

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

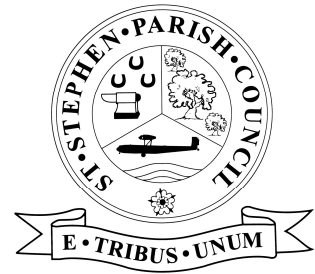
THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD

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Minutes of the Full Council Meeting

held on Thursday 20 February 2025 at 7.30pm

at The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, St Albans, AL2 3PJ

Present: Councillors

Wendy Berriman

Aaron Jacob

Mark Skelton

David Brannen

Dorothy Kerry

Nicholas Tyndale

Richard Curthoys

Bill Pryce

David Yates

Also present

Susan Hake, Clerk,

4 members of public

2425/094 Public Participation – to receive petitions, comments and questions

To welcome public participation in accordance with the Public Speaking Policy

A member of public requested to speak on item 2425/102a iii. to request the Council do not install any further fencing at Greenwood Park

2425/095 To receive reports from representatives of St Albans District Council and Hertfordshire County Council

Apologies received from DC Cllrs Hilton, Fry and Webb and CC Nash due to attendance at other meetings

2425/096 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Whittaker, Ruffhead and Hilton

2425/097 To confirm the Full Council minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2025

Resolved: To confirm the Full Council minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2025

2425/098 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

2425/099 Chairs report

The Chair reported on attending a follow up meeting with DC Cllrs Smith and Webb and the CEO at London Colney in reference to seeking funding and support from Segro and contractors on various projects in the community, reroofing, public conveniences, with the aim to receive a presentation on the footpaths linking to the Country park at our Parish Meeting Cllr Yates is discussion with the District Council about taking on the liaison of the Bricket Wood Common and noting work done on the Common and ensuring the landowner does not sell the Common off

Working with SADALC about concerns about the proposed devolution if there is no longer a District Council at St Albans

2425/100 Update on previous meeting actions not mentioned later in the agenda

Cllr Pryce gave a further update on planned retirement in 2026 of both HAPTC staff members Also HAPTC are concerned the Government white paper does not refer to Parish Councils in reference to Devolution. Herts County Council is working with all of the District and Borough Council's following the request to submit an initial proposal in March 25 about the division for Hertfordshire which will be based on the population. It is anticipated a significant proportion of

workload is expected to devolve to the Parish Councils and Clerks from the District Councils by 2027-28

2425/101 Reports: Finance, Policy and Resources

- a) To note list of January 2025 payments authorised by Finance Committee Members and signatories
Noted
- b) Recommendation to confirm Ice cream concession for 2025
Resolved: Agreed to accept the Tender from Noviello
- c) Recommendation to agree the Reserves policy
Cllr Kerry explained this is currently being worked and deferred to the next meeting
- d) Recommendation to accept the discounted lowest quote for the vinyl flooring at the Parish Centre
- e) **Resolved:** Agreed to accept the discounted lowest quote for the vinyl flooring at the Parish Centre
- f) Recommendation to agree Business Risk Assessment and Internal Controls
Deferred to next meeting to incorporate the Reserves policy
- g) Recommendation to agree Parish Council meeting calendar
Awaiting confirmation of meeting dates
- h) Recommendation to confirm amendments to the strategic plan
Deferred until further information known about devolution
- i) Recommendation to confirm the Park Street Utility contract
Resolved: Agreed to confirm the Park Street Utility contract

2425/102 To note minutes and agree recommendations from the Council's Committees & Working Groups

To receive brief progress reports and recommendations from the:

- a) Planning & Environment
 - i. Recommendation to agree in Principle to acquire the ground form Burstons (commonly known as the Donkey Field)
Agreed in Principle
 - ii. Recommendation to establish a Steering group to include representation from Burstons x 2, Parish Council Staff x 2, Parish Councillors x 2 and other reps useful to the contribution of the group to agree a management plan for this area and details of any handover to include dowry from Burstons and transfer details such as covenants etc
Resolved: Agreed to establish a Steering Group accordingly
 - iii. Recommendation To agree the temporary use of reserves up to £15k for the urgent installation of a fence and rewilding project at Greenwood Park following the removal of vegetation and trees outside of the boundary along the A405
It was noted there is an expectation following the removal of the trees and vegetation that some form of barrier will be instated on the road side
Resolution Agreed for the rewilding to be progressed but not the installation of fencing inside the boundary

Recommendation To agree delegated authority to the Chair and the Clerk to seek funding from Segro to defray the costs of this urgent project (Report to follow)
Resolution Agreed
- b) Finance Committee
- c) Fixed Asset Committee
 - i. Consider comments received and Agree next steps for Greenwood Park Stage one report
Shortlist options will go to the next Fixed Asset meeting in March in co-ordination with all Councillors and then go to consultation
- d) HR Committee-
- e) Community & Leisure Committee-
Recommendation to agree the next stages for the Mayflower Play area project to be discussed at next weeks Community and Leisure Meeting
To Delegate authority to Community and Leisure with the proviso the project remains within the agreed budget
Recommendation to agree the next actions to the Greenwood Park slide
Proposed to delegate authority to progress the next stages to the Community and Leisure

Committee

Resolved: To agreed to Delegate authority to Community and Leisure with the proviso the project remains within the agreed budget

Resolved: to agree the next actions to the Greenwood Park slide proposal to delegate authority to progress the next stages to the Community and Leisure Committee

f) Events Working Party- Events confirmation for 2025

Parish In Bloom will no longer take place

Community Awards are planned for 2025 and notices to be circulated on the noticeboards to be awarded at the Parish Meeting

No Summer event 2025

Christmas event 2025 will go ahead on 7 December at GWP

Armed forces day 2025 will go ahead, with possible ride on train

Action: Cllr Yates to pursue the request of the ride on railway

Parish Meeting to be held on 8 May

Action: Office to update the information on all boards in St Stephen Suite to include the new awards 2025

2425/103 Clerks Report - Information updates

Request to submit responses to the Strengthening the Standards & Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England consultation

Link-<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england>

PC carpark liaison is progressing between solicitors

Asset transfers still ongoing for Woodbury Field and Park Street Pavilion and Recreation

Ground with the District requesting the Parish Council also take on the Public conveniences

Agenda items for next meeting required by 10 March 2025

To review and agree public speaking policy

Meeting closed at 8.38pm