would be happy for a group to walk around the site if the Parish Council would let her know.
It was asked how the new Visitor Centre was being funded. A grant has been received from the Big Lottery
Where has this new Visitor Centre been advertised. It is on the Parish Council's website.
Can be information be given by other means as not everyone has access to the internet.
- Could the bushes, bracken and trees on Ham Hill be cut back so the Monument can be seen. This is down to the rangers on Ham Hill.
- Many of the pavements in the village need resurfacing. Cllr Foley said the Transport Strategy Group are looking into all aspects of Highway issues
- The Speed Indicator Device is only put up in limited places around the village. The device can only go where Somerset County Council have given their approval and cannot go on telegraph poles or streetlights. The Parish Council would need to pay for additional posts to be installed.
- Could the village have speed bumps to reduce speeding traffic. This would need a village consultation and discussion with Highways.

- Can the village have an additional car park for those who have no parking with their properties.
- Can we have a 20mph speed limit. Cllr Foley asked for a show of hands in favour of this. 90% of the room raised their hands.
- As HCAP is no longer proceeding can the ring-fenced pot of money be re-directed to the school. Cllr Foley said the Parish Council would need to discuss what happens with this money.
- Can the school's crowd-funding page be advertised on the website. It was agreed to forward the details to the Clerk. It could also go on Stoke sub Hamdon Facebook page.
- Hamdon Church asked if they could have details of the Village Agent

Cllr Foley formally thanked and acknowledged Barbara Brook's work for the Parish Council and the community and said that she would be missed.

Cllr Foley thanked everyone for their input. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS WRITTEN ON THE PARISH MEETING'S BOARDS

1. PLAYPARKS

Comments
Holes in the skateboard park ramps again – corrosion.
Re-do Skate park and BMX track.
More handrails on high climbing frame platform.
Swings for smaller children at the Big Rec would be good when entertaining children of different ages.

2. MISCELLANEOUS

Comments
North Street/Greatfield dog bin needs to be emptied more often.
Village toilet would be handy.
List of dog walkers/sitters for emergency.
Creation of a “Village Brand” if local “makers” might be interested.
A bit of “greening-up” of the village. Possibly flowering cherry tree on the Memorial Hall driveway.
List of people with fruit trees that would be interested to have the fruit harvested. Could be turned into jams, jellies, juice sold in the shop for community fundraising.
Village computer access point – helps people to go on-line, use web etc. Includes IT support, how to use etc. There should be arrange of grants we can access.
Village juice press.
Village minibus that can be shared by all community groups with a group of designated drivers. Funding via grants and village fund raising.
Fix-it workshop for small household electricals etc., showing how to diagnose problems and to fix them.
URC Church Clock – It would be sad to lose the church clock, like we already lost to factory hooter. Can the clock be mechanised and continue to live on?
Allotments – they need to look attractive for new enthusiastic people to want to take them on. Can they be looked after i.e., everything cut down as in a lawn and the promise of getting them ploughed once a year? Can lessons be given for beginners on what to grow and how? Maybe the village can have a big flock of chickens to keep it all down, free or cheap eggs for everyone – protection from Mr Fox needed).
Could the village buy our own mini path/kerb sweeper, then all the work done by volunteers can be kept under control from then on?
Ragwort in the village was a concern as it is poisonous to animals. Can council arrange to have this problem cleared, especially up Ham Hill.
Litter picks – notification of when litter picks are taking place by newsletter has failed recently with late deliveries. Can a working party of volunteers be formed using WhatsApp to communicate?
Signs in the village with strong messages about not littering.
The concept of merging the Newsletter and the Hambook was suggested.

3. LEISURE

Comments
Finding regular practising places for musicians – budding or “aged”. Learning music at school is one thing, getting together as an ensemble is another.
Hamdon Youth and Youth football teams’ sports event at school year end at football Rec., or Memorial Hall.
Wi-Fi connection for village – examples – cash only bars and music for events and shows.
Any chances of a village swimming pool.
Pantaloons Open Air Theatre – bring your own picnic and drink.
Benches outside the Memorial Hall.

Would it be a good idea to set up a boxing ring in Stoke – I have spoken to Yeovil boxers who agreed and said they would help to advise.

4. TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Comments
Footpath/pavement on the Martock Road over the bridge.
Possibility of improvements to the footpath to Martock.
Good idea to have a hard surface footpath on the Stoke road to Martock.
Footpath to Martock
Hard surfaced footpath beyond A303 bridge as far as where the footpath goes off to Martock.
A pavement/ walkway to Martock from the bridge over the A303 to the cul-de-sac of houses on Stoke Road.
Bus from Martock to Yeovil could come over the bridge and turn at Queens Crescent – would give a bus connection between Stoke and Martock.
Fix pothole outside Community Shop.
A safe (<i>road</i>) crossing in the centre of the village and railings around the corners of High Street and North Street and in front of the Charity and Community Shops.
Delivery (<i>vehicle</i>) parking needed for the Community Shop and re-cycling pick up at the Charity Shop.
Add handrails to the metal railings that line one side of North Street. Because that has spikes on, people can't use to help them walk up and down the hill.
Junction High street/West Street/North Street is very dangerous – you can't see clearly to drive or cross it, and something needs doing to alleviate the problem.
Hamdon Visitors centre. (<i>This may be a headline comment covered by discussion at the meeting about increased traffic flow through the village created by the Visitors Centre</i>)
One way traffic Castle School hours non-enforceable
Reduce volume of traffic through the village
Non-stop volume of traffic through the village during the day is becoming a very serious problem – could get worse with the Ham Hill Park Visitors Centre.
Anti-social behaviour by drivers in the carpark at the top of Ham Hill spinning wheels, leaving rubber on the road and dropping their empty MacDonalds wrappers is getting worse. Willing to provide video evidence of the problem.
TRAFFIC SPEED
Any chance of permanent rather than mobile speed cameras.
Living on High Street, it would be good to see more control of speed through the village.
Please include "old" East Stoke in all initiatives – from East Stoke House to Stonehill not included in speed indicator project.
20mph speed limit over Ham Hill.
North Street has got busier over the years and accidents have occurred with parked cars hit and damaged. It is used by both Castle Street and Stanchester students to walk to school. Propose a 20-mph speed limit.
20 mph speed limit throughout the village.
Ham Hill Traffic calming.
Speed of traffic travelling up and down Ham Hill Road – can the cameras/police speed trap be placed on Ham Hill Road.
Community speed watch?
Could we have more speed indicators in the village?
Speed camera further down North Street – as there have been two accidents in recent months.
Concerns about speeding at the bottom of North Street.
Slow down signs on roads need re-doing.
Why can't the speed detectors be in High Street and Ham Hill Road?
Speeding cars through the village – a 20 mph speed limit covering central part of the village - North Street (schools), West Street, High Street.
20 mph zone.
PARKING

Comments
How about restricting parking on High Street to 6pm to 8am, as it used to be in the past, leaving a safer route for through traffic. Especially good for the bus.
Keep parking in the High Street to slow cars. Once before had double yellow lines and someone was killed.
Extra car park – use a bit of the Memorial Hall car park.
Convert field below the high wall into a car park Castle Street and High Street – with sponsorship from the Duchy.
The far end of Castle Street is a problem with vehicles parking on the pavement and obstructing its use for wheelchairs mobility scooters and guide dogs.
Further up Castle Street towards the Pound, there are access problems with cars parked opposite the pavement, causing vehicles to have to mount the pavement to get by – particular problems for delivery vehicles.
REPAIRS
Pavements – a lot of pavements in the village need resurfacing . North Street (top end) is very difficult of people with mobility problems.
Clearing of footpaths and new cut steps
Weed clearing of verges in Castle Street – I would be prepared to help with this. Road sweeper misses all due to cars parked.
A working party/volunteers/householders who would remove all weeds from the kerbside and path/wall everywhere in the village, not just the main roads, without the use of spray, i.e., shovel and bin. We did have a volunteer taking on that job for himself not so long ago – has he stopped?
Please can we have a regular time several times a year to empty the drains on the roads?
Highways to cut the hedges to/from the A303.
Could a check be carried out on all village footpaths to make sure there are ramps in appropriate places for push chairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooter etc. Access difficult from School side to Co-op – no ramp.
North Street drainage could do with sorting out. Every time there is a deluge, it floods
Make a photographic map of all the drains in the village, with text highlighting the most serious problems that each blocked drain causes.
Pipes between the drains need flushing.
Cole Lane – the drains and the bushes need serious attention. Already volunteered to help here.
The state of Cole Lane and its drains was raised as a concern. Drains are obscured by fallen leaves etc blown back onto the bank rather than removed.
Pothole fixing
North Street and Stonehill/East Stoke are places in the village, amongst others, which have pavements where you can get hit in the face with overhanging branches as you walk along – annoying on a wet day.
Tunwell Lane/Whirligig Lane badly overgrown with stinging nettles and briars overhanging the path.
The pavement on Castle Street opposite the school is in a bad state of repair. Who is responsible for getting it repaired – not sure if has been adopted by Council.

5. HOUSING

Comments
Low-cost housing for villagers

6. ENVIRONMENT

Comments
More frequent emptying of dog poo bins.
More frequent emptying of Litter bins.
More or larger dog poo bins please. Horrid to see overflowing bins – Safety hazard
Litter Signs Don't be a Tosser!
Ban village bonfires!

Solar Tiles incorporated into the village plan - grants
Solar panels on the Memorial Hall roof? Feed in Tariff is pretty low but could be used to assist the villagers?
Car charging points for new properties and existing
Car club and electric charging points in lamp posts.
Route telephone and power cables underground.
Make the village Plastic free
Create some of our own electricity with wind turbines (on the hill would be ideal, or by the orchards)

7. ALLOTMENTS

Comments
Intensive clear-up. Current state of many plots makes them unusable and impossible for individuals to redress. Might Mean 2 – 3 years of black plastic and general work, but low cost.
Annual Skip for Green waste on allotments – would avoid allotment bonfires.
Water for Allotments
Mains water for allotments

8. COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Comments
Getting help to run events and projects. Difficult to find people for the committee
Painting mural/s with the children from the Youth Club in working with them for several weeks
Joined up working of organisation
Create a “picture of a self-supporting community with business/farm/shop working together to be greener

9. MEDIA

Comments
Social media to circulate good news stories and where help needed
Newsletter- Use back page for more news and put contact sheet on village website
The super bulletin and newsletter which arrives monthly is really useful. However, many events are long gone by the time it is delivered I know volunteers deliver it, but do they get it early enough?
Revamp newsletter and ? combine with the Hambook to provide one publication which people want to read
Expand scope of the parish/village newsletter and redesign – make it a “must read” for the community
Central / web-based ? info on local organisations/ businesses –SVCS and Creative People etc
Linking of village websites

10. SCHOOLS

Comments
Who runs or can run Stanchester Leisure Centre be used by private clubs ?
Opportunities for the younger generation outreach or mentors? Adventure, excitement, activities .
Schools working more with the community. (Stanchester) general outreach and attitude towards kids
A school pool roof – Crowd funder in place
Do a village crowdfunding for the school pool like for the youth club and HCAP

11. CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

Comments
Meal on wheels service
Carers registers as micro-Carers
“share the care” in the community

Drs, Dentist appointments Prescriptions Help if there are falls etc
A list of people who may need support e.g. extreme heat days ? In partnership with GP?
Winter keep warm scheme. Designate a public/ community owned area as a warm space for people who cannot afford to heat their home. Similar schemes being set up around the country – needs a lot of thought but think it is worth considering so the village is prepared
A “hub” containing phone numbers of people who are willing to assist or visit “seniors” or others who need help straight away! e.g. Person needing help to get up