

STANTON UPON HINE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 via Zoom at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors D Dee (Chairman)
C Warren
C Crackett
N Rushton
T Gurley

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
4 Members of the public
Wg Cdr M Jordan, RAF Shawbury
Sqd Ldr K Leach, RAF Shawbury
Mike Tierney, RAF Shawbury
Dean Harris, High Sheriff of Shropshire

204.20C Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Details of how the Zoom meeting will be hosted were explained.

RAF Shawbury Gliding Club

Wg Cdr Jordan, Officer Commanding Operations Wing and Aerodrome Operator at RAF Shawbury gave a presentation regarding the relocation of the Wrekin Gliding Club from RAF Cosford to Shawbury in September 2020. Members of the community had an opportunity to forward questions prior to the meeting and the answers were included in the presentation.

RAF Shawbury values the relationship with the community and the Parish Council; they are very pleased to be able to attend meetings to discuss local issues as it is acknowledged that the Parish Council is the voice of the community.

RAF Shawbury had to pause training for a few weeks whilst they introduced initiatives to meet Government and Public Health for England (PHE) guidelines. The base has now returned to normal levels of training and flying activity is now almost back to pre-COVID-19 levels. RAF Shawbury continues to provide trained aircrew and Air Operations personnel for the front-line, to support operations and meet their Defence tasks.

With regards to the decision to relocate the Wrekin Gliding Club, the Club is classed as a Service Sports' Club, meaning that it is formally supported and regulated by the military and it provides a service in direct support of the military. This regulation covers such things as medical fitness, age of pilots, qualifications and the currency that pilots must abide by. There is a rigorous process by which the Club proves to the Station, RAF and national regulatory bodies (including the British Gliding Association) that they meet all the relevant regulations. In terms of COVID-19 specific rules, the Club will abide by all relevant British Gliding Association regulation and PHE advice.

The primary purpose of the Club is not that of leisure, but to provide an opportunity for service, civil service, MoD partner Contractors, partners and dependent children to experience aviation and to hopefully encourage some into the military, or to better understand military roles; the Club's purpose is similar to that of the Volunteer Gliding Squadrons which have a proven and enduring positive effect on recruitment for the Services. At RAF Shawbury, that opportunity will be primarily open to the 300+ tri-Service trainees, which is the average day to day strength, who pass through either No 1 Flying Training School or the Defence College of Air and Space Operations as well as permanent staff who will benefit from increase aviation awareness.

The decision to relocate the Gliding Club, had not been taken without thorough consideration of all aspects both at the RAF Shawbury base and in relation to the surrounding residential and business areas. The Wrekin Gliding Club had been operating at RAF Cosford for 53 years, but for a variety of reasons (including expanded operations by the Air Experience Flight and University Air Squadron), they have not been able to glide from Cosford when they have needed to in order to attract those people for whom the Club is established. If change had not been undertaken, the Club would have closed and with it a hugely valuable and proven resource would have been lost.

RAF Shawbury was approached in early 2019 to ask if they would be willing to host the Club and an Organisational Safety Assessment was conducted, which rigorously examined all options available in terms of potential locations from which the Club could operate. Tern Hill for example was initially considered, but research into regulations and available space showed that there was not room for both the Air Cadet Volunteer Gliding Squadron and the Wrekin Gliding Club to operate simultaneously whilst ensuring safety, which always had to be the primary consideration.

Although RAF Shawbury have now committed to the Club moving to Shawbury in September 2020 (that firm decision was only made recently), the process for providing the Station Commander with the necessary assurances is ongoing. The Station Commander, as the Head of Establishment, is legally accountable and is ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of all activity at RAF Shawbury, including approving gliding operations.

When gliding does commence, it will be limited to the weekends only. Gliders will be launched by aero-tow launch only; there will be no winch-launched gliding activity. The Club's fleet comprises 5 gliders and it operates a single tug aircraft, which is itself a motor glider powered by an extremely quiet 1500cc turbo charged and silenced engine; at 70dBA it is quieter than a washing machine and about 25 times quieter than a normal powered aircraft. At this stage, it was not possible to confirm how many launches there would be per hour. It was acknowledged that increased noise at weekends was an understandable concern to the community and the following points were made to reassure the community that a lot of planning and thought had gone into minimising any disturbance:

- Wherever possible, flying will be to and from the main (southerly/northerly) runway. However, safety is paramount and there will be times when the other runway may need to be used.
- All flying will be in good meteorological conditions.
- All aircraft will endeavour to avoid Stanton village by the maximum possible margins in both height and lateral distance.
- Stanton and Shawbury villages will be detailed in the relevant Orders, meaning that everything possible will be done to avoid direct over-flight, both on take-off and landing by tug, glider or combination of both.
- No noise complaints have been reported at Cosford as a result of their activity in the last 5 years.

Regarding the need for planning permission, no planning approval is required *per se*, as the MoD regulates use of its airfields and there is no change to the use of the airfield as an existing busy site, nor is there any infrastructure development. RAF Shawbury is, however, engaging with Shropshire Council to ensure that they understand that gliding activity will commence in September. Similarly, RAF Shawbury is in close liaison with the Shropshire Aero Club at Sleaf to ensure that safety is maximised, and formal processes are initiated to de-conflict Sleaf and RAF Shawbury weekend activity.

Regarding membership, the Club is primarily formed from serving military personnel and civil servants, supported by a small number of civilian members to provide specific technical expertise. To maintain its status as an RAF Sports Club, the Club must be able to demonstrate that all members provide a service to the club and most of their membership must be from the entitled group. There may be future opportunities for non-members in the local community to experience gliding, but the Club will need to settle into their new location and processes before considering any expansion.

The decision to relocate from Cosford has not been taken lightly but is for the benefit of Defence and is being marked by a name change from the Wrekin Gliding Club to the RAF Shawbury Gliding club to emphasise that this is both an RAF (military) club and belongs to RAF Shawbury. RAF Shawbury has been in existence since 1917 and its use has changed over the years to reflect changes in Defence; this is another iteration of change through the airfield's natural lifecycle.

RAF Shawbury thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. If there are any other questions or concerns about the future use of RAF Shawbury please direct them through the Parish Council to RAF Shawbury, who will answer them to the best of their ability.

Michael Tierney, RAF Shawbury

An electronic copy of the Aries magazine is now available and some hard copies will be made available on request to the Parish Clerk. Please contact the Clerk if you wish to have the link to the electronic copy.

Michael confirmed that social distancing has been a challenge, but all personnel recognise its importance in order to keep people safe.

7th July is day two of the night flying, so it may be that local residents are aware of the helicopters which fly until around 2am.

Dean Harris, High Sheriff of Shropshire

It was a privilege to have the High Sheriff at the meeting. Dean was to give a short presentation on her role and aims for the year but as time passed by, it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting. Members thanked Dean for attending and hoped that she had enjoyed the experience of a small rural parish council meeting.

Public Session

The following matters were raised:

- Unacceptable condition of Hazles Road, Shawbury
- Flooding issues, Hazles Road, Shawbury
- Mud on the Road
- Hedge trimming opposite the Village Hall
- The Mound on the play area.

205.20C

Apologies

To receive and approve any apologies for absence, under Section 85 (i) of LGA 1972.
Councillor N Gray Apologies received after the meeting Health issues

206.20C

Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

207.20C

Minutes

A copy of the Minutes was shared on screen.

It was proposed by Councillor Crackett and seconded by Councillor Warren that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2020 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. All were in favour and thus it was

<p>RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May be agreed and that a copy will be signed at the first Full Council Meeting which takes place in the Village Hall. They will appear on the website.</p>

208.20C

Vacancies

It was confirmed that there can be no elections until May 2021. The vacancies can be filled by the Parish Council by co-option. Anyone interested in being considered for a position can contact the Clerk

for more information. Should anyone be interested, please can they forward a personal statement to arrive with the Clerk before Friday, 28th August for consideration at the September meeting?

209.20C Urgent Items

None

210.20C Finance and Governance Matters

a) Accounts for Payment

Members had received a list of payments. There had been no payments made since the last meeting:

Cheque No	Description	Amount
100189	Landscape Maintenance (2 months)	£300
100190	Internal Audit Fee	£50
100191	Clerk's Salary (April to June 2020)	£600
100192	PAYE (April to June 2020)	£150

It was proposed by Councillor Crackett and seconded by Councillor Warren, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the payments be made in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

b) Financial Report

A copy of the transactions from Scribe Package for the period of April and May was circulated, confirming a balance of £38,434.09. On receipt of the bank statements, a full report will be available at each meeting, including payments against budget.

c) Risk Management

It was agreed that Councillors Crackett and Warren would form a working group, with the Clerk, to monitor the Risk Management Policy and prepare a report for the September meeting.

d) Councillors Dispensation

The Coronavirus Act 2020 has enabled virtual meetings to take place and has introduced other measures to support Parish & Town Councils as they aim to continue with their work to support the communities they represent through this difficult period. However, clarification is needed that Councillors can have a dispensation to not attend meetings until May 2021, without fear of disqualification.

RESOLVED that should a Parish Councillor not be able to attend a meeting in a six month period up to May 2021, due to Covid-19 related issues, they will not be disqualified.

e) Representatives on Outside Bodies

This will appear on the next agenda for confirmation.

211.20C Highway Matters

Members were concerned that there had been no replies or acknowledgements to the many emails forwarded to Shropshire Council and in particular the Highways Officers and Cabinet Member. This was not acceptable as the matters raised are significant and are in need to urgent action.

Members have been made aware of other issues relating to mud on the road, verges, road conditions and poor drainage in Hazles Road – these will be added to the list of outstanding matters.

Members recalled other local issues including the sand on the highway, gulleys, quality of road repairs etc.

RESOLVED that the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Authority to complain at the lack of responses to communications relating to the lack of interest and action in our Parish.

The concerns remain, regarding the safety of the bridge and this should also be brought to their attention. The invitation, previously sent, is still current and Members would value an opportunity to show an officer / member around the Parish to identify the main areas of concern.

Members were grateful to receive other areas of concern from local residents, these will be taken up with Shropshire Council.

212.20C

Planning

a) Updates

The Minutes of a Planning Meeting held on 25th June 2020 had been circulated, for information. It was proposed by Councillor Dee and seconded by Councillor Crackett that they be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

b) Applications for Consideration

20/2236 PMBPA NE of Hatton Barns, High Hatton

Members had been pleased to hear from local residents with their questions, comments and concerns. This is an initial pre-application consultation for 'Change of Use' to residential. Further applications regarding the reserved matters of location, design, materials etc and the requirement for relevant surveys will follow.

RESOLVED to have no objections to the change of use, but to ask that details relating to conservation, design and implementation be included in future applications before any approval is granted.

20/02464/OHL Mannings Farm, Hazles Road

RESOLVED that Stanton Upon Hine Heath Parish Council would make no comments on this application.

c) Other Planning Matters

None

213.20C

Environmental Matters

The work on the Copper Beech tree has been completed and it would appear that the tree surgeon has been able to undertake the work, as detailed in the planning application, to the satisfaction of the Authority and Applicant. This has not been detrimental to the area.

214.20C

Police Matters and Neighbourhood Watch

No report had been received from the Police. Whilst there has been a reduction in some types of crime, there are still issues of rural crime and farm crime, as well as a significant increase in cyber crime and online fraud.

RESOLVED to invite PC Alan Ambrose to a future meeting and to ask for a regular report to be available for future meetings, especially if the Police cannot be represented.

215.20C

Projects

VJ Day Events – Councillor Rushton

Members thanked Cllr Rushton for her continued efforts to make provision arrangements for 15th August. At this time, it is not possible to make a decision as to whether an event can take place. There will be a short Zoom meeting on 28th July at 7.30pm to gather the most up to date guidance on community events and to make a decision.

Community Support Scheme – Councillor Gray

No further information available.

Play Area

Shropshire Council officers are misinformed about the ownership and responsibility of the play area in Stanton Upon Hine Heath. The Parish Council had purchased the land and the equipment. Details are required as to the responsibility for the play equipment inspections.

216.20C

Street Lighting

There have been no reports of faults.

217.20C

Shropshire Association of Local Councils

All news bulletins and information are shared with the Members. Copies of the Shropshire Council posters will be displayed at the Village Hall and in the noticeboards.

Members agreed that they would make no comments on the new Code of Conduct for Councillors consultation.

218.20C

Stanton Village Hall

Members were aware that a meeting had taken place, however there are no details regarding the re-opening at this time.

219.20C

Correspondence

All Correspondence is shared with all Members, there had been no requests for any to be included on the Agenda for consideration.

220.20C

Parish Matters and Exchange of Information

Thanks were extended to Lisa for her help in keeping the hedge (opposite the Village Hall) tidy and trimmed. Lisa also offered to make safe some holes on the Mound. Members gratefully accepted her offer of help.

221.20C

Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday, 1 st September 2020	7.30pm	Venue or Zoom to be confirmed
Additional Topic Meeting 28 th July 2020	7.30pm	Zoom Meeting regarding VJ Day

Signed Date

E&OE

These minutes are Draft and will be remain, for information only, until agreed as a true record at the next Full Council meeting on 1st September 2020.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk – clerk@stantonparishcouncil.org.uk or you can ring 07813 788094.