

STANDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 30th May 2023 in Standon held in the Community Centre, Station Road, Puckeridge at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Standon Parish Council: Cllr Chris Leage (Chairman Standon PC), Cllr Sally Crook, Cllr Pat Foot, Cllr Ralph Granville, Cllr Michael Marshall, Cllr Maureen Wren.

PUBLIC: There were 2 members of the public present

Apologies: SPC: Cllr Cracknell

1. Chairman's Welcome & Report

A warm welcome to everyone, Councillors and those from the public.

As usual our sincere thanks go to all the Councillors and local volunteers who continue to give so much time and effort to the community. Regrettably during the past year, due to personal and family reasons, we have lost the services of three Councillors, Claudia Chalkley, Frankie Luca and Zarina Luca, a special thank you to them for all their help. New Councillors will of course be sought from the community.

The past year has been again been a busy and challenging time for the Parish Council, with a focus on the following:

- Responding to planning applications. While the PC continues to promote our current local Neighbourhood Plan, we are aware that there will be further pressure for more building land being identified to meet longer term housing requirements. The long running planning application remains outstanding for Standon Business Park, the PC continues to monitor this closely. There is also the possibility of a planning application on the land north of Café Field.
- Monitoring the heavy traffic flow on the A120 as well as the vehicle parking issues in Puckeridge and in Standon High Street.
- Maintaining Burrs Meadow and all other local open spaces, play grounds and sporting facilities, allotments and community facilities; our thanks go to all the volunteers and committees involved.
- The PC has started consultation on the provision of a new MUGA hard service play area at the community centre. This will be paid for out of 106 funds.
- During the past year the PC assumed management of the Puckeridge Community Centre having accepted the resignation of the previous Community Centre Management Committee. This change has resulted in some major challenges to the PC who have identified priorities as the need to ensure (a) the financial stability of the CC and (b) to maintain all facilities in line with current legislation. Work is currently in hand to refurbish the changing rooms, paid for out of 106 funds. Every effort is made by the PC as Trustees of the Charity to maintain the recreation ground (memorial field) in good order. New agreements and /or licences have been drawn up for all clubs (football, tennis and bowls).

Standon Parish Council Chairman signature.....27th June 2024

- New community centre project. The PC continues to develop ideas to refurbish and/or redevelop the community centre building, and/or selective facilities within.
- The PC would as always like to record our thanks to the management committees of the Standon village hall, and the Colliers End village hall. Their work is greatly appreciated.
- The PC continues to liaise with our local Police colleagues to ensure local policing standards are maintained. We continue to support local volunteer groups, such as First Responders and Friends of the River Rib and Quin.
- the Parish Council website is available to all and updated to provide relevant community news.

My thanks again to all Councillors and to the Clerk for their efforts. The coming 12 months will no doubt bring further challenges, but the Parish Council will continue to work with the best interests of the community in mind at all times.

2. Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre: Renovate or Rebuild?

The building is in a poor state of repair and needs constant attention. Standon Parish Council as the owner of the building needs to ensure that the building is fit for purpose. To that end, a decision needs to be made regarding the level of maintenance required against the cost of full renovation to bring the building up to standard. It may be cheaper to rebuild.

Residents will be asked to make their views known once costs for each option are clearer.

Cost consideration is a key driver. There may be potential for Section 106 funds as East Herts District Council is in process of reviewing the District Plan. Currently, Standon is classed as a Category 1 village.

3. Section 106 monies: MUGA or Skate Park?

Cllr Ralph Granville has sought quotations from contractors to provide a tarmac finish Multi Use Games Area which would incorporate basketball, netball and 5 a side football. Cllr Granville expressed his frustration at contractors unwillingness to provide written quotations, with only two quotes received to date. A minimum of three quotes is required to submit to EHDC to achieve the Section 106 funding. Cllr Granville will continue to seek additional quotes.

4. Speeding: at this point in the meeting the Police arrived for the next meeting and it was agreed that speeding would be discussed at the Annual Parish Council meeting following this meeting.
5. Public Discussion: no comments received.

Meeting closed at 7.32pm