

STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021 VIA ZOOM REMOTE MEETING APP

AM/21/01/a PRESENT:

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks, Mr Hugh Donovan, Mr Andy Dawe, Mrs Lyn Foley, Mr Graham Middleton and Mrs Alex Schellenberg

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), and no members of the public

AM/21/01/b APOLOGIES:

Mr Paul Jefferies, Mrs Suzanne Nelms, Mr Mike Hewitson (District Councillor) and Mr Neil Bloomfield (County Councillor)

AM/21/02 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman.

Cllr Donovan nominated Cllr Brooks for Chairman. It was RESOLVED for Cllr Brooks to be Chairman. The Clerk agreed to meet with Cllr Brooks so that she could signed the Acceptance of Office.

AM/21/03 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN & ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Brooks asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Cllr Brooks nominated Cllr Donovan for Vice Chairman. It was RESOLVED for Cllr Donovan to be Vice Chairman. The Clerk agreed to meet with Cllr Donovan so that he could signed the Acceptance of Office.

AM/21/04 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Brook's report had been circulated to councillors. A copy is attached to the minutes and councillors noted the positive actions that the Council had been able to take despite the difficult year.

AM/21/05 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING:

Due to the Covid pandemic no annual meeting was held in 2020. The minutes of the 2019 annual meeting were viewed at the Parish Council meeting in July 2020, and it was RESOLVED to formally approve these minutes.

AM/21/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

None declared.

AM/21/07 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & WORKING PARTIES:

Planning	Cllrs B Brooks, A Dawe, H Donovan
Finance	Cllrs H Donovan (Chairman), B Brooks, A Dawe, R Merrick, G Middleton & the Clerk
Memorial Hall	Cllr B Brooks
Play Equipment Inspection	Memorial Hall: Cllr A Schellenberg

Sport & Recreation Trust	Stonehill:	Cllr S Nelms
Friends of Ham Hill	Cllr R Merrick	
Representative	Cllr S Nelms	
Allotments	North Street:	Mr Norman Patch
	Furlands:	Cllr A Dawe
	Stonehill:	Cllr S Nelms
Environmental	To be confirmed	
HR	Cllrs B Brooks, A Dawe & H Donovan	
Footpath Liaison	Mr Dennis Stevens	
Highways	Whole Council reporting to the Clerk	
S.A.L.C.	The Clerk	
Hamdon Youth Group	Cllr B Brooks	
Hamdon Youth Centre	Cllrs B Brooks, H Donovan and Clerk	
Hamdon Community Arts		
Project	Cllr B Southcombe	
Transport Strategy Group	Cllrs Brooks, Foley, Schellenberg, Southcombe & the Clerk	

AM/21/08 FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Clerk reported that the accounts and annual governance statement were with the internal auditor. A copy of the Receipts and Payments sheet and Balance Sheet had been circulated to councillors.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 7.19pm.

Members are reminded that the Council has a duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age), The Environment, Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.



STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5 MAY 2021

2020 was by any accounts an extraordinary year for everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following Government guidance, we were unable to meet in person at all and our meetings have been by means of Zoom online meetings which we all agree have been somewhat challenging! During the initial lockdown period we drafted information leaflets about COVID and where help could be found both in the village and nationally and distributed these to all households over a number of months. We were also proactive in ensuring our community venues were aware of all the various grants available both from Government and elsewhere during the restrictions and sent out information on the COVID-Secure measures they needed to take when they were allowed to open during the various phases of the restrictions.

We have continued to support local community groups through our annual grant making. We have provided a total of £17,320 grant money towards operating costs for the Sports & Recreation Trust, the Memorial Hall, Hamdon Youth Group, Stoke sub Hamdon Band, Hamdon Youth & Family Centre, and the British Legion and made a commitment of a £12,500 grant towards the future purchase of the URC church in North Street for the Hamdon Community Arts Project. We have continued to be prudent and put aside each year a total of £7,200 into long term maintenance Reserves for parish assets, the Youth Centre and the Recreation Ground Pavilion Replacement.

We spent £8,499 on the grass cutting and ground maintenance, introducing a new Parish Ranger scheme for improved maintenance and cleanliness of the village streets and small repairs. We spent £1,161 on the maintenance of parish assets and play equipment including two replacement cradle swing seats. We paid £1,632 rent to the Duchy of Cornwall for the Recreation Ground and Allotments for residents' use, and we were delighted to see an increase in the number of allotments being used this year as more and more of us got out in the fresh air and grew our own food.

We made very good progress this year on our major project of the refurbishment of the Hamdon Youth Centre in West Street. Listed Building Consent was finally obtained in October and Phase 1 was completed in March – the clearing and conversion of the church hall area into an open space with new flooring, heating and lighting. Phase 2 is due in the Summer and the modernization of this venue will provide an increasingly valuable asset for the village.

A huge thank you to all those standing as parish councillors during the year and for being so committed to supporting and improving our village. During the year we co-opted two new councillors Mrs Alex Schellenberg and Paul Jeffery and we are already appreciating their contributions to our discussions. Thanks too to our District and County Councillors, Mike Hewitson and Neil Bloomfield, who have ably supported us advice and support when needed, and our Parish Clerk Sarah Moore who works very hard to support us.

Finally, I would like to thank all those individuals and organisations in the village who have shared ideas with us over the year. Villages are indeed all about people working together. This has never been better illustrated by the way that everyone pulled together this year from all parts of the village to support those who needed help with shopping, prescriptions etc or just reaching out for a friendly chat. In the difficult year we have all just experienced this is priceless and something of which we can be very proud.

Barbara Brooks
Chair of Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council