

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 10th July 2014

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman M Symes A Mills K Rew C Matravers

C Bramall V Sellick G Tuckfield J Danson

J Leeming, Clerk

A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor), C Lawrence (County Councillor)

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from PCSO P Bolton and PC D Masters.	
2.	Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations. AM and CB declared interests in Item 7 The Beacon Field as neighbours.	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no members of the public present.	
4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 11/6/14, 12/6/14 and 19/6/14 were reasonable records of the meetings. These were signed by the chairman.	
5.	PCSO Report. There was no representative from the police available to attend. JL read out the report forwarded to her: in the last month, there have been 4 crimes (3 of which have been dealt with or closed) there have been 23 calls, approx. 10 were road / traffic related, 1 possibly related to the Badger Cull and the remainder loose animals on the road or information calls. The police continue to patrol rural and remote locations to deter criminal. There has been an increase in police vehicles patrolling the main routes to deter speeding, inconsiderate and reckless driving.	
6.	District and County Councillors reports. County. CL attended Gardens Open and was impressed with the gardens she visited and the food on offer. The Health and Wellbeing Fund will be open for applications from 1 st August 2014, could any groups who would like to apply for a grant contact her. 27-30m will need to be cut from next year's budget. 20% of Somerset schools were closed for a day due to strike action. District. WSC have been asked to contribute to the broadband rollout. West Somerset has been quoted as having 25% home worker which makes good broadband coverage essential A contribution of £240,000 would see an increase from 88% to 95% coverage, a further 2,400 properties. WSC have agreed in principle to the contribution but if it does not represent good value for money they will pull out. Hinkley Point Community Impact Mitigation Fund has opened for applications, if SPC are able to say that Hinkley Point is having some impact on the community then they can apply. At the Area Panel meeting in Williton on 28 th July, the Fund will be explained. 25% of waste in black bins is food waste, this should be in the food waste containers. ATB to write a report for the Standard reminding people to sort their rubbish.	
7.	The Beacon Field. a) One picnic bench has been moved and one picnic bench has been damaged. CM and CB will move the bench back to its original position and make any repairs. SPC will no longer qualify for the DEFRA grant after this year but the quota can be sold. CM to enquire about selling it and report back. It was agreed that the quota should be sold. The grass let tenant will be putting his sheep back in to the field to eat off the grass JS explained D Lewes offer of land to SPC for a potential new graveyard. It was agreed at the last meeting to accept this offer; the land would be registered at the Land Registry and grazed by whoever grazed the rest of her field.	CM CB

Porter Dodson have been asked for a quote for the cost of the conveyancing. The Church have been asked to contribute to these costs. It was agreed that there should be a covenant on the deed giving back the land to D Lewes heirs if the land were not to be used as a graveyard and to include it on SPC's Asset Register.

- b) The Open Gardens committee sent feedback regarding the use of the Beacon Field as a car park. JS read out the comments. Some people had difficulty driving up the ramp and walking down the ramp. It is unlikely that SPC will do any further works on the field until it is known whether the school wishes to take up the option of building a new school on the field.
- c) JL to investigate the position of the Village Hall Insurance and report back at the next meeting. JL
- d) Advice on a splay for the entrance to the Beacon Field to be put on hold for the present time.

8. **Play Area and Proposed Bike Track.**

JD has spoken to R Criddle who has said he will do the best he can within the available budget. JL has taken over the admin and accounts for the Stogumber Playground Association for the time being until a new committee can be formed. JL and JD will attend the school social on Friday 18/7/14 to explain the plans for the bike track and drum up support for the new committee. JD JL

9. **Finance.**

- a) Clerks report and bank balances.

The current account has a balance of £4,551.27 of which £1,696.22 is being held for the Play Area bike track. The Reserve Account has a balance of £3,369.11.

- b) Expenditure agreed was:

Clerk's salary and tax for July	£293.69
Office expenses	£34.56

10. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

JS has met with Magna to discuss housing needs in the village. He outlined how houses are allocated. Magna have a steady turnover of tenants in Slade Close but have difficulty letting properties in Deane Close. Tenants for Deane Close bungalows need to have long term support needs to qualify. None of the Magna properties require a local connection but there must be a connection to Somerset. Magna and WSC help fund the rural enabling service at Exmoor and feel that a housing needs survey for Stogumber could be done under that umbrella. JS to contact Exmoor to discuss. JS

Locality have provided SPC with names of 2 further planners who could possibly help draw up the Neighbourhood Plan. Both have been contacted but are unable to take on the work at the present. SPC therefore only have 2 quotes, it was agreed that the SPC would only consider those two. JS read out the proposals from both the quotes and it was agreed which one to accept, dependant on receiving a grant from Locality to cover his costs. JS will contact the planners, JS and JL will complete the grant form. JS JL

11. **Planning.**

- a) ABD/31/14/001 Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house, Higher Vexford Farm. After a discussion regarding what SPC can comment on, there was a majority decision to inform WSC that SPC does not object to the application. JL to write to WSC.

MS asked if these types of applications, if successful, would affect the development envisaged with the Neighbourhood Plan; this type of development would be outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.

- b) 3/31/14/007 Replace existing clay tiles with slates, 21 Oldway, Stogumber – granted.

12. **Highways.**

- a) Traffic Survey results.

The average speed recorded during a two week period on Station Road was 22mph. The Gardens Open weekend did not significantly affect this figure. SCC will not provide speed limit signage because it is unlikely to reduce speeds

further. SPC have no funding to provide this signage themselves.

- b) SCC have said the cost to re-erect the finger post at Preston Cross would cost £800 and they do not have the budget at this time. JL to enquire if a different type of sign could be erected. The Wood Lane potholes are not deep enough to be repaired. There was an enquiry as to when verge / hedge trimming would take place, JL to forward details of SCC's timetable. JL

13. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be on the 11th September 2014 at 7:30pm at Deane Close Common Room.

Please note: There will be no meeting in August.