

STOKE PARISH COUNCIL



50 Pepys Way, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3LL

MINUTES

Wednesday 16th March 2022

Face to Face Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall ~ 7.00 pm

Attendees: Cllr B. Stone ~ Chairman Cllr J. Wallace ~ Vice-chair
Cllr G. Blackman Cllr P. Egan
Cllr K. Mansell Mrs J. Allen ~ Clerk

Members of the public: Eight (8)

PUBLIC SESSION ~ NOT PART OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Part A. Public Discussions

Two members of the public spoke where the following points were raised:

- A complaint was received concerning speeding cars travelling through the village,
- A complaint was received regarding the lack of parking on certain roads,
- A complaint was received concerning recent damage to parked cars, where windscreens appeared to have been smashed with hand tools,
- An enquiry was raised as to if the Parish Council could install speed humps in the village to slow speeding traffic.

The Chairman & Cllr P. Egan both spoke to urge members of the public to report any damage to cars and speeding traffic to the Police to build up a true reflection of the crimes affecting Stoke.

Cllr K. Mansell also spoke of a Police and Crime application she had downloaded onto her mobile phone, where she received regular updates from the local PSCO concerning the felonies affecting Medway, including the Peninsula.

A third member of the public spoke to report a large pothole, located on Allhallows Road heading towards Allhallows and located opposite where the dead Cherry Tree was removed by Medway Council on the otherside of the road. The Parishioner advised that she had tried to highlight the large pothole by moving a traffic cone over the hole, however the traffic cone kept being moved.

An update on the replacement fence from the damage caused by Storm Eunice owing to a fallen tree was requested. Accordingly the Clerk updated the members, where she confirmed that having contacted several fencing companies for a quote that she was still waiting a response from at least one of them. The Chairman Cllr B. Stone spoke to confirm how imperative it was to make the fence safe and to arrange for its immediate repair, where he requested the Clerk chase the fencing companies again. The Vice-Chair Cllr J. Wallace also spoke to suggest that the Clerk get in contact with Mortley Landscaping and Webb Flint, both local contractors, who should also be able to assist in providing a quote.

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Part B. Public Discussions on any agenda items

A member from the Stoke Safari's group spoke to discuss the Platinum Jubilee Event, where she asked if the Parish Council could grant permission for the Lower Stoke Car Park to be closed on the day, and if the members would consider buying a small commemorative gift for the children as a keepsake of the event. A discussion ensued where the Parish Councillors asked to meet with the group in person to discuss the celebrations in finer detail.

The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone, opened the meeting at 7.25pm and thanked the Councillors and the members of the public for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Min 7085:22 An apology for absence was received from Cllr K. Copping, who was out of the country.

Min 7086:22 The members also acknowledged that Cllr R. Bridge had resigned since their last meeting.

2. To receive Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Min 7087:22 None.

3. Disclosure of any other business of an urgent nature

Min 7088:22 Cllr J. Wallace spoke of the vacancy that had since arisen following Cllr R. Bridge's resignation, ref: Min 7086:22.

4. Ward Councillor Report

a). A report by Ward Councillor Mick Pendergast

Min 7089:22 Cllr J. Wallace spoke to advise the members that Ward Councillor M. Pendergast had nothing further to report since the last meeting.

She informed the members however that she was aware that Cllr M. Pendergast still had his full £2,000 Ward Grant to spend before Friday 18th March, where following his attendance at the last meeting, he had offered to contribute these funds towards buying two new benches for the village to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A discussion ensued surrounding potential suppliers and the type of material the new benches should be made from. It was acknowledged that whilst metal was the most substantial material, that the benches could then be prime targets for thieves, where it was eventually agreed that wooden benches with plaques was probably the best option.

Accordingly, the members agreed to correspond directly with Cllr J. Wallace through email to submit their preferential designs and associated quotes. In turn Cllr J. Wallace confirmed that she would then pass these details onto Ward Cllr M. Pendergast to enable him to apply for the Ward Grant on behalf of Stoke Parish Council by Friday 18th March.

5. Minutes from the previous Parish Council Meeting

a). To receive and approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022.

Min 7090:22 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022, were submitted.

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Subject to the amendment of a couple of clerical errors it was proposed by the Vice Chair, Cllr J. Wallace and seconded by Cllr G. Blackman, that they be approved as a correct record. This motion was unanimously agreed.

6. **Information arising from the minutes not on the agenda**

Min 7091:22 None.

7. **Planning**

a). Applications

Min 7092:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to confirm that there had been three new planning applications submitted since the last meeting, where the members discussed the applications in turn:

- **MC/22/0267 - Heathrow, Burrows Lane**

No comments were made.

- **MC/21/3587 - 16 Burrows Lane**

Cllr P. Egan spoke of his concerns in building an additional property in Burrows Lane, which he felt would only add to the pressures with the flooding and the back up of sewage.

A discussion ensued, where although none of the members had any objections to this application, the Clerk was asked to write to Medway Council to mention their comments regarding the ongoing flooding issues.

- **MC/22/0229 - National Grid Grain Lng, Terminal Grain Road**

No comments were made.

b). Decisions

Min 7093:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone acknowledged receipt of two planning decisions, where the members recognised that one of the applications was connected to the Isle of Grain and the other had been withdrawn by the applicant.

- **MC/22/0229 - National Grid Grain Lng, Terminal Grain Road**

Discharge of conditions.

- **MC/21/3604 - The Paddocks, Vicarage Lane**

Withdrawn by applicant.

c). Appeals and Other Matters.

Min 7094:22 None.

8. **Finance**

a). To agree financial performance against the budget for the month of February 2022.

b). Update of account(s) for 2021/22 including payments received.

c). Accounts paid since the last meeting to be ratified.

d). Accounts for payment.

e). Payment requests to be discussed for approval and payment.

Min 7095:22 Cllr K. Mansell spoke to propose that points a,b,c, d & e be approved en bloc, this proposal was seconded by the Vice-Chair Cllr J. Wallace and was unanimously agreed.

Min 7096:22 A discussion ensued surrounding payments to Colin Davis, concerning the cleaning of the play equipment's touch points following the COVID-19 pandemic. It was agreed that in

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light of the lifting of restrictions that the Clerk should write to him to ask him to ask him to only clean the play equipment once a month instead of fortnightly.

Payee	Reference	Payment Method	Amount	Notes
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£513.11	February 2022 Wages
Mrs J. Allen	Min 1436:18	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£35.00	Use of home office – February 2022
Vodafone Telephone & Broadband	Min 1451:18	DIRECT DEBIT	£33.92	Broadband & Telephone line rental for February 2022
Colin Davis	Min 1992:20	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£168.00	February 2022 Payment Inspections & Cleaning INV:3393
The Play Inspection Company	Min 7060:21	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£480.00	2 nd Post installation play inspections for Button Drive & Heron Way INV: STO18345
KPS Office Supplies	TO BE AGREED RETROSPECTIVELY	TO BE PAID BY BACS	£19.65	50% of costs towards stationery Coloured paper INV: 21507
The People's Pension	Min 1775:20	DIRECT DEBIT	£42.43	Both Employer & Employee Contributions for February 2022
TOTAL			£1,292.11	

9. Management of the Council's land and property

a). Playparks

i Allhallows Road Playpark

ii Heron Way Playpark

iii Upper Stoke Playpark

Min 7097:22 The Play Park inspections from the month of February were evaluated. The reports received confirmed that the play equipment in the Upper Stoke play park and the Button Drive play park appeared to be in good order and that all the touch points were being regularly disinfected.

It also confirmed that the new toddler units in the Button Drive play park and the Heron Way playpark were still cordoned off, however the two curved blue timber barriers on the apparatus in Heron Way were still loose.

b). To receive an update on the remedial work to the two newly installed toddler units following the post installation inspection reports.

Min 7098:22 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, spoke to inform the members that following a decision made at the last meeting, reference **Min 7061:21**, the second post installation inspection had taken place earlier that day and that she was now waiting to hear back from the inspector with his results.

She referred the members to their meeting packs, where the contractor had written directly to the Parish Council with his response concerning the decision made regarding the retention. The members acknowledged that Safeplay Playground Services Ltd had agreed to pay for the second post installation report, however it appeared that they were unhappy with the members

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decision in arranging for another contractor to carry out additional works should this be required. **Please refer to 'Annex A' for a copy of this response.**

Min 7099:22 Finally, following a complaint received regarding the growth of moss covering the safety surfacing in the playparks, the Chairman, Cllr B. Stone, reminded the Clerk to chase Eastborough Landscapes to carry out the work as soon as possible.

10. Highways & Transportation

a). Footpaths

Min 7100:22 No report.

b). Lighting

Min 7101:22 No report.

c). Highways and verges

Min 7102:22 Cllr J. Wallace read an email from Cllr K. Copping received prior to the meeting, where he had enquired if the Parish Council had heard any further from Medway Norse concerning their grass cutting schedule. The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, spoke in response to confirm that she was still chasing Medway Norse to confirm exactly when the grass in the recreation ground was going to be cut.

The members discussed this matter in finer detail, where the Clerk was asked to submit a 'Freedom of Information' request to Medway Norse to request a copy of their exact grass cutting schedule.

d). Pot holes

Min 7103:22 The Vice-Chair, Cllr J. Wallace, made reference to the pothole identified during the public discussion, where the Clerk was asked to notify Medway Council.

Min 7104:22 Cllr G. Blackman also spoke of a large pothole on the A228 / Grain Road, between the exit from Middle Stoke and the entrance to Upper Stoke on the left-hand side.

e). Fly tipping

Min 7105:22 No report.

11. Communication

a). Update on the Parish Council's new webpage and associated email addresses

b). Parish Council owned tablets

Min 7106:22 Cllr J. Wallace spoke inform the members that she had no further report concerning either the Parish Council's website or their associated email addresses.

She confirmed however that the members domain name was due for renewal in May and that following Cllr R. Bridge's resignation that she would archive his email address from the server.

12. Village Hall

a). To receive an update on the status of the Village Hall

Min 7107:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to advise that he had nothing new to report concerning the Village Hall. He commented however that he was still in touch with the Doctors Surgery to try to persuade them to come back.

Cllr P. Egan spoke in response to enquire if either the Parish Council or the Village Hall Committee should write to the local GP surgeries to confirm that the Stoke premises were now vacant and to enquire if any of them would be interested in taking over the tenancy. The Clerk,

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Mrs J. Allen, responded to advise that she would be happy to enquire which doctors practice ran the clinic in High Halstow and to ask if they might potentially be interested.

Cllr P. Egan spoke further of utilising the Village Hall as a 'Community Kitchen' where he asked the members for their opinion in approaching the British Legion (who built the hall originally) for their permission. Cllr B. Stone spoke in response to confirm that the Village Hall was not a suitable environment for a Community Kitchen, as the premises were already let to several village groups and organisations and that the hall and the kitchen could not be isolated from one another.

Finally, the Clerk Mrs J. Allen, spoke to enquire if a new treasurer had been found following an advertisement in the last Village Voices publication. Cllr B. Stone spoke in response to confirm that the committee were still trying to source a replacement volunteer, where it was agreed that a further advertisement should be placed in the next Village Voices newsletter.

13. External Contractors

a). J R Brickwork

Min 7108:22 None.

b). Eastborough Landscapes

Min 7109:22 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, spoke to advise the members that she was still waiting for Eastborough Landscapes to treat the moss that was growing on the safety surfacing of the play parks, where she had been lead to believe that the treatment could not take place until the weather was starting to get warmer.

c). Colyn Property Services

Min 7110:22 None.

14. Feedback to Public Questions

a). To receive a response/update on the last public questions raised, following the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 2nd February 2022.

Min 7111:22 In response to the last Parish Council meeting, held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022, the Chairman Cllr B. Stone spoke to ask the Clerk to chase Medway Council for an update on the flooding, following the closure date of their 'Flood History Questionnaire' at the end of last month.

15. Disabled Parking in Lower Stoke

a). To receive an update on the new layout of the Lower Stoke Car Park, including the repositioning of the disabled parking bay.

Min 7112:22 Cllr P. Egan spoke to inform the members that he had met with MHS Homes to discuss the access required to their land. He advised that after a short discussion there appeared to have been some confusion concerning the ownership of the whole of the Lower Stoke car park, where the housing association had the entire land listed as an asset on their company register. After trying to convince the housing association that the majority of the land belonged to Medway Council, he advised that he had left it with them that they would determine who actually owned the land and then in turn advise him if they needed access to their parking bays 24/7 or if the parking spaces could be marked for public use, providing these spaces were left free if notification of pending works and access were served in advance.

In the meantime, he confirmed that he would re-circulate an email he had sent to the members previously with a QR code listed, which would allow the Parishioners access to a questionnaire

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online in order to provide feedback to the temporary markings he was hoping to layout in car park imminently.

A discussion ensued concerning the distribution of flyers to promote the questionnaire, where suggestions were made that pamphlets could be dropped into the adjoining parade of shops, the local newsagents and could be attached to the Post Office front door.

The large potholes in the Lower Stoke Car Park were also addressed, where the Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to confirm that previously Medway Council had treated these. He volunteered to speak to Medway Council again to request the potholes be re-filled, having dealt with this matter previously.

16. Flooding to the rear of Kasmira House

a). To discuss possible solutions to prevent flooding to the rear of Kasmira House.

Min 7113:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone, referred the members to a quote he had received from W H Groundworks Ltd, for a total balance of £4,625.00 + VAT.

The contractor had recommended that a ditch be excavated behind the rear garden of Kasmira House to assist with the surface water and drainage issues. It was identified however that the contractor had stated (word for word in his quote) that 'whilst this may help the issues discussed, due to the unpredictable extent of the type of flash storms we encounter now, this may not be totally the answer'.

A discussion ensued surrounding the above statement, where the members agreed that the quote received was not guaranteed to cure the issue and that the work would be very costly, eating into a lot of their general reserves.

Accordingly, the members agreed not to proceed with the works, where Cllr P. Egan advised that he was happy to knock on the Parishioners door to explain as per the members decision and Parishioner's options to aid with the flooding issues himself.

17. Flooded Manhole cover on A228 Grain Road

a). To receive an update on the flooded manhole cover located on the A228 Grain Road.

Min 7114:22 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, referred the members to an email she had received from Medway Council regarding the flooded manhole covers on the A228 / Grain Road.

This email confirmed that Medway Council were still in discussions with Southern Water concerning the escape of water. **Please see Annex B for a copy of this email.**

18. Platinum Jubilee Event

a). To plan and discuss ideas to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

Min 7115:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone spoke to inform the members that he had met with a representative from Medway Council concerning the siting of two new commemorative benches and some additional trees for the village, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Following this meeting the Chairman advised that he had been given permission to install a new bench in Middle Stoke, a new bench and two (2) new trees in Upper Stoke and two (2) new trees in Lower Stoke. He also advised that following a previous conversation regarding the installation of a reconditioned telephone box in Upper Stoke, to house another defibrillator, that the proposed site was sadly unsuitable owing the lack of electricity to keep the device above 5 degrees.

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A discussion ensued in regards to the type of species of tree the members should plant, where it was collectively agreed that the trees should be of Oak variety. Cllr J. Wallace also referred the members to an email Cllr K. Copping had sent prior to the meeting, where it was recognised that he had recommended a couple of horticultural suppliers the Parish Council could use to buy the new trees from.

Min 7116:22 Cllr J. Wallace spoke further to inform the Councillors that she had applied to Medway Council for the road closure on Sunday 5th June, where she had asked for permission to close the High Street from the Denison Mews turn off to the corner of Cuckolds Green Road / Grain Road (opposite the Nags Head Public House). She advised that she understood the Borough Council had been inundated with requests, but that she hoped to hear imminently if the Parish Council's request had been approved.

Min 7117:22 Finally, Cllr P. Egan spoke to offer his assistance in completing a risk assessment for the event, where he spoke of new legislation coming into effect shortly, called Martin's Law, where a terrorist risk assessment would also be required for future events.

19. Audit 2020/2021

a). To review the Parish Council's Asset Register for re-adoption.

Min 7118:22 The members evaluated the Parish Council's Asset register for the financial year 2020/2021, where Cllr P. Egan spoke to advise that he was unhappy with some of the contents and raised concerns that none of the items listed had been depreciated over time.

Based on these findings the members agreed that Cllr P. Egan should email the Clerk with his concerns, where in turn the Clerk would forward these enquiries onto the Government's elected external auditors (PKF Littlejohn) for further explanation.

20. Policies

a). To review the Parish Council's existing policies for re-adoption.

Min 7119:22 The members collectively spoke of the Parish Council's existing policies, where Cllr P. Egan raised several concerns. He advised that from his extensive experience of working with policies through his line of work, that he had found that a lot of the Parish Council's existing policies were outdated and that the financial policy left the Clerk open to personal liability.

Based on these findings he recommended that the Parish Council did NOT re-adopt their policies but instead consider re-evaluating a policy or two individually on a monthly basis.

A discussion ensued where the members unanimously decided to accept Cllr P. Egan's recommendation and to add a new item to the agenda from next month. to scrutinise at least 2 of their policies at each meeting.

21. Village Voice Publication

Min 7120:22 The members spoke collectively of their next article for the March 2022 edition of the Village Voices publication.

After careful consideration It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should place an advertisement in the publication to promote the Village Hall's vacancy for a new 'Treasurer' and to confirm the date for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations of Sunday 5th June 2022.

22. Correspondence

Min 7121:22 None.

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23. Reports and Circulars

Min 7122:22 The Vice-Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to inform the members that she had attended the last Rural Liaison meeting, held on Wednesday 2nd March in the St Georges Centre in Chatham.

She advised that she has found this meeting had been quite informative, where the committee had spoken of the use of the old Stoke Primary Academy building by the Maritime Trust and where the members learnt of a new Parish Grant that had been introduced by Medway Council, following the abolishment of the Annual Tax Grant and the Rural Liaison Grants.

The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, also spoke report confirm receipt of the minutes from Ms E. Wright earlier that day, where she offered to circulate a copy to the members so they could read what had been discussed in regards to the use of the old Stoke Academy building for themselves. The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen also mentioned that she had noted Ms E. Wright had now stepped down from her role as Democratic Services Officer, where she understood the members of the committee had provided her with a nice send off.

24. Any other business

Min 7123:22 Cllr P. Egan handed the members a spreadsheet that had been working on in relation to the remodel of their risk assessment. This spreadsheet provided a traffic light system for the financial implications linked to the high, medium and low categories.

A discussion ensued regarding the protocols required for this new system, where the members agreed to look further into the Parish Council's mandatory obligations before they agreed to adopt any new procedures.

25. Date of next meeting

Min 7124:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone, spoke to inform the members that the next meeting would take place in the main Village Hall on Wednesday 6th April 2022.

26. Section 100A (4)

Min 7125:22 The Vice Chair, Cllr J. Wallace spoke to propose the Parish Council exclude the members of the public from the next section of the meeting owing to a Personnel query. This proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Egan and was unanimously agreed.

The remaining three (3) members of the public left at 9.20pm and the meeting continued in closed session.

27. Personnel

a). NJC increment

Min 7126:22 The Clerk, Mrs J. Allen, spoke to inform the members that NALC had recently released a National Salary Award, where the Association had recommended the salary increment be applied and back dated from April 2021.

She confirmed that having looked at her scale there was a back dated payment due of £100, with an hourly increase of 21 pence per hour.

A short discussion ensued in regards to the new salary scales where Cllr P. Egan spoke to propose that the Clerk be awarded her back dated payment of £100 and where he agreed to apply the 21 pence per hour increment. This proposal was seconded by the Vice-Chair Cllr J. Wallace and was unanimously agreed.

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28. Close of meeting

Min 7127:22 The Chairman, Cllr B. Stone closed the meeting at 9.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on:

Wednesday 6 th April 2022	7.00pm	The Village Hall
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ANNEX A

9. Management of the Council's land and property Min 7098:22

b). To receive an update on the remedial work to the two newly installed toddler units following the post installation inspection reports.

Hi Jenny,
Please see below my response,

I want to reiterate Safeplay want to continue working with Stoke Parish Council in the future and pride ourselves on our customer service. We do now want to get this matter resolved.

- Safeplay have sorted out all the repairs without any issues. The delay in fixing the slides, were down to us waiting on the manufacturer to send through the correct fixings.
- As mentioned above. The manufacturer supplier us with the incorrect slide feet, first time around. Hence the delay in fixing the slide. All other areas were repaired within the week of the issues being raised.
- We communicated at all times and outlined the wait for the correct parts to arrive, caused the delay in fixings the slide. I therefore dispute the statement on the lack of communication from our side. We have emails proving we communicated on numerous occasions.
- The 20% retention is being held without any prior agreement when we undertook the installations. This is not good business practice and should be outlined before works begin, yet we accepted this new condition without objection.
- We will accept the cost of the 2nd post installation inspection can be deducted from our final bill.
- I am extremely surprised that you would look to advise another contractor to repair any other issues and deduct this from our retention. We do not accept this and will not accept a further reduction to our final invoice.
- What we find difficult to understand is what more we could have done, following everything I have outlined above. Any further issues will again, if required will be repaired at no cost. Although we are not expecting any to arise. Yet the council appear to want to blame us for an issue, which has been caused by the parts supplied by the manufacturer, for reasons which remain a mystery to myself.
- All items have been installed to the drawing specifications given to our team, they are not trained to have the knowledge of a playground inspector. Hence how this issue was not picked up originally.
- We take great pride in our work and hope the post installation inspection can be carried out as soon as possible. That the report can be shared immediately and payment of newly introduced retention can be sorted

Regards Adam

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ANNEX B

17). Flooded Manhole cover on A228 Grain Road Min 7114:22

a). To receive an update on the flooded manhole cover located on the A228 Grain Road.

Good afternoon, Jenny,

I have received that report through our system today coincidentally. In addition to that, and following some further tests that we carried out on Thursday, we have compiled an argument requesting Southern Water to re-open their enquiries.

We are escalating it through both my manager and his manager and I believe Kelly Tolhurst may also have been involved at some point. I can confirm local councillors have been involved too.

It's very frustrating for us as I'm aware it is for you.

Kind regards,

Dan Atkinson | Engineer (Drainage) | Highways | Medway Council

From: Stoke Parish Council

Sent: 08 March 2022 14:52

To: atkinson, daniel

Subject: Re: Leaking Manhole Covers A228 / Grain Road

Dear Daniel

Thank you for your email and for your response. I appreciate all the time and effort you have put into this matter so far.

Following my concerns raised in my last email I note there is a report on Facebook this morning of an accident on this road, owing to the water flowing from the manhole covers, which is obviously of great concern. I attach a screen shot for your information.

Based on your last email, I am wondering if this is something that I should raise with our local MP Kelly Tolhurst. under concerns for health and safety, as Southern Water and Medway Council are not able to collectively resolve this issue.

Your feedback on this point would be greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,

Jenny Allen, Clerk to Stoke Parish Council

On Wed, 2 Mar 2022 at 09:55, atkinson, daniel wrote:

Good morning, Jenny,

As I am sure you are aware, this leak has been going on for a few years now. I'm aware that it was looked into in 2019 by my predecessor so it has been at least 3 years.

I started in 2020 and was made aware of the issue in 2021. My immediate thoughts were that is a water mains leak. I have visited and driven past a number of times and water always seems to be leaking regardless of how hot and dry the weather has been. If it was a leak related to surface water (rain), it would be far less often. I have also had reports from residents who tell me that the leak is permanent.

Southern Water undertook investigations from March 2021 through to December 2021 and in

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December, they informed us that they have exhausted their investigations and have closed the issue, claiming it is groundwater.

Coincidentally, I visited yesterday with our contractors to further inspect. We carried out our investigations and still believe it to be a water mains leak. We have examples of where Southern Water's investigations have been inaccurate so this is still a possibility.

It has been escalated to my manager and I think will be escalated further still. Unfortunately, and frustratingly, Southern Water are difficult to deal with and generally are not open to conversations. It is therefore difficult to make progress.

We are not expecting any cold weather so ice should not be a risk. However, I appreciate there are concerns regarding the state of the road and the potholes.

I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have about anything above but that is as far as it has progressed as it stands.

Kind regards,

Dan Atkinson | Engineer (Drainage) | Highways | Medway Council

From: Stoke Parish Council

Sent: 01 March 2022 21:53

To: atkinson, daniel

Subject: Leaking Manhole Covers A228 / Grain Road

Hi Daniel,

I do hope my email finds you well.

I note from speaking with one of our Parishioners that she has been in regular contact with you surrounding the water leak on the A228 / Grain Road in Stoke.

I was therefore wondering if you could please tell me a bit more about this leak and what the latest update is from Medway Council?

The members and I are very concerned that this leak has been going on a very long time and no one seems to be taking responsibility for it. The road also seems to have been dug up several times, with temporary traffic lights installed, yet there appears to be no resolution.

If the weather turns colder again, this continual stream (from more than one man hole cover now) will obviously turn to ice, which will be highly dangerous to motorists.

I eagerly await your response.

Kindest regards,

Jenny Allen, Clerk to Stoke Parish Council