**Parish of Stanstead**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council**

**Held on Thursday, 26th March 2015**

**Present** Cllr. J. Boyes, Cllr. N. Theobald, Cllr C. Johnsen, Cllr D Wilson, Cllr. S Haynes, Cllr. A. Cleveland, Cllr. G. Lee, Mr R. Kemp (SCC) and Mr R. Thake ( SDC).

**01.03.15** The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting, opening business at 20.05hours.

**02.03.15**  There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

**03.03.15** All were in agreement to sign the minuets of the 29th January and 12th March as true records.

**04.03.15** Meeting suspended at 20.15 hours to receive reports/comments:

i. An update on Crime in the area was sent through by the Police. There were no crimes committed in Stanstead. A full report can be seen on our Web Site.

ii. Mr. R.Kemp gave his report which can be viewed on our Web Site.

iii Mr. R. Thake gave his last report as he is no longer standing as a District Councillor. We give our thanks for his support over the years and wish him a happy retirement.

He discussed with Councillors how Planning matters go through in Babergh Council.

At the moment there is a shortage of Planning Officers. This is holding up certain arears of Planning, combined with ever changing Government Polices.

It was the view of the Councillors that whilst they spent time reviewing Planning Applications and stating their opinions, it has no effect on the outcome.

It would appear that if an Application meets the criteria of Babergh’s Planning Policy, it will be passed regardless of the Parish Councils reservations or otherwise.

Meeting Reconvened at 8.45

**05.03.15** Playground.

i. Weekly inspections/2015 carried out by Cllr. J. Boyes. All found to be in order.

Cllr. Boyes did ask if anyone would like to take over this task.

**06.03.15** Cllr Johnsen voiced her thoughts that the Minuets did not give enough clarity to what was expressed at the meetings. The Clerk will rectify this by putting more information against each Agenda point.

**07.03.15** A discussion was held as to the overgrown hedge at the back of the Bus Shelter on Lower Street.

Mr. R. Kemp (SCC), will have words with the appropriate people to have this issue addressed.

**08.03.15**  **Village Community Centre**

i A tender was submitted and passed for the cutting of grass at the back of the Community Centre.

ii. A debate was held on to the way forward of enhancing the Community Centre to bring in more members and, as we don’t have a true Village Green or Rugby Pitch, it would be a shame to lose this one focal point of Stanstead Village Life.

The possibility of the Council giving a fund towards the revamp of the inside of Community Centre was discussed.

iii. Free membership to the Centre for all living in the Parish of Stanstead was also an option discussed.

Iv. A meeting will be held in April with the Parish Council, inviting the Committee of the Community Centre, to discuss ways of keeping this Centre re-vitalised and appealing to the ‘Now Stanstead Village.’

 The Clerk will ask to be placed on our Web Site anything that would induce the members of the village to come and spend an evening at the Centre.

**09.03.15** The ongoing replacement posts for the leaning signboard in Upper Street has now been resolved. Cllr Nev. Theobald and Cllr. Alan Cleveland will address this issue at their convenience.

**10.03.15** As mentioned in last year’s External Audit Report, the need for a Fidelity Insurance was discussed.

It was agreed by all that as we have two signatories, and all invoices are matched, the extra cost of the Insurance is disproportionate to the risk involved.

**11.03.15 Planning Matters**

**Application No;** B/15/00240/FUL

**Location;** Giffords Meadow, Shimpling Road, Stanstead.

**Proposal;** Erection of Agricultural Barn

This proposal was passed.

**12.03.15 Financial matters.**

**iii.** The Statement of Accounts were approved

**11.03.15** Next years Budget was discussed and finalised.

**13.03.15** The re-election of Councillors on May the 7th was discussed along with the dates for the AGM.

 This will be held on the 21st of May.

These items will be placed on the next Agenda.

Proposal for the retarmacing of footpath No. 8

To discuss possible funding for the Community Centre

Date of next full meeting AGM 21st May 2015

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