

A meeting of the Stukeley's Parish Council held at Little Stukeley village hall on Monday 5th January 2009 at 7. 30pm.

ATTENDANCE	M/s J. Butter, R. Turpin, P. Ryan, D. Middleton, R. Hulstrom, T. Pinner, C. Cowdery, D. Adams, H. Raby, P. Hobson, D. Bartlett, Mrs. S. Parkin, Mrs. S. Gifford, District Councillor K. Baker and one member of the public.
OPEN FORUM	There were no questions from the member of the public present.
APOLOGIES	Apologies were received from P. Vincent, away on business, M. Reynolds and D. Hossack due to illness, Sir Peter Brown and Laine Kadic both on holiday.
109. MINUTES	Mr. Ryan pointed out that two figures with regard to the village hall project needed amending, Grant aid from WREN was £15000. and from HDC was £8750. and the Parish Council third party contribution was £1650. It was then approved that the chairman sign the minutes of the meeting dated 1 st December 2008 as a true and correct record.
110. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST	Mr. Ryan declared that he knew personally, NLS contractors, one of the quotation suppliers for the work need at Great Stukeley village hall. This declaration was noted.
112. ACCOUNTS	On a proposal by Mr. Butter, seconded by Mr. Turpin it was resolved that the following accounts were approved for payment. EON Energy for November supply £59.16. Printing Matters for January magazine £92. 00. M.J. Newman, clerks salary including agreed increase as from 1 st April 2008 £239.14. The clerk furnished members with a bank reconciliation dated 31 st December 2008 also a budget update for the same period, there were no questions and both statements were approved on a proposition by Mr. Butter, seconded by Mr. Turpin.
113. PROJECTS	Mr. Ryan gave the meeting all the figures that had been quoted by contractors for the works needed at Great Stukeley village hall. The total expenditure amounted to £42.980. set against that was grant aid already achieved, HDC £8750. WREN £15000 and Parish Council £7000, which left the village hall to fund £13330. from their reserves. He said this was achievable but as there was no contingency for overspend, he enquired whether any more money would be available from the Parish, after discussion it was agreed that an amount had been pledged, but this did not preclude a future application being made next year. He also informed members that the hall intended to install curtains in the coming financial year, to shut out the light, improve the aesthetics and should give an additional benefit to the acoustics, this cost is expected to be in the range £6000 to £8000, he intimated that grant aid would be sought from similar sources as was requested for the main alterations. He said that the work was still on schedule to start and be completed in February of this year. On a proposal by Mr. Turpin, Mr. Ryan was given a vote of thanks for the considerable efforts he had made in bringing this issue to a successful conclusion.
114. FOOTPATHS	Mr. Cowdery reported that the County Council had invited the Parish to become a member of the 'Parish Path Partnership' He said this would give us a 'direct line' to the authority to resource available services but with no extra responsibility on the Parish. He suggested that the Parish submit a programme of works to include the signage of footpaths 1 and 3 by 18 th February, we could then assess the response to see if the system worked satisfactorily, with a view as to whether membership is continued into another year, he was urged to go ahead and then bring his proposals together with any responses from the County, to the next meeting. The clerk reported a letter from the District Council in which they sought the Councils views on a registered diversion of footpath 11 at Grange Farm, at present it runs from the Lodge Farm along the railway boundary and then crosses the grass paddock behind, to the south, of Grange Farmhouse to link

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	<p>with the path between Green End and the Water Tower at St. Peters hill Huntingdon, the new proposal diverts the path onto the metalled roadway linking Lodge and Grange farms, along the access drive and to join Green End adjacent to Washingley farm, a route that has been in constant use for over twenty years. It was agreed that the clerk reply to the District that we were fully in favour of this diversion being registered, Mr. Raby warned that although favourable, it would have to be advertised and this may lead to unforeseen objections from third parties. Mr. Raby reported a meeting with Mr. Field in which he posed no objection to the diversion of footpath 8 and being upgraded to a bridleway this being on the access route between Lodge and Waterloo farms, however he was less keen on footpath 7 being diverted to the east of the Alconbury brook, from it's exit of the racecourse to link with Low road, at present it would require two bridges to cross the brook to carry the path. This matter was to be added to the footpath committee agenda, so they could deal with the issues and with the District Council. Mrs. Parkin reported that Mrs. Helme had registered her appreciation of the action regarding her request of the last meeting for the re positioning of some footpath signage at Waterloo farm.</p>	
115. TRAFFIC CALMING	<p>The clerk reported that there had been no further developments yet. Mr. Middleton reported that he had studied the latest information from Cambs police in relation to 'speed watch'. He said that a panel was required to be formed and must comprise of 2 to 6 persons, who need not be Parish Councillors, they would be banded with other villages so that no unit was allowed to monitor it's own village. He said a full risk assessment was required and that police need to be informed when speed monitoring was taking place. Recognition of any driver must not be logged, mobile phone contact with the local police must be maintained. The unit was mobile and observers could station themselves in a separate position on the opposite side of the carriageway. The police wished to know if the Council were prepared to fund any such equipment. After much discussion the Parish Council resolved, at this stage, bearing in mind the new traffic calming scheme through the villages, to distance themselves from the project and the clerk was instructed to reply, that at this stage the Council were not prepared to fund a scheme until the results of the traffic calming were known.</p>	
116.CPALC	<p>The clerk reported a letter from the CEO of CPALC in which he stated that modern technology was essential and basically if the clerk could not keep up with the majority it was not his fault, he apologised to slow response to some issues but said that the changes they had undergone were responsible but that now, especially with the new website they were 'up and running'. The said that he was not entirely satisfied but that it was up to members to make a judgement on service values when the next subscription was due in May 2009. Mr. Cowdery reported that he would attend the AGM on 17th February 2009 and make a report to the March Council meeting.</p>	
116A.VILLAGE MAINTENANCE	<p>The chairman reported visiting several sites in both villages with Mr. Ambrose of Fergusons and that he, in general had found the villages to be in poor shape maintenance wise. The clerk then read a quotation received from the firm amounting in total to some £2500, but divided into individual items. After a lot of debate on how standing orders defined needs for competitive quotations for works over £1000 and also hearing the chairman's great difficulty in interesting firms to quote for the work, it was decided to do the most urgent items this financial year, especially hedge and vegetation work that was required before the onset of spring and the bird nesting season. The chairman and clerk were charged with selecting these tasks and to keep the</p>	

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	<p>overall cost below the £1000 threshold. For the remaining tasks the chairman was to seek more quotes in the hope that the works could be processed in the summer months. One job in particular, which was expensive, was the refurbishment of the play area at the village hall in Little Stukeley, the chairman said that he was aware of a new small local firm that may be keen to price the necessary works and by virtue of being a 'one man band' had the prospects of being more competitive with pricing, he was advised to proceed.</p>	
118. GRANT AVAILABILITY	<p>Mr. Ryan reported that there were now grants available for environmental projects, such as for instance, tree planting. But he added that this possibly was for the future and that it would be inappropriate to apply at this time. The matter was to be kept on file.</p>	
119. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION	<p>Mr. Ryan had given members a resume of the contents of the model legislation and although many of the issues had been dealt with in previous legislation in the form of Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct he recommended that because of the tight schedule for reply, that the model be adopted at this stage, this was supported by Mr. Turpin and approved by members. Mr. Ryan said that he had not got the time to study the document further but suggested that this be done so adjustments needed could be amended in the future. Mr. Hobson agreed to attempt to complete the task. The clerk reported that a lot of the legislation was contained in the CilCA training, required for quality Council status.</p>	
120. ITEMS TO REPORT	<p>Mrs. Parkin said that she had received complaints of a dog, not under proper control in Park View, she was advised, that as a body, the Parish Council had no powers in dog control, but that the matter should be referred by the complainant to the Dog Warden at the District Council. Mr. Hobson reported debris in the form of leaves and other vegetation was making the footpath in the area of Denmark House, quite slippery, the matter was to be reported to the County Council. Mr. Hobson said that he and some neighbours had some issues with trees in their area, contact with the District Council Tree Officer had been quite difficult and that in recent times he had become quite unhelpful, not even replying to communications. District Councillor K. Baker said he would make the appropriate enquiries and keep Mr. Hobson informed.</p>	
121. NEXT MEETINGS	<p>On Monday 2nd February 2009 at Great Stukeley village hall commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 2nd March 2009 at Little Stukeley village hall commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 6th April 2009 at Great Stukeley village hall commencing at 7.30pm. On Monday 11th May 2009 at Little Stukeley village hall commencing at 7.30pm and will be the Annual meeting of the Council preceded at 7.00pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	