



Stoke Mandeville Parish Council

Minutes of the **SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL** meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at the Community Centre, Eskdale Road.



Present: Cllrs K Shanahan (Chair), D Field, C Jenkins, S Kirve, L Prestage, G Shrivastava, D Smith, J Theobald, D Willmer, and P Wood.

Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs: None.

Absent: n/a

Clerk: A Skeggs

Assistant Clerk: P Rayner

Public Attendance: One.

No.	Description	Action
24/115	APOLOGIES Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Ezra (holiday).	
24/116	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION a) There were no new declarations of interest. b) There were no new requests for dispensation.	
24/117	BUCKS CC SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB a) Cllr Field explained the process following the issuing of the Pre-Action Protocol letter and the response received from Buckinghamshire Council. The Council's solicitors and Counsel had advised that the risk assessment had not changed and remained at 50%. The costs incurred to date were £13,939. The cost to submit the Claim was estimated to be £10,000. At this stage the Parish Council was not liable for the legal costs of Buckinghamshire Council. Once the claim is submitted it goes before a Judge who will either accept or reject the Claim. If it is rejected, you can stop there or ask for a Permission Hearing. From this point the Council will be liable for the legal costs of Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Smith explained that the legal advice was that the four challenge points were still valid following the response from Buckinghamshire Council and that the Council's Bid to purchase the site was relevant to the process. Consideration was given as to whether the residents should be consulted on the use of Council funds. It was highlighted that by saving the site the Parish could be seeing an investment of £1.6m in a community facility. The cost to the Council could be between £63,000 to £86,000. If the Council was unsuccessful then it would be liable for the legal costs of Buckinghamshire Council which were estimated to be in the same region. During the process the Council had been speaking to Aylesbury Town Council who had supported the initial Bid to Buckinghamshire Council. Following consideration of all the points raised by the solicitors and clarification of the potential legal costs, it was proposed by Cllr Field on behalf of the Working Group, seconded by Cllr Smith, that the Parish Council continue with Stage 2 and formally file the Claim at an estimated cost of £10,000. This was unanimously AGREED . Cllr Kirve then proposed, seconded by Cllr Shanahan, that the Parish Council writes to Aylesbury Town Council requesting their support, in whatever form. This was unanimously AGREED . Cllr Shanahan proposed that a press release be issued highlighting the action being taken by the Parish Council. This was AGREED .	

b) It was **NOTED** that, owing to the tight deadline, a witness statement had been prepared ahead of the decision on whether to proceed with the claim. As the decision had been made to proceed Cllr Smith would act as the Council's witness and would sign the statement.

24/118 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 15th October 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

Signed _____

Dated: 15-October-2024