

STEVENTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Monday 18th July 2016, at 8pm at Steventon Village Hall

Contact: Rosina Forde, steventonpc@hotmail.com

We had a surprise visit from PCSO Emma Page, beat officer for Steventon, with her colleague Andy Jones, beat officer for Oakley. Emma popped in before the start of the meeting to introduce herself. She said we could contact her at any time. Emma has recently completed a crime report for her area but Steventon does not feature in it. However, she advised that we should ensure that stables, barns, sheds, garages etc. are kept locked. The main item being stolen at the moment is chainsaws. Emma reminded us that if we are aware of a crime in the process of being committed then we should phone 999. If we become aware of a crime after it has been committed then phone 101. Emma's email address: emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

1. Present:

Councillors Present: Peter Lees, Tony Carter, Harriet Aldridge, Mike Everton Browne, Rosina Forde.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Public Present: Tim Sennitt

2. Declarations of Interests: None.

3. Meeting Open To The Public (10 minutes):

Tim Sennitt presented to the council a suggestion for improving the Steventon boundary signs, especially with the upcoming Jane Austen commemorative year in 2017, which is 200 years since her death. He proposed that we should celebrate Jane Austen, who was born in Steventon and spent her formative years here, with some simple village boundary signs. The current village boundary signs are either non existent or in a sad state of repair:

- North – There is currently no boundary sign on the road that you enter from the main B3400 (just past the Deane Gate Inn).
- East – The boundary sign on the road from North Waltham into Steventon by Stoken Farm is badly corroded and constantly being blown around.
- South – A standard boundary sign at the cross road with Waltham Lane says nothing about the village heritage.

Looking at other local village boundary signs, there is a lot we could do to show how proud we are of Steventon's most famous resident and one of England's most prestigious authors. Tim produced different examples of signs that depicted silhouettes of Jane Austen, and all of which stated the fact that Steventon is the birthplace of Jane Austen. The Parish Council noted a preference for the image of Jane at her desk. Tony will investigate the process for obtaining new signage and whether funding is available. **TC**

Tim was also thanked for the super Parish Council website that he has created.

4. Minutes: The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 30th June 2016 were approved and signed.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes: None.

6. Current Planning Applications: None.

7. Planning Compliance Issues: None.

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8. Finance:

Receipts: None.

Payments: None.

Harriet to forward the Insurance electronic documents to steventonpc@hotmail.com.

HA

Current Balance:

Nat West current account: £1629.72.

Cricket club account: £1056.07.

Parish Council Audit:

The Audit has been signed off by Julian Pilcher and has been sent to BDO (the accounting firm assigned by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council).

Public Rights to Inspect Accounts Year End March2016:

No requests have been received to view the accounts.

Nat West Accounts:

Nat West has informed us that prospective cheque signatories must present themselves at the bank in person with photo ID, and have given us new forms to fill out. Peter, Harriet and Rosina will do this. When the forms have been signed-off by Nat West, Harriet will return to the bank with the forms, the Mandate and the Minutes.

PL, RF, HA

Cricket Club:

Research into the amount of interest in a Steventon Cricket Club is in progress. It seems unlikely though that we could have a club established this year.

PL

Budget:

It was agreed that going forwards the parish council would like to contribute to the flowers in the tubs on the triangle as the whole village benefits. This is currently estimated at about £50 per annum.

Harriet said that we need to consider developed financial propositions for the potential projects the Parish Council might contribute towards, in the context of what we are permitted to spend our funding on. There are a number of ideas and it would be good to have a plan for the year which could include holding money back for later in the year, for example, to cover any damage to footpaths over the winter. Harriet will find out more about what we can spend our funding on and whether any further grants are available to us.

HA

9. Highways and Village Appearance:

Villagers are becoming annoyed about the state of the lanes. Previously the County Council would cut the grass verges and landowners cut the hedges. The latter is usually done when the birds have stopped nesting around September time. Cutting the verges would greatly improve matters.

North Waltham receives specific money for grass cutting. They seem to be cutting the grass in community areas such as around the pond and Cuckoo Meadow, but not the verges.

Harriet reiterated that we need to understand who pays for what and who is responsible for what. This also feeds into footpaths, signage, and even the tree surgeon.

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Peter will phone Hampshire Highways & Byways to ask: Why aren't verges being cut? Is there a grant for verge cutting? **PL**

Many villagers are complaining about potholes. The Basingstoke council continue to say that we are on their list. We all need to continue to complain; the official site is: <http://roadenquiries.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems/highwaydefect/pothole.aspx>

10. Handover-over of Documents from previous Parish Council:

In progress. **PL**

11. Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC):

A discussion took place on whether or not we should join HALC (Subscription £129 per annum):

There is much going on in this changing world, and HALC provides structure to the noise. It is more relevant to larger parish and town councils who are interested in devolution and public funding, for instance for playing fields etc. The majority of the information will not be relevant to Steventon.

Conclusion: The majority of the council agreed that we should join HALC as it is the official means of communication for parish councils and we do need a filter. HALC could be a useful contact for queries in the future. Mike Everton-Browne objected because he was concerned about outside interference.

Footnote: We will join HALC when we have achieved approved signatories for signing cheques!

12. New Parish Notice Board: It was decided not to pursue this.

13. Defibrillator:

Peter told us the history of the North Waltham defibrillator that is kept in their telephone box by the pond. The first one was stolen. A second one was almost stolen but the thieves were caught. They now have a third defibrillator that is very difficult to steal. However, they do need a team of people who know how to remove the defibrillator. It was felt that this could cause an unfortunate delay. Peter will find out more about it. **PL**

The British Heart Foundation provides a grant for defibrillators. They would want to know details such as where you would keep it and how secure it is. Peter has contacted them and is waiting to hear back. **PL**

The St John's Ambulance will also be contacted. **PL**

The British Heart Foundation also supplies first aid training specifically for heart attacks. Peter will pursue this. **PL**

Rosina sent a brief survey out to the village seeking peoples' views on having a defibrillator. Fourteen individuals / households responded, most on the same day! The Steventon Book Club (9 ladies) also had a 30-minute discussion on the topic.

Summary of (mixed) feedback:

- Most people were supportive but some not.
- Most people felt the telephone box was okay. Some also wanted the telephone box used for a Book Swap scheme or Visitors' Information. Some people preferred the Village hall.
- There was concern about the lost first minutes spent retrieving the defibrillator, which could have been spent instead on resuscitation.

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- There was an alternative suggestion for a Community First Responders team, which they have in Oakley. There a team of community first responders is registered with the emergency services. When someone calls 999 the operator will contact the first responder who will go immediately to the patient to start resuscitation, and also a paramedic who will be sent with the defibrillator.
- There was concern about the security of the defibrillator in the telephone box. Easily stolen or damaged, therefore a waste of money.
- Many people nervous of performing resuscitation on people close to them.
- Some people did not want to be on a 24/7 call-out list.
- Concern about peoples' right to no resuscitation.
- A big responsibility!
- Lots of people in the village would need training in first aid and training in using the defibrillator.

The parish council noted that we are already fortunate to have three doctors living in the village.

It was agreed that we would continue to research the topic with a view to holding a meeting for the village at which we would invite the various parties to present to us.

In summary Peter will talk further to the following:

- North Waltham about their defibrillator
- The British Heart Foundation about grants for defibrillators and first aid training
- St Johns Ambulance, as per the British Heart Foundation
- Oakley about the Community First Responders team + the official organisation for CFR

The aim is to have all the feedback in place by 16th September.

PL

14. Jane Austen Festival 2017:

Rosina reported to the parish council on the Steventon Players current ideas for the Jane Austen 200 festivities in Steventon in 2017. These will soon be related to the whole village in a meeting to be called by Marilyn.

The telephone box was discussed in terms of making it fit and presentable to display Visitors' Information, especially for the Jane Austen 200 event. There are broken panes of glass, the door does not shut and the surrounding grass area would need trimming. Peter will examine the box and talk to John Smith about the best way to proceed given that John has been involved in restoring it in the past.

PL

Marilyn is on the Hampshire Jane Austen 200 committee. John Smith is on the Basingstoke Jane Austen 200 committee, as the chairman of the Steventon Parish Council. The parish council is happy for John to continue to represent them. It was agreed that Rosina would represent the parish council on the Steventon Players Committee.

15. Notices, Correspondence and Circulars: None.

16. Councillors' Announcements: None.

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17. Questions to the Chairman:

The parish council has become aware that Basingstoke may be entering a program of reviewing all the Conservation Areas within the borough. Parts of Steventon are classified as a conservation area and other parts are not. There are different levels of conservation area. Steventon is protected to a degree from large building projects and the value of its houses is increased. Another level of conservation area is where a place becomes part of a National Park. North Waltham is trying to become part of the South Downs National Park. This could be quite onerous and expensive for a village. The village would need to comply with National Park standards, for example: accommodating coaches, ensuring access for the disabled, maintaining footpaths to a high level.

The parish council feel that we should maintain our current status, and maybe even extend it up to the area of the church, but we do not want the higher level of conservation.

Tony will find out more about the Basingstoke review of conservation areas.

TC

The parish council discussed that as we only meet four times a year and only have two meetings left before the next APM, should we start considering if want to invite external speakers to next year's APM, as this would need some advance notice. It was agreed that although we may change the format of the next APM we do not currently wish to invite external speakers, although this can change if the occasion arises. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

RF

18. Items for insertion in the Parish Magazine:

None at the moment unless new planning applications arise.

19. Next Meeting Date:

17th October 2016 – Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in Steventon Village Hall at 8.00pm.

Signed:, Chairman

Date: