

MINUTES OF STANWICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

Date: 11th October 2023

Venue: Committee Room, Village Hall, Stanwick

Time: 7.20 p.m.

Present: Councillors:- M Taylor in the chair
J Ashby
S Glanville-Hughes
S Kitchener
Clerk to the Council J Hodgson
Members of the Public 0

23.105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Paterson and Cllr Partrick. It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That reasons for absence be approved.

It was noted that Cllr Konstantinidis was absent.

23.106 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held 21st September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23.107 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

23.108 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

There were no members of the public present.

23.109 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

a. Tender evaluation

Further to Minute 23.102, it was noted that the submission period closed on 29th September 2023. In accordance with proper processes, the five sealed tenders received were opened in the presence of J Hodgson, Councillor Taylor, Councillor Kitchener, Councillor Ashby, Councillor

Paterson, and Councillor Glanville-Hughes on 10th October 2023 and the tenders were evaluated by those present.

It was noted that there had been a total of ten initial enquiries, either from direct solicitation or via contracts finder. Four sealed bids met the initial Pass criteria. One did not.

The Preliminary Award Decision will be made at the Council meeting to be held on 16th November 2023 in accordance with the procurement timetable.

b. Clarification meetings

It was agreed that further information was required from one of the sealed bids.

c. East Northamptonshire Ground Maintenance Consortium

After considering the benefits of remaining in the Consortium and the benefits of leaving the Consortium, it was proposed and

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council would withdraw from the Consortium procurement process with immediate effect and seek to appoint a grounds maintenance contractor independently.

This decision is based on the financial cost savings to local residents, the fact that the Parish Council did not believe it has received value for money from the North Northants Council supervisory charges in the past five years and because of the level of service so far provided by North Northants Council in the procurement process.

It was noted that the withdrawal from the Consortium in terms of day to day grounds maintenance service provision would need to be finalised and arrangements for litter bin emptying on grounds maintenance sites would need to be made as this work would not be included in any new contract.

It was noted that Stanwick Parish Council had not been formally notified of any Consortium interim contract extension beyond 31st December 2023 and had not therefore formally agreed to any such extension.

23.110 NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE GREENWAY STRATEGY

The consultations by North Northants Council had been circulated to all councillors via email prior to the meeting.

Greenway Strategy – The Greenway Strategy aligns with the Parish Council's Green Strategy and the Parish Council supports low carbon journeys. The Parish Council is disappointed that there is no mention of linking settlements to the Greenway where there are barriers to residents in those settlements safely joining the Greenway. The Parish Council views this strategy as a good opportunity to demonstrate aspirations for a safe crossing point over the A45 at the Stanwick roundabout in recognition of the public footpaths severed by the A45 and for residents of Stanwick and Raunds wanting to utilise the Greenways for utility and leisure activities.

Greenway Strategy – Wellingborough to Rushden: The Parish Council supports the extension of the Green way to provide traffic free routes for leisure and utility journeys as this aligns with the Parish Council Green Strategy.

Stanwick Parish Council holds the aspiration that residents of Stanwick will have a safe access to the Green way to be able to safely use the Greenway for leisure and utility journeys. This requires a safe crossing point across the A45 Stanwick roundabout.

The Clerk was directed to respond to the consultations. It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to respond to the Consultations.

23.111 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TO EDUCATION STRATEGY 2023

The consultation by North Northants Council had been circulated to all councillors via email prior to the meeting. The following points were identified:

- The council supports that 55% children should be walking to school as a minimum
- Could consideration be given to staged drop off times. If carers could drop off earlier, they may be able to walk the child to school, leaving the car at home.
- The Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to express views of known travel/road issues when our local school is designing their travel plan to support and assist where possible. In Stanwick the any access to the school requires attendees to cross busy roads. There is no direct access path from residential dwellings to the school that do not require crossing a road at least once.
- Within monitoring – how will North Northants Council ensure the travel plans are working and being delivered?
- Is North Northants Council including an engineering budget to overcome infrastructure obstacles?

It was noted that the Parish Council should also look beyond the village based primary school to the education travel needs for all young people as this impacted our residents from a health and wellbeing perspective as well as a road congestion impact.

The Clerk was directed to respond to the consultation.

23.112 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS

18th October 2023 Meeting with Parochial Church Council
19th October 2023 Events Committee Meeting (at 19.00)
12th November Remembrance Sunday Service at War Memorial (at 10.45)
16th November 2023 (Budget setting)
December: Nine Carols Service at St Laurence Church
18th January 2024
21st March 2024
18th April 2024 Annual Parish Meeting (format to be agreed)
Meeting closed at 7.34 p.m.

Chairman