

A meeting of the Stukeley's Parish Council held in the village hall at Little Stukeley on Monday 3rd March 2008 at 7.30pm.

ATTENDANCE	M/s J. Butter, T. Pinner, R. Turpin, C. Cowdery, P. Ryan, M.Reynolds, D. Middleton, R. Hulstrom, H.Raby, P. Vincent, D. Hossack, Mrs. S. Parkin, District Councillor K. Baker, County Councillors Sir P. Brown and Laine Kadic and one member of the public.	
APOLOGIES	Were received from Mrs S. Gifford, D. Bartlett, D. Adams, P. Hobson and District Councillor T. Sanderson.	
OPEN MEETING	There were no questions from the public.	
MINUTES	On a proposal by Mr. Butter seconded by Mr. Turpin the minutes of the February meeting were approved and signed by the chairman.	
CHAIRMANS REPORT	This was received by all Councillors but as Mr. Hulstrom required one small amendment the chairman said that this would be effected before the next meeting when it would again be presented for approval, otherwise is was considered to be a true reflection on the years work by the Council.	Chairman and Clerk
FOOTPATHS	The clerk reported that the racecourse management had met with the County Council and that all outstanding issues were said to have been resolved, he assured Mr. Butter that he would contact Mr. Oudett of the County to verify these facts as soon as possible.	
WAR MEMORIALS	The clerk reported that all grant aid forms had been filed with the War Memorials trust, but there had been a problem with the picture quality, so as the clerk did not have a digital camera, Mr. Turpin had kindly agreed to take the necessary prints and forward them to the conservation officer, the clerk had also contacted M/s Bowman to instruct them not to start before any grant was agreed also to supply more detailed information on the works they proposed, he was awaiting their reply.	Mr. Reynolds

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
PROJECTS	<p>Mr. Ryan reported that the prices for the refurbishment of the Gt. Stukeley hall were now in and that with the permission of the chairman (because the closing date for applications was due) had submitted a grant application to the District Council for £35.000 which represented the highest possible figure needed, if everything was attempted, within the application he had suggested that additional funding was to be made available by the Parish Council. The make up of the figures was supplied to all members and was as follows, Ceiling lighting £6100, Pelmet lighting £3500, Installation of lighting £3600, Curtains to main Hall windows £6600, Curtains to kitchen & Committee Room £1700, Sound Absorption panels to ceiling £9200 and Pelmet £1700, funding for this project would be sought from WREN, Gt. Stukeley Hall committee and the Parish Council and for the Proposed toilet modifications, including an invalid facility, from Huntingdonshire District Council, Gt. Stukeley hall committee and Stukeleys Parish Council. It was intended that the application to WREN will be made shortly. After a great deal of discussion Mr. Hulstrom proposed and Mr. Turpin seconded that the Parish Council 'Put Aside' a minimum of £5000 to a maximum of £20000 to support these projects, this was supported by all members in attendance.</p>	Mr. Ryan.
ROAD SAFETY	<p>Mrs Kadic said that the interactive signs in Little Stukeley were still not working because the manufacturer had supplied incorrect repair parts but that she hoped the matter would be resolved shortly. Mr. Butter told her that the North bound one in Great Stukeley was not now working, she was also supplied with the numbers of County lights not working within the Parishes.</p>	Laine Kadic
QUALITY COUNCILS	<p>The Clerk reported that his training had now commenced and that he had applied for Bursary funding, Mr. Butter enquired how it was progressing, the clerk said there was more to it than he had imagined.</p>	The Clerk

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
PARISH CHARTER	Mr. Turpin told the Council what was involved with the acceptance of this document, one factor was the provision of services by the Parish, on behalf of the District, for the local area, this would be done by grant provision that did not exceed the costs already incurred by the District in such provision. Mr Turpin proposed that he fill in the questionnaire and agree in principle to the formation of a partnership, this was supported by Mr. Hulstrom and agreed by the members.	Mr. Turpin.
TRUCK STOP	The clerk reported, that after contact with Alconbury, he had contacted the County Council to register the Councils support for the Alconbury's about the loss of the facility and the problems caused by drivers with no specific area in which to stop overnight. They had replied to say that a meeting had been arranged with 'Lorry Watch' to establish the extent of the problem and how to approach it.	
CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT	It was reported that the clerk must have a contract of employment in advance of the Councils application for quality status, Mr. Turpin had the model from CALC and was working on completing a draft for the Councils approval, at this stage it was agreed that there was no immediate rush for completion.	
PLANNING	Application 0800326FUL by M/s G. C. Field for an agricultural building at Nook Farm was approved on a recommendation from the planning group. Application 0800374FUL for the erection of a dwelling and garage on land at 12 Church Road and 24 Ermine Street was discussed in full it was agreed that the development posed no planning problems but that the Council strongly suggests that a Span bridge is used under the access, the preferred option of the drainage authority, rather than a culvert, on a proposal by Mr. Reynolds seconded by Mr. Turpin members approved the application.	
SPORT	M/s Middleton & Vincent reported that so far there has been no significant response to the football proposition, it was decided the option should be flagged up in the magazine with their contact detail in an effort to promote the idea.	

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
COUNTY & DISTRICT MATTERS	<p>Sir Peter Brown reported that the Highways agency had visited Alconbury PC and presented their options and plans for the A.14 and that they were prepared to extend this facility to any Council interested, he said also that it was unlikely that there would be any developments this year, the members agreed that it was an option to be considered. He also flagged up the fact that the government wishes to close a further 2500 post offices this year and those within 3mile radius were at risk, namely Huntingdon, Alconbury and Great Stukeley, he said that thought should be given to a strategy to fight strongly these closure proposals.</p> <p>Mr. Baker reported that the District rate was to increase by 5% to cover wages and salaries and the shortfall in government funding, he also advised of a forum to discuss the government new 'stacking' plans for airliners but intimated this area was unlikely to be affected.</p>	
GRASS MAINTENANCE	<p>Three tenders were received for this seasons contract M&D Plumb £8752.50, Pioneer Landscapes £7434.60 and Ferguson's £140.00 per cut for Churchyards and village hall, verge cutting £130. 00. per cut and Hedge cutting £280.00 per cut, the clerk worked out an overall figure based on a 28 week season and this was approximately £6250.00. Having in mind the current contractor is trying to sell his business and the fact that Ferguson's were more competitive it was decided on a proposition by Mr. Turpin, seconded by Mr. Butter to award Ferguson's the contract, in doing this they were to be asked to accept an annual inflation based increased so that the contract could last for three years, this matter was to be addressed by the Chairman.</p>	

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
ACCOUNTS	<p>On a proposition by Mr. Butter seconded by Mr. Reynolds the following accounts were agreed for payment. Pioneer Landscapes for grass maintenance £601.50. EON Energy for electric £59.16. Printing Matters for magazine £92.00. Lt. Stukeley village hall MC for hall hire £51.00. Clerks salary £192.09 and expenses £71.21. together with holiday pay of £231.21. Mr. Pike for rubbish picking through the villages £225.00.</p> <p>The Clerk was given authority to acquire a copy of the Local Council Administration Manual at a cost of £55.00</p> <p>A letter from Nat West suggested that the Parish could achieve a better rate for their investments by transferring the money from the Capital Reserve Account to a new Bonus Saver Account and providing there were no more than four withdrawals per annum a gross interest rate of 3.5% could be achieved. On a proposition by Mr Hulstrom seconded by Mr. Raby and supported by the members in was agreed that the clerk put this in hand as soon as possible.</p>	The Clerk

ITEM	DETAIL	ACTION
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	<p>Traffic parking problems, with vehicles now parking either side of the access road, is a cause for alarm, the clerk was to write to the County Council to seek remedial action.</p> <p>The problems with dogs is still a major concern to the Council, who have once again received complaints of owners exercising their animals, 'off leads' within the village and one individual using the playing field for this purpose. As stated before, there are now regulations in place requiring dog owners to keep their animals on leads in specified areas (these are highlighted in parish notice boards), if in doubt contact the District Council.</p> <p>Unfortunately the actions of a few leave the Council with no other option than to inform the Dog Warden at the District Council and this could lead to prosecutions.</p> <p>There is a defaced sign at Park View that needs attention, the District Council was to be informed.</p> <p>It was reported that the phone box at Gt. Stukeley had been repaired but that it was no longer coin operated, but cards could be obtained from the Post Office in Church road.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the hedge opposite Finnings being slashed back severely, it was said by Mr. Raby this was done to access rabbit infestation in the area, Mr. Pinner said he felt that before the end of the summer a complete recovery could be expected.</p> <p>Concerns from residents of Mill road were acknowledged about the waste vegetable material being dumped in a paddock in the vicinity, it was not thought to be a matter for the Parish Council, they were advised to contact the District.</p> <p>There was complete agreement that the verge daffodils through the villages were a wonderful show this Spring, it was agreed that a further £300 should be allocated for more bulbs this autumn.</p>	
NEXT MEETING	Will be on Monday 7 th April 2008 at the village hall Great Stukeley at 7.30pm.	