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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the FULL COUNCIL held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5th July 2023 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex.

**PRESENT** Cllr M Caton (Chair), Cllrs A Guney, J Kavanagh, A Khan, A Love, J O’Brien,

 L Prior and G Sell

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

 Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

 Cllrs Braeckman and Jones – via Zoom

 District Councillor Nick Church

 1 member of the press

 4 members of the public – 1 via Zoom

**98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Barnes, Braeckman, Hogg and Jones – All on holiday.

 **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies for absence from Cllr Barnes, Cllr Braeckman, Cllr Hogg and Cllr Jones

 This was unanimously agreed

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public spoke regarding a second licensed pharmacy and the lack of support from some District and former District Councillors.

**99 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**100 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JUNE 2023**

 **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2023 as a true and accurate account.

**101 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

69 – Raise the issue of the Chapel Hill zebra crossing with Cty Cllr Gooding – Email sent and no response received.

 69 – Speak to Gigaclear about social tariffs – The Clerk has spoken to them and they stated their usual tariff is lower than that of many other providers and more in line with social tariffs

 70 – Ask District Cllr Gooding which planning applications he has called in – Email sent and no response received

 70 – Ask District Cllr Gooding for the Parish Council to be involved in any meetings with residents regarding Elms Farm – Email sent and no response received

**102 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR MAUREEN CATON**

Attached

 Several members voiced their frustration at the lack of response to all emails and requests for updates by District and County Cllr Gooding. It was said that it was incumbent on all District and County Councillors to provide the information requested as promptly as possible in order that the officers and parish councillors could update parishioners.

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**103 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

The Clerk advised that an email discussion had taken place with Cllrs Dean, Gooding and Sell who had questioned the request for District and County reports to be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting. The Chair explained the rationale behind this and with Cllr Sell confirming that he understood the reason for the request it was agreed to maintain this position going forward.

 Report by District Councillor Sell attached and was circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Various comments relating to contract management by UDC were made. District Councillor Sell also updated that at a planning meeting he attended today with District Cllr Dean, the Uttlesford Planning Committee approved the planning application for up to 30 homes on land to the East of High Lane as there were no legal planning grounds to refuse this on. District Councillor Church confirmed that this was why they had voted for it.

 District Councillor Sell confirmed that New Home Bonuses have now been announced and every councillor has £2,000 to support good causes.

**104 TO RECEIVE A WRITTEN COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Clerk advised that Cty Cllr Gooding had not supplied a written report as he was unhappy about this process. He believes that most of the time taken up is by members asking questions about items not in any of his reports. It was confirmed as above that the Parish Council will be maintaining the position of written reports prior to the meeting with any questions by parish councillors to be based on those reports.

**105 FINANCE**

**a) TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS**

The Clerk advised that the invoices were checked against the payment schedule before the start of the meeting by Cllr O’Brien

 The payments were approved.

**b) TO RECEIVE THE INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT TO 31ST MAY 2023**

This was circulated to members with the agenda and there were no questions.

**106 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**1 UTT/23/1442/HHF – 1 LONG CROFT**

 **Proposed single storey rear extension**

No comment

**2 CC/UTT/45/23 – PETER KIRK CENTRE, ST JOHNS ROAD**

 **Provision of new basketball court and associated perimeter fencing for use by Essex Youth Service**

Members unanimously support this application

**3 UTT/23/1481/FUL – ST MARYS SCHOOL, HAMPTON ROAD**

 **Installation of solar panels**

No comment. Cllr Prior’s suggestion to request TPOs for some of the trees was accepted.

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**4 UTT/23/1595/HHF – IVY COTTAGE, STONEY COMMON**

 **Proposed single storey rear extension, rear dormer extension and new fully obscured window installed to the side elevation**

No comment

**107 TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK TO:**

**a) CIRCULATE DETAILS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO MEMBERS BY EMAIL AND SUBMIT COMMENTS BASED ON THE MAJORITY VIEW. ANY MAJOR APPLICATIONS WILL BE SENT TO THE PLANNING WORKING GROUPTO DISCUSS AND AN EXTRA COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CALLED IF AN EXTENSION TO THE DEADLINE IS NOT GRANTED BY UDC/INSPECTOR**

The Clerk advised that this was just for the Summer and Christmas breaks. It was unanimously agreed.

**b) CIRCULATE ALL PAYMENT SCHEDULES BY EMAIL FOR ANY QUESTIONS. ALL SCHEDULES WILL BE RATIFIED AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

It was unanimously agreed. The Christmas break schedules will be ratified at the first meeting in January.

**108 F&GP COMMITTEE – TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2023**

The minutes of the meeting were received.

**109 TO CONSIDER APPLICATIONS FOR CO-OPTIONS ONTO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Three applications had been received and these were circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Two of the applicants addressed the meeting and answered questions from members. The third applicant was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

 **RESOLVED** That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public and press be instructed to withdraw

Meeting closed at 8.19pm

 Members discussed the applications received.

Meeting re-opened at 8.33pm

 Having been proposed by Cllr Sell and seconded by Cllr Khan, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To co-opt Sanjukta Ghosh onto the Parish Council

 Having been proposed by Cllr Sell and seconded by Cllr Khan, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To co-opt Thomas van de Bilt onto the Parish Council

 It was unanimously agreed to defer the decision on the third candidate and invite them to attend the next Full Council meeting to answer questions from members.

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**110 EMERGENCY AGENDA ITEM**

This was mentioned in the Chair report. The survey report on the Recreation Ground had been received and required consideration by members.

 **RESOLVED** That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, the public and press be instructed to withdraw.

 Meeting closed at 8.34pm

 Discussions took place.

 Meeting re-opened at 9.00pm

 Having been proposed by Cllr O’Brien and seconded by Cllr Sell it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To open the Recreation Ground with immediate effect.

 This item will appear on the next agenda for the decision to be ratified.

Meeting closed at 9.01pm

**ACTION POINTS**

101 To chase Cllr Gooding again on all outstanding District and County issues

103 Clerk to inform District and County Councillors of the decision to proceed with written reports before the meeting.