

# ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

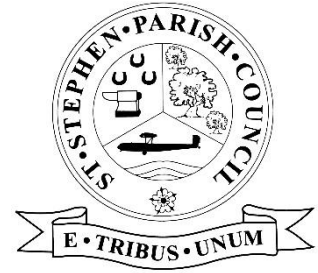
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## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 7pm in Tennyson Hall, The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, AL2 3PJ

### Present

Cllr John Bell	Cllr Karen Hurford
Cllr Wendy Berriman	Cllr David Parry
Cllr David Brannen	Cllr Bill Pryce
Cllr Dorothy Kerry (Chair)	Cllr Nicholas Tyndale
Cllr David Yates	

### Also present:

Sue Hake, Clerk, Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk  
Gill Patschinsky, Administration Officer,  
Judith Massey, Administration Assistant  
19 Members of the Public; 4 children

### 1920/APM/01 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair (Cllr Kerry) welcomed members of public, councillors and staff to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllrs Doyle and Whittaker

### 1920/APM/02 Approval of the Minutes 10 May 2018

**Resolved:** Cllrs who were present at the meeting approved the Minutes.

### 1920/APM/03 School Books Presentations

Cllr Dorothy Kerry presented the Myths and Legends themed books to Park Street School pupils and Head Teacher Wendy May Foster  
Mount Pleasant School pupils and Head Teacher Victoria Burman  
How Wood School senior member of Teaching Staff Jackie Nixon

### 1920/APM/04 Annual Reports

Cllr Kerry reported on the key areas of responsibility of the Parish Council, including buildings owned by the Council, Play Areas, Open Spaces, trees & woodlands and events. She also thanked Cllr Bell as Chair of Planning for the work on trying to manage developments in the green belt area. The Parish Council are the 1st Tier of government and the closest to the community. It is responsible for organising events to bring the community together such as Craft in the Park, Parish in Bloom, Remembrance Day, Carol Concert, Lighting of the Beacon & Firework Display. Councillors & staff were thanked with special thanks expressed to former councillors Ian Getley, who retired recently after 18 years of service on the Council, John Parker for his help with events, and to Councillor Nicholas Tyndale for all of his support as Vice Chair.

Sue Hake, the new Clerk, was introduced and welcomed to the Council and thanks were expressed to former Clerk, Juliet Pienaar who retired during 2018, for all of her work & services to members past & present.

Cllr Kerry advised that the Neighbourhood Plan should be available for comment by the summer

Cllr Kerry thanked the Friends of Hanstead Wood, including John Roy and Dianah Ellis, who work closely with Cllr Pryce and explained that the wood has been offered to be gifted to the Parish Council by the developer.

The Festival/Fete will be held on the weekend of the 1 and 2 June and will include indoor Arts and Crafts displays, music & dance, dog show, falconry, real ale and a food court.

Cllr Kerry asked for any questions to be raised at the end of the meeting.

#### **19/20/APM/04.1 Cllr Bill Pryce, Community Assets & Buildings**

Cllr Bill Pryce reported that there are six play areas, one with adult exercise equipment, plus sports facilities, open spaces, the Parish Centre, Greenwood Park Community Centre and Blackgreen Wood. Greenwood Park has recently had a wall installed onto the crab mound and the wooden bollards along the driveway are gradually being replaced as they are becoming rotten. Work on the Butterfly mound in Greenwood Park has commenced with imported chalk, which is being planted with wildflowers. The Green Flag award has been applied for again for Greenwood Park, so a 'mystery shopper' visit will be taking place at some point.

Section 106 monies will be used to support purchases of play equipment for improved facilities at Park Street Recreation Ground.

The Play Areas are inspected weekly by staff and annually by an independent inspector.

#### **19/20/APM/04.2 Cllr John Bell, Planning**

Cllr John Bell reported that the Planning Committee continue to monitor and comment on all planning applications received and submit comments to St Albans District Council who make the final decision to approve or refuse the application.

Two particular schemes this Council has strongly supported recently are the proposals for, a nine unit care home in place of the Queen Mother Centre, Station Road (adjacent to the Parish Centre), and a care and retirement development on the Burstons Garden Centre site, although at present both of these have been refused by the District Council.

Planning application numbers appear to be dropping, which in part is due to more plans being submitted as permitted development via a Certificate of Lawfulness, which the Parish Council are unable to comment on, but will ask for a full planning application to be submitted to the District Council if it is not considered appropriate for a particular development.

Appeals by applicants against planning decisions are regularly checked to see if the Committee needs to make further comments to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration.

Applications to prune, reduce or fell trees that are covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are considered, although it is often difficult to assess this type of request without a particular knowledge of the tree(s) in question and so the

decision is left to the Trees and Woodlands Department at District Council who are better equipped to make a judgement.

A number of consultation documents have been issued by District and County Councils. These include the District's Local Plan, the County's Transport for Hertfordshire Plan and the A414 Corridor Strategy. Hopefully these Authorities will take on board our responses which we consider will be most beneficial for the wellbeing of our community and the environment. We look forward to seeing the final outcome of these documents.

Major Developments in the Parish which are ongoing and which we are keeping a close eye on are:

Harperbury Hospital site with about 200 houses of which 35% of 'affordable', essential worker and shared ownership homes.

HSBC site with 138 homes again with some 'affordable' and the refurbishing of the old Manor House for individual apartments with the Lodge remaining as a single residence.

The Building Research Establishment site with plans for 100 homes with its controversial access via The Kestrels, Bucknalls Drive. This Council strongly opposed this narrow access but unfortunately this was approved by District.

One of our main concerns at the moment is the lack of enforcement on unapproved developments. There are a number of cases within the Parish that are clearly unauthorised but continue to flaunt the planning regulations. It is incumbent on the District Council to take action in these circumstances but at the moment there are a number of outstanding sites where no meaningful enforcement has taken place. This does not give the Planning Authority much credence especially to those residents and developers who respect and abide by the Planning rules and regulations. This problem needs to be urgently addressed by District Council.

Finally, parishioners can be assured that the Parish Council will continue to monitor and comment on all planning issues which affect the Parish and make decisions which will be in the best interest of our community.

**1920/APM/05 Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr Bill Pryce**

Cllr Pryce confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan has now been re-submitted to District with further amendments following the comments previously made and should soon go to referendum.

Cllr Pryce explained that there must be some development in the Parish and asked people not to dismiss all those on the green belt. He assured everyone there is a rigorous process to consider any proposed development. The document is aimed at directing any development to provide the housing that is needed in the community with appropriate access.

**1920/APM/06 Closing Statement from the Chair**

Cllr Kerry informed attendees that the Community Awards presentations will be taking place in September and requested nominations for people who have made exceptional contributions to the community.

Cllr Kerry invited residents to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council following this meeting

The meeting closed at 7.47pm