

A meeting of the Stukeley's Parish Council held in the village hall at Great Stukeley on Monday 7th April 2008 at 7.30pm.

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| ATTENDANCE | M/s J. Butter, T. Pinner, R. Turpin, C. Cowdery, P. Ryan, D. Middleton, R. Hulstrom, D. Hossack, P. Hobson, D. Bartlett, Mrs. S. Gifford, District Councillor K. Baker, County Councillors Sir P. Brown and Laine Kadic, also County Councillor M. Maguire (remit Highways & Transport and nine members of the public. | |
| APOLOGIES | Were received from Mrs S. Parkin, on holiday, M/s H. Raby, previous commitment, D. Adams, illness, M. Reynolds, illness, P. Vincent, illness and District Councillor T. Sanderson. | |

| ITEM | DETAIL | ACTION |
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| OPEN MEETING | <p>Mr. Soinne of Lt. Stukeley suggested that a solution to speeding problems could be the installation of new 30mph signs, that flash and warn motorists to slow down, he also referred to a system in Portugal in which speeding motorists were confronted with related traffic lights which would be on stop. Mr. Maguire member of the County Council (With highways and Transport remit) said the first was a relevant suggestion, but the second was probably not practicable on finance grounds alone, and that it would possibly need government approval, he added that the finance constraints of £25.000 would decide the scheme parameters and also that whatever suggestions were made would have to pass a safety audit. Mr. Bartlett for the Council asked when measures were likely to be put in place, Mr. Maguire replied that consultation was needed with the Parish Council and that he hoped this meeting could take place shortly but reiterated that whatever was proposed would be the subject of a safety audit. He also suggested that when proposals were ratified the work should be completed by March 2009. He also emphasised that what was agreed should be the wish also of the community because they wanted to avoid any dissent after the works had been completed , the work must be within the budget of £25.000. Mr Schofield said he felt there were too many HGV's travelling through the villages, he was informed that the County were facilitators and that enforcing was the responsibility of the police. Mr. Smith asked whether visitors to the ADL site were instructed not to use C.339 as access, once again it was agreed that this was the case but very difficult to enforce. Mr. Sharman asked what was likely to be done for the £25.000, he was told the original scheme cost £60.000 and that was the only rough guide to possibilities. Mrs Stewart enquired whether American service personnel were given any instruction on speeding issues, she was assured by both Mr. Middleton and Mr. Turpin that this was the case, but once again very hard to enforce. It was generally agreed that it was an informative meeting with the main issue to solve speeding issues with the proposals, to this end Mr. Maguire intimated that the County Council were likely, in the near future, to set up a 'speed watch' scheme in the County, it was hoped that the villages could be part of this initiative.</p> | |

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| 1. MINUTES | It was approved that the chairman signed the minutes of the meeting dated 3 rd March 2008 as a true and correct record. | |
| 4. CHAIRMANS REPORT | The requested amendments from last month were now in place and the members approved the chairman signing this report. | |
| 5. ACCOUNTS | <p>The following accounts were approved for payment.</p> <p>Pioneer Landscapes, for grass maintenance £601.50. EON Energy for supply, £59.16. Printing Matters for magazine printing £92.00. M.J. Newman, salary for April £192.09. CPALC for government legislation manual £50.00. MHB Services for Electrical repairs £135.13 and Frank Pike for grounds maintenance £195.00. The Clerk reported the claim for reclamation of £428.09 VAT which had been paid on services received.</p> | |

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| 6.ROAD SAFETY | <p>A presentation was given by Mr. Bartlett, including photographs, on the recent accident in Little Stukeley. He said that it was fortunate that no one was on the adjacent footpath at the time. He said he felt, as did residents of the area, that speeding was a significant factor on this stretch of road as was the number of heavy goods that used the road. Speed Camera would be ideal, but constraints possibly ruled this out, but some form of speed reducing measures were imperative as soon as practicable. Mrs. Kadic said she would provide a set of dates for the Councils consideration, to enable initial consultations to commence as soon as possible.</p> <p>Mr. Middleton complained that he felt the members did not have the conviction to address this matter, he said that he had suggested the Council purchase their own 'speed gun' but this idea had been paid scant respect. Mr. Hulstrom suggested that there really was no point in this expensive gesture which could cost as much as £10000, as it had no legal standing of prosecuting possibilities. Mr. Turpin suggested that members 'don' yellow jackets and stand on the roadside with normal cameras, photographing vehicles, in a hope that this would convince of the residents concerns. Mr. Hulstrom suggested contact with adjacent local Parishes to see if there was any enthusiasm for the shared hire of police on a rotational basis, with a speed camera. Mr. Middleton was asked to find the definitive cost of his suggestion and contact with the police was advised on the legality of purchasing such a piece of equipment.</p> | |
| 7.PROJECTS | <p>Mr. Ryan advised that two applications had now been submitted, one to HDC and one to WREN, he said neither had been specifically definitive as he felt that dialogue at this stage would be far more helpful. He said that the WREN application will require three quotations for each phase and that at some stage the Parish Council will be asked to confirm their commitment to funding aid, which could include the 10% return required by a 'third party'. He added that he hoped for some form of reply by July, but at that stage groundwork should be complete and possible suppliers identified, he said he would keep the Council informed of developments.</p> | |

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| 8.FOOTPATHS | Mr. Butter remarked that he felt that the clerk should contact the County Council to seek an update on the progress of ratification of the bridleway 26 and footpath 7 in the region of Brampton racecourse, the clerk agreed to attend to this. | Clerk |
| 9. CLERKS TRAINING | The clerk reported that he had now completed two sessions and was finding the going ‘tough’ with some 30 hours extra work already involved. He said that the new agenda format was a requirement but several councillors were unhappy about the exclusion of ‘any other business’ and asked the clerk to enquire from CPALC whether there was any provision allowed for the inclusion of ‘extra’ business on the evening of the meeting. The clerk informed the Council that he had received a bursary grant from NALC to assist with the finance of this training course. | |
| 10.WAR MEMORIALS | The clerk reported that he had received the grant application documents from the War Memorial Trust, they had been completed and the Council had been awarded a grant of 50% at St. Bartholomew’s amounting to £540. and similar at St. Martin’s amounting to £1200 both of which he had accepted on the Councils behalf. Both grants were subject to satisfactory completion of the works. He also reported that Bowman’s had made an initial start with a fungicidal application to both memorials. | |

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| 11.POST OFFICES | <p>Sir Peter Brown said that he had had a meeting with the authorities and had made it abundantly clear how important these services were in rural communities especially with ageing population and lack of transport, he had been assured that his observations would be considered when the office closure program was finalised, this program would be announced on 8th July after which there would be a six week discussion period. He said with offices in Huntingdon, Great Stukeley, Alconbury and Brampton all of which were in closer proximity than the authorities envisage, there was bound to be casualties. Mr. Cowdery enquired whether our postmaster had been consulted on his opinion, as he the proprietor within a private residence accepted closure, how did that affect the situation, contact with him was suggested. It was agreed that when the announcement came the Council should be prepared to defend the facility and it was suggested that members should, over the next few weeks, consider a strategy.</p> | |
| 12.PLANNING | <p>Two applications were considered. Application 0800832FUL to extend a dwelling at 17. Bradley Road, Huntingdon was considered appropriate and to have no adverse impact on neighbouring property and was approved.</p> <p>Application 0800848FUL for a replacement dwelling at 70 Low Road, Little Stukeley was approved as it was considered an appropriate dwelling for the plot size and that the existing dwelling had been an ‘eyesore’ for several years.</p> | |
| 13.CORRESPONDENCE | <p>Several circular type letters were made available for inspection and the Insurance documentation from Allianz Cornhill was taken by M/s Cowdery and Hulstrom so that, before the next meeting they could advise the Council on the ‘Risk Assessment’ covered within our policy and whether the Council, in their opinion is adequately covered by insurance.</p> | |
| TOM BUTTERCASE | <p>The Council informed the Council of Tom’s untimely death, he described him as a true village stalwart who had contributed in so many ways to his village community, his involvement with Great Stukeley village hall will surely be sorely missed, members were then informed of funeral details and then all present stood and observed a minutes silence in his memory.</p> | |

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| 14.DATE OF NEXT MEETING | Will be on Monday 12 th May 2008 at 7.30pm at Little Stukeley village hall and will be the Annual General Meeting of the Council, every effort should be made to attend. | |