

# STONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Council Meeting** held on **Wednesday 14 October 2009 7pm** at the Community Hall, Hayes Road, Greenhithe, Kent.

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:**

- Mrs T Richards**
- J Burrell**
- Mrs R Sweetland**
- Mrs D Jones**
- Mrs J Wise**
- A Martin**
- Ms S Thredgale**
- Mrs S East**
- Mrs S Martin**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs J Thomas - Clerk to Council**
- Mrs M Martin - Senior Administrator**

**53/09/09Cl: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor's Mrs N Wightman and I T N Jones. Apologies for absence were also received from Dartford Borough Councillor's Mrs R Bryant and Mrs C Angell.

**65/10/09Cl: TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**66/10/9Cl: TO HEAR THE OPENING PRAYER**

Councillor Mrs S Martin read the opening prayer.

**67/10/09Cl: TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND AGENCIES**

- 1) Dartford Borough Councillor's Report  
There were no Borough Councillors representing the parish of Stone present at the meeting to provide a report.

**The chairman requested that the continual lack of attendance by Borough Councillors representing the parish of Stone is noted.**

- 2) Kent County Councillor's Report  
**Councillor Mrs P Cole gave a verbal report covering:**  
Ongoing Highways issues and the launch of a new KCC initiative for Backing Kent People Week, 'Money Box' is a guide to surviving the credit crunch.

The Chair, Councillor Mrs T Richards, thanked Cllr Cole for attending and presenting her report.

- 3) Community Warden's Report  
**Community Warden, C Bates gave a verbal report covering:**  
Dog fouling at Alamein Gardens and Worcester Park, parking on pavements, bogus callers, Neighbourhood Watch has the aim of a co-ordinator in each road, a new fly-tipping operation is underway to collect numbers of flat back lorries with loads as potential fly-tippers with CCTV cameras to be used to gather evidence, horses continue to be a problem but a multi-agency

approach continues to tackle the problem, vandalism and theft occurring at Stone Pit 2, house and car break-ins have risen in the area as well as a problem with dogs being stolen.

The Chair, Councillor Mrs T Richards, thanked C Bates for attending and presenting her report.

- 4) Neighbourhood Beat Officer's Report.  
**PC J Kilvington sent his apologies and PCSO Any Simpson gave a verbal report covering:**  
A clean up of graffiti at Worcester park, poor lighting in the alleyway at Steel Avenue, Vehicle crime on the rise in Castle ward, on going issues with horses at Cotton Lane, working with the youth club at St Mary's Church Hall and regular visits to St Mary's School, neighbourhood team have scheduled late shifts for the end of the month to deal with Halloween and Fireworks, the next PACT meeting is 3 December 2009 at the Baptist Church.

The Chair, Councillor Mrs T Richards, thanked A Simpson for attending and presenting his report.

- 5) Minutes of Stone Triangle Community Association held 21 July 2009.  
Members questioned the interpretation of the minutes. The Clerk confirmed that the minutes have been queried.  
**Noted.**
- 6) Minutes of the Dartford Youth Advisory Group Meeting held 23 Sept 2009.  
**Noted.**

**68/10/09CI: TO ACCEPT QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

1. Hedge Place Road / Barnfield Close. Issues with motorbikes getting through the entrance, fly tipping, overhanging trees and general untidiness of the road.

**Members confirmed that the issues are being dealt with but it has been a lengthy process due to uncertainty of maintenance liability for the section beyond the gate. Three different authorities are now collaborating to determine ownership and resolve the issue.**

2. Stone Crossing Station. The crossing gate is padlocked at night before the last two trains have arrived. This causes problems with many passengers choosing to cross the live rails rather than use the footpath which is considered a safety hazard due to poor lighting and overgrowth of bushes.

**The station is currently manned from 5.30am to 11pm and there are no plans to change this. The footbridge proposals will provide a 24hr pedestrian access over the railway but will not be complete until at least 2012.**

**KCC Councillor Penny Cole spoke on the condition of the existing footpath and confirmed that Kent Highways intend to improve this.**

**The Parish Council will continue to pursue the interests of the residents in these matters.**

3. Alamein Gardens – the possible use of a piece of land for a MUGA at Alamein Gardens.

**This is something that Dartford Borough Council is looking at in collaboration with Stone Parish Council; however, the preferred location of a play area has yet to be established.**

4. Issues with underage drinking.

**In suspected incidents of retailers selling to minors, Members confirmed that the Police trigger a review of the licensing and Trading Standards act on it.**

5. Pauline Campbell, Kent Youth Services raised the question of facilities and projects for the youth in the parish.

**Members confirmed that money has been invested at the recreation ground with the installation of the Youth Zone; the use of Council property is given free to all the uniformed groups operating in the parish and funds have been allocated for youth workers. However, since Martin Wyborne left Kent Youth Services, there have been difficulties in establishing regular programmes.**

**The Clerk requested that a meeting be arranged to allow other relevant parties, not present at the meeting, to take part in the discussion about youth provision.**

**69/10/09CI: TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE FUTURE OF STONE PITS 9 & 9A**

Consultants from GP Planning gave a presentation regarding proposals to develop Stone Pits 9 & 9A into parkland following remediation work.

The consultants are keen to seek the views of residents ahead of submission of a planning application and undertook some consultation prior to the council meeting which had been well received.

The presentation slides and exhibition boards will be made available at the council's website at <http://www.stoneparishcouncil.com/News/pit9.htm> for residents to view the plans and provide feedback before 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The Chair, Councillor Mrs T Richards, thanked Lucy Pawson and Kim Jones for attending and confirmed that the council support the scheme and are keen to see redundant areas of green open space brought back into public use..

**70/10/09CI: TO APPROVE THE PAVILION PLANS PRIOR TO APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Members were presented with plans for the new pavilion to approve ahead of planning application submission.

**Resolved:**

That the Council approves the plans for the new pavilion, as outlined at appendix A & B.

**Resolved:**

That the Council approves the submission of an application to the Planning Authority for the plans as outlined.

**71/10/09CI: TO CONCLUDE COUNCIL'S POSITION REGARDING CLOSURE OF VEHICULAR ACCESS AT STONE CROSSING STATION**

Members were required to establish the Council's position regarding the closure of the vehicular access at Stone Crossing Station to enable the implementation of a DDA compliant pedestrian footbridge. Kent Highways will not consider a request from Network Rail to apply for a stopping-up order until the council has made its position clear following a prior objection to the stopping-up order, made by the council as it felt that insufficient consultation had been carried out by Network Rail.

**Resolved:**

That the council writes to Kent County Council supporting the application to stop-up the highway with the following two conditions:

1. That until the footbridge is open, the crossing attendant remains in post to assist with the gates.
2. That Network Rail provides a guarantee to proceed with construction timescales as outlined in the report.

**72/10/09Cl: TO APPROVE THE UNDERTAKING OF AN ECOLOGICAL SURVEY AT COTTON LANE**

Prior to establishing a scheme, it is vital that a report is produced which investigates the presence of wildlife, flora and fauna and various types of trees to establish the most appropriate use of the site. It is advisable that this study is undertaken imminently before the weather restricts necessary investigations.

**Resolved:**

That council approves the undertaking of an ecological survey at Cotton Lane.

**Resolved:**

That the council approves a virement of £600 from the S137 budget into a new cost centre for Cotton Lane to meet costs.

**73/10/09Cl: TO CONCLUDE THE PREFERRED VOTING PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF PARISH/TOWN REPRESENTATIVES TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

A procedure must be established by which members can be elected onto the Standards Committee and Joint Transportation Board to represent parish and town councils in Dartford. As such members are required to approve the voting procedure following recent debate about the best way of conducting a unanimous vote among parish and town councils in Dartford.

**Resolved:**

That Council approve the voting procedure as outlined at Appendix A and that, in the case of multiple vacancies, 3.6.3. 'Treat the exercise as one election with one nominee being provided from each Parish/Town Council' is the preferred procedure.

**74/10/09Cl: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2009.**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held Wednesday 9 September 2009 are accepted as a true record by the Council and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

**53/09/09Cl: Apologies for Absence:** were received from Councillor's Mrs East, Mrs S Martin and Mrs T Richards.

**75/10/09Cl: TO DISCUSS MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

This item is for member's exchange of information only.

**59/09/09Cl: Clean-up of Hedge Place Road;**

Members re-iterated the point made at the September Council meeting. Endeavours continue to establish appropriate action and the Parish Council

is in constant liaison with Kent Highways and the police to remedy the situation.

**76/10/09CI: TO RECEIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) Minutes of Finance Committee held 10 June 2009.  
**Noted.**
- 2) Minutes of the Property & Staffing Committee held 22 July 2009.  
**Noted.**
- 3) Minutes of the Planning, Environment and Transport Committee held 22 July 2009.  
**Noted.**
- 4) Chairman's Report  
**A verbal report was given by the Chair, Cllr Mrs T Richards:**  
On behalf of the Council is very pleased with the recent council activity, in particular the various purchases of land for the parish.
- 5) Clerk's Report  
Mrs J Thomas seconded the comments made by Cllr Mrs T Richards.

**77/10/09CI: TO RECEIVE ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) Cath Anley, Head of Libraries, Kent County Council – regarding operational proposals for mobile library service which may see services reviewed in the New Year.  
**Noted.**

**78/10/09CI: TO CONCLUDE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Cllr Thredgale requested that future agenda items include the transfer of the old war memorial to an alternative spot in the parish and a discussion regarding the implementation of a notice board in the Milestone Ward.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
11 NOVEMBER 2009.**

DATED THE

DAY OF

2009

**CHAIRMAN**