

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

For: Steppingley Parish Council  
 Held on: Wednesday, 5 May 2021

**PRESENT**

Pauline Henninger  
 Hugh Jackson (Chair)  
 Melissa Jordan  
 Marcus Webb  
 Chris Wood  
 Lionel Yarde  
 Julie Todd (Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andrew McIlhatton  
 Barbara McIhatton  
 Cllr Neil Bunyan - CBC  
 Cllr Charles Gomm - CBC  
 Cllr Gareth Mackey – CBC

**APOLOGIES**

<b>This meeting was held over the internet using Zoom due to COVID-19</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b> <b>1.</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</b>                      Cllr Jackson reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to Covid-19 and lockdowns, meetings were held virtually with business continuing as normal</li> <li>• Thanked portfolio holders for their excellent work over the past year</li> <li>• Road closures affected the businesses in Flitwick Road and also made it feel as if Steppingley was cut off.</li> <li>• Postbox collections by Bedford depot were suspended during the road closure as the detour was too long. Clerk to write to Ampthill depot requesting collections are made by Ampthill for the duration of the closure.</li> <li>• SVA - Play equipment is well used and the book shelves in the bus shelter are proving popular.</li> <li>• St Lawrence’s Church remained active through the pandemic.</li> <li>• The French Horn closed and it was agreed this was a great loss to the village and everyone hopes that a new tenant/owner can be found.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>CBC COUNCILLORS’ REPORT</b>                      See AGM minutes 05/05/21.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>REPORTS</b>  <u>Planning</u> – currently no applications.   <u>Highways</u> – Cllr Wood reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flitwick Road will be closed for 3 days in June for pothole repairs</li> <li>• Peakes End pothole has been filled</li> <li>• Rectory Road – reported potholes twice to CBC</li> <li>• SiDS – meeting with Area Custodian on 07/05/21 and will raise matter. SPC have the funds for a portable unit with 2 posts – one on Flitwick Road and the second on Eversholt Road. CBC need to authorise siting of the poles and type of sign.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speedwatch – to be followed up with Flitwick TC.</li> </ul> <p><u>RoW</u> – Cllr Yarde reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversion FP1 currently on hold – awaiting confirmation of cost and there is funding available.</li> <li>• Recreation ground – hedge planted behind bungalows.</li> <li>• Recreation ground trees – successful in application to CBC tree grant – 6 trees to be planted in the corner of the outfield.</li> <li>• Bridge by the reservoir – awaiting Siobhan Harris, RoW Officer to reply to calls. Cllr Yarde to chase.</li> <li>• Bridge over the stream – again this has been repeatedly reported to CBC. Cllr Yarde to chase.</li> </ul> <p><u>SVA</u> – an invitation was sent for the meeting. Mrs McIlhatton confirmed the hall with reopen with limited numbers allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pavilion – it was agreed it would be good to see the pavilion being available for hire as it was built for the village.</li> </ul> <p><u>Recreation Ground</u> – Cllr Jordan reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBC grant received for new play equipment which has now been installed and is well used.</li> <li>• Noticeboard is still to be installed – SVA are responsible.</li> <li>• ROSPA report was undertaken in March and copy given to Philip Williams. The scrambleboard and netting were deemed unsafe and were immediately taken out of action.</li> <li>• Cricket club – it was agreed the club are doing an excellent job in maintaining the grounds.</li> </ul> <p><u>Steppingley Profile</u> – Cllr Jordan reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defibrillator – new battery and pads have been orderered. It was agreed the old pads would be donated to a charity who teach resuscitation./</li> </ul> <p><u>Communications</u> – Cllr Henninger reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WhatsApp group is working well keeping village informed and up to date.</li> </ul> <p><u>St Lawrence’s Church</u> – Cllr Webb reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bells have now been rehung and there is a bell ringing team</li> <li>• Work on the internal plaster was completed in December</li> <li>• Churchyard and graves are well attended</li> <li>• Trees – CBC are responsible for the trees and the PCC are in discussion re proposed works.</li> <li>• New church warden who is going a great job. Weekly services, the church is open every day</li> <li>• Thanks were given to SPC for their continued support</li> <li>• It was agreed the rector and 2 churchwardens would be invited to the next meeting.</li> <li>• SPC thanked the PCC for their continued efforts and the excellent events held during the past year.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LY</b></p> <p><b>LY</b></p>
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<b>4.</b>	<p><b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>                  The 2020/21 Annual Report is on the village website. The accounts have been internally audited and approved at the AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income for the year was approximately £18,500 and expenditure £16,500 – so approximately £2,000 is being carried forward</li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS</b>                  None</p>	

The above are considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed .....  
 Hugh Jackson (Chairman)

Date .....