

## Stogumber Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room at 7.30pm on September 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

**Present:** J. Spicer, acting Chairman for this meeting C. Bramall  
 D. Criddle V. Sellick  
 M. Symes T. Thomas  
 T. Taylor, District Councillor  
 D. Rowe, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

**1. Apologies:** C. Matravers, J. Merrick, K. Rew, Parish Councillors  
 A. Trollope-Bellew, County Councillor

**2** DR reported that our new beat manager, Police Constable Kim Davidson had left and was replaced by David Masters, who is contactable on 07766 80 44 78. There had been three break-ins in rural areas. Farmers and small-holders with agricultural or garden machinery in rural areas were strongly advised to take up the offer from the police to mark such machines. It both makes the machines easier to trace, and Farm Watch signs may deter thieves. Please report (to 07825125104) such thefts as well as any unusual happenings.

The unfinished houses in Slade Close and Archer's Grove (Butts Orchard) are a dangerous temptation to children to play, and access to the proper play area is impeded by Gadds' building equipment. DR and TT are to meet Janice Malarkey of West Somerset Council, who has offered to help (including legal action) persuade Gadd's to make the sites safe and re-open access to the play area.

After his report DR left the meeting

**3. Declaration of Interests.** JS declared an interest in bus shelter.

**4.** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed [but by accidental omission were not signed by the acting chairman].

### **5. Matters Arising**

Reference	Topic	Action
5.1	The meeting did not elect a new Chairman, but it was hoped that by changing the next meeting to Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November (from Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November) all the Councillors could attend and a determined effort could be made to elect a new Chairman.	AW
5.2	A communication meeting was held with AW, DC and Tim T on 5 <sup>th</sup> August to consider correspondence received since the previous Council meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would after the Council meeting leave in the church a file of correspondence that may be of interest to the wider village. The next communication meeting will be on Monday November 9 <sup>th</sup> 2009 and attended by AW, Tracy T and Tim T.	Tim T Tracy T AW
5.3	The proposed salt bins would cost £132.00 each. AW to agree with Nigel Cavey that one could be placed on Station Road at the back drive to the Old Vicarage, and with Magna that one could be placed at the top of Pickpurse Lane, and the third is to be placed under the No Parking sign on High Street. The Parish Council would pay for them, and Somerset County Council (SCC) will maintain the stock of salt.	AW
5.4	High cost of bus pass for Stogumber students aged under 18 attending FE colleges. AW to reply to SCC to make it clear that we are not (as their	AW

	letter to us suggested) asking for more bus services, but to protect at the high cost for families, which is effectively a tax on rural children getting further qualifications, when children living in towns closer to the colleges can travel more cheaply or for free.	
5.5	Welcome letter. In the Parish Council report for the Stogumber Standard, AW will ask parishioners to let JS know about people moving into the parish, so he can give them a welcome letter.	AW
5.6	Notice Board in Deane Close. Magna has asked its maintenance staff to look into placing a notice board (for general use) in Slade Close.	
5.7	Bus Shelter in Station Road outside Archer's Grove. Tim T to ask WSC planning department to confirm that Gadds are obliged to provide a roof to the shelter.	Tim T

## 6. Correspondence

Reference		Action
6.1	There were no questions or comments on the correspondence available. This included the information file that had been brought from the church.	
6.2	The Community Policing Unit will visit Slade Close @ 17.30 on Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September.	
6.3	A request for any agenda suggestions for the next Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum on Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November.	
6.4	Crowcombe Cars (a voluntary scheme for driving people to hospital, shops, etc) are organised from Crowcombe with mainly Crowcombe drivers, but also serves Stogumber residents. They request help from Stogumber with the service. DC and AW to investigate and make recommendations are the next meeting.	DC AW
6.5	Notice was given of an opportunity to apply for membership Exmoor National Park Authority.	
6.6	It was agreed that we would not subscribe to the Direct Information Service.	
6.7	It was agreed that no action would be taken on the rural manifesto [AW please insert the sender of this communication]..	
6.8	New Somerset Heritage Map and Guidebook "Story in Local parish Magazine" request to be passed to the Stogumber Standard.	AW
6.10	Lydeard St Lawrence Parish Council sought, and was given, permission from Stogumber Parish Council to add at their expense a collar to a traditional cast iron signpost within Stogumber Parish Council's boundary to identify it as the 'Thornbush' junction. AW to send written confirmation.	AW
6.11	National Council of the year. No comments or proposals.	
6.12	Proposed WSC Gambling Policy. No comments.	
6.13	SALC AGM at Woolavington at 10.30 on 26 <sup>th</sup> September. Agreed that AW could go and that we would pay the £10 cost of lunch.	AW
6.14	Exmoor Visitor guide. Opportunity to propose items and events (March 2010 and March 2011) for inclusion. Notice to be given in the Stogumber Standard.	AW KR

## 7 Section 106 payments

Baptist Chapel £1,000. WSC has not confirmed that the agreed payment to the Village Hall has been made. Tim T to speak to WSC officers.

**Tim T**

Slade Close £9,000. WSC has not confirmed when the payment is due: start of construction (which has happened) or on completion (which may be long delayed because the unfinished houses are reported to be subsiding). Tim T to speak to WSC officers.

**Tim T**

Archer's Grove (Butts Orchard) £18,000. Four houses have been sold, and since payment is due on the sale of the fifth, the Church and Cricket Club were urged to present their bids to the next Parish Council meeting. DC and MS to pass message to church and Cricket Club respectively.

**DC MS**

WSC Planning Obligations - draft Supplementary Planning Document. It was agreed that JS should write to WSC on behalf of the Parish Council giving our view that parish and town councils should be explicitly and formally included in the process of determining the amount and use of planning obligations (Section 106 payments) and that planning obligations should be invested in the parishes and towns directly affected by the development that gave rise to the payment.

**JS**

## **8 Power of Well Being**

No comment or proposal.

## **9 Public Comment**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

## **10 The District Council Report**

WSC finances were still dire. WSC owed £14 million.

## **11 The County Council**

There was no report.

## **12 Finance**

The balances were:

Long Term reserve account in AMC bank	£7908.98
The reserve account Nat West	£167.86
Current Account	£1082.54

Since last meeting £500.00 has been paid to Bicknoller Parish Council for the bus stop on Woolston Moor (letter of thanks received), £25.00 to Clowns and £9.00 for printing the Welcome letters.

CB will investigate accounts which would offer a better interest rate than AMC.

**CB**

It was agreed to pay:

£776.75 to the Clerk

£15.00 for further finance training for the Clerk

£12 to Magna for each meeting in Deane Close Common Room.

It was agreed that signatories for the AMC would not be changed now, as we may close the account.

## **13 Planning**

13.1 A site meeting was held at the Old Bakery on Station Road, and at that meeting it was agreed that we would submit no objections. In the letter to WSC AW noted that that we had been told at the site meeting by the applicant that various proposals within the application would not be pursued. At the Parish Council meeting it was reported that the applicant did now intend to proceed with the window high in the west gable (which at the site meeting she had said that this was not going to do) and it was agreed that we would not write again to WSC as we had no objections to this window.

13.2 Quantock View bungalow extension. Nothing more has been heard since we replied to the letter from Risdon Hosegood Solicitors, acting for the applicant.

13.3 A site meeting was held to consider the Village Hall storage shed proposal, when it was agreed that we would write to WSC in support of the application.

13.4 A site meeting was held at Vexford Court where it was agreed that we had no objections to the proposed stables, etc.

13.5 Mr Andrew Goodchild, WSC Planning Manager had agreed to come to the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November. It was now hoped that he would manage to come to the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November. AW to contact him

**AW**

13.6 It was agreed that minutes should be taken at future Planning Site Meetings.

13.7 Tim T was asked to remind WSC that they had agreed to send us the officer's report where it disagrees with the opinion that we had sent them, and that we had in addition asked to receive copies of reports that agreed with our opinion, so that can over time better understand how they arrive at their decisions and recommendations.

**Tim T**

#### **14 Highways and Village Maintenance**

14.5 JS and DC told the meeting about how laybys had been created on Harper's Lane (Roadwater) by DC's husband reshaping the banks and SCC then making good the surface. It was agreed that we would ask SCC whether this sets a useful precedent by which laybys could be created or improved on Ashbeer Hill and Station Road.

**JS**

14.1 It was agreed that the first phase of rebuilding the retaining wall has been done well, and that thank you letters would be sent to SCC, WSC and C Lynch (contractor)

**AW**

14.2 A complaint had been received from a lorry driver saying that hedges were not kept clear of the highway to the 16' required.

14.3 WSC have at the request of JS (Parish Path Liaison Officer) improved the drainage and surface of the footpath that emerges onto the Vellow Road beside the Chantry, Higher Vellow. JS reported that he had received two notes of complaint from Mr Richard Beale, resident of Higher Vellow, who was unhappy that he would no longer be able to see water rushing down the gully that the footpath had become.

14.4 There were several pot holes in the roads that will be reported to SCC Highways.

**AW**

#### **15 Matters by Permission of the Chair**

15.1 We considered whether a letter should be written asking that when work on roads is finished, the relevant road signs are removed when the work is finished rather than a few days later. This did not happen at the end of the initial works in Station Road. It was decided that we would not write, because in the instance of the Station Road wall we have good cause to be grateful to SCC for funding the work and a letter of complaint would be poor thanks.

15.2 The church intends to resurface the tarmac area of the churchyard, as now becoming dangerous, particularly for older people, to walk over the surface. As this is a public right of way, it was suggested that the Church calculate the proportion of the cost attributable to the right of way and seek that amount from SCC.

#### **16 Next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday November.**