

Stogumber Parish Council.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 10th November 2016

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer (Chairman), M Symes, G Tuckfield, T Vesey, C Bramall, C Matravers, J Hull, T Brick
C Morrison-Jones, Clerk

C Lawrence (County Councillor), A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor) and 1 member of the public

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	Apologies V Sellick	
2.	Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations. C Bramall (Beacon Field, item 10)	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments, questions or suggestions made.	
4.	Minutes It was resolved that the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8/9/16 and the planning meeting held on 13/9/16 were a true and correct record of the meetings.	
5.	Matters Arising from the minutes GT enquired if JS had investigated if the path by the church wall is a registered footpath – he hadn't yet but would do so before the next meeting	JS
6.	County Councillor Report Cllr Christine Lawrence reported on the proposed closure of six stroke beds at Williton Hospital. Whilst she had initial concerns, following a meeting with the clinical commissioning group, she was reassured that this was a clinically led decision as it has been proven that the majority of patients make better progress and become less institutionalised if they return home sooner, providing that a comprehensive care package is provided. Beds will continue to be provided at Williton for patients that are unable to utilise home support care packages. More severely affected patients will still require residential beds and whilst she has concerns over journey times for relatives visiting South Petherton hospital, the beds provided there for stroke patients are state of the art and the most appropriate for the most severely affected patients. Hopefully plans will be confirmed in writing soon. District Council Report Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported that he attended the Conservative Party Conference and had discussed with the Planning Minister how complicated the Neighbourhood Plan process is. If JS will put in writing the difficulties Stogumber has encountered, AT-B will forward to the minister. The Hinkley Point C agreement has now been signed by France, China and the UK and will be proceeding. This means that new funding sources are to be made available via the Somerset Community Foundation to distribute across Somerset. Taunton Deane and West Somerset have voted to recommend to the Secretary of State that they reform as a new Council. Pending the results of a judicial review called for by the Lib Dem group within Taunton Deane, there will be a public consultation – A T-B requested that this be an agenda item in January. Devolution : it is becoming apparent that an elected mayor will be required by the Secretary of State to enable full devolution. It is anticipated that Devon & Somerset will be flexible on this if enough of a financial incentive is provided.	

7. Police Report

A Police report was sent, via email: Recorded crime figures for the whole of the Williton/Watchet beat area - SEPTEMBER TO SEPTEMBER 2015 /2016

Criminal damage, down 11%

Dwelling burglary, down 23.8%

Fraud and Forgery, down 100% (there was 1 last year)

Other Offences, up 100% (10 vs 5)

Sexual Offences, up 52.9% (26 vs 17)

Shoplifting, down 17%

Racially or religiously aggravated crimes - 4 this year, 1 last year

TOTAL RECORDED CRIMES, up 23.8%

There is an area on the Avon and Somerset Constabulary website where you can get some quite specific information when seeking crime statistics,

<https://www.police.uk/> This is a national site so you can compare with any area in the country. The specific link for the AW 052 area (Williton & Watchet) is

<https://police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime/stats/>

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The chairman reported that consultants had agreed that the car park wouldn't trigger the need for an Environmental Assessment but that the building of a new village hall would. However, it was confirmed by the statutory consultees that they would have no problem with building a new hall on the Beacon Field. A screening report has been sent to the statutory consultees and the date for a response from them expires on 11th November. It is expected that the 2nd formal consultation by West Somerset will commence on 18th November and will close early next year

9. Playground

a) Reconsider Adoption Process

The chairman highlighted that there are now 2 playgrounds in Stogumber (new playground opened by the school). Considering this, it would be appropriate to revisit the PC's decision to adopt the playground; there would appear to be 3 options

1) Continue with the adoption process as planned

2) Withdrawn from adopting the playground

3) Adopt the playground but, with the permission of FIT and MAGNA, remove the play equipment and maintain area as a recreation space

Various councillors expressed the opinion that the PC should not walk away from the playground – it is a valuable resource in the village and the new playground was perceived to be for the school, not the whole village

It was unanimously resolved to continue with the planned adoption by the PC.

The chairman stated that the PC now needed to become trustees of the playground association and change the constitution to allow the lease to be transferred to the PC. He also confirmed that the charity commission had agreed to a simultaneous transfer of the lease to the PC when the charity is wound up. GT, assisted by CB, volunteered to be the liaison officers from the PC with residents who are maintaining the playground

b) Repairs

GT was given a copy of the latest playground inspection and agreed to meet with JS at playground to review work that still needed to be carried out GT, JS

A T-B and CL left the meeting at this point

10. The Beacon Field

a) Discuss Quotes for Car Park

Criddle have now provided a definitive quote:

Splay £7,400 and Tarmac £6,500. Car park area £8,500 = total of £22,400

This could be done in 2 phases but this may increase the cost

Clerk to write to formally accept quote from Criddle and thank the other 2 contractors for their time in providing estimates. CMJ

The chairman reported that there is enough money, if the loan from CRASH is used, to allow phase 1 to be completed. Clerk to contact SALC for the forms required to gain permission to use the offer of the loan from CRASH CMJ

b) Grant Applications

Three applications had been submitted so far (Virador, SCF, Lottery Awards for All). More are being investigated

c) The Orchard

JH reported that two trees needed to be replaced and that labels will be added to all the trees to identify varieties.

There will be a small ceremony on 15th November at 3pm in the village hall to hang a picture of the orchard, complete with the names of all sponsors

d) New Village Hall

CB reported that the pre-school required a new facility. Short term the village hall could be used but it would require re-scheduling of other regular day time bookings. A long-term solution needed to be considered and there had been a meeting between the church, school, PTA and village hall to discuss the possibility of the school taking over the existing village hall and a new hall being built on the Beacon Field.

Several architects within the village have expressed an interest in helping with the project. A new build could only be considered if a substantial grant could be secured and an application to the Lottery Fund was planned.

The PC thanked CB & TV for taking such a leading role in such a worthwhile project

11. Williton Hospital Bed Closures

This topic was covered by C Lawrence in her earlier report

TB and the member of public left the meeting at this point

12. Consider Stogumber's Top 5 Priorities

Councillors requested the following 4 items to be submitted to WSDC:

- 1) New Village Hall
- 2) Phase 2 of the car park in Beacon Field
- 3) Playground Improvements
- 4) Sporting Facilities for Young People

Clerk to respond to WSDC

CMJ

13. Finance

a) Payments to approve

1. Clerk's salary	£359.23
2. HMRC (clerk's PAYE)	£89.80
3. Clerk's expenses for July & Aug	£16.00
4. Fields in Trust (Playground 3rd party insurance 14.4.16- 13.4.17)	£113.00
5. Wessex Water, Beacon Field Trough (cheque already issued)	£16.72

Bank Balances

Current account balance as at 30/9/16 is £16,417.62.

Reserve account balance as at 1/9/16 is £3,373.16

Available balance is £10,681.76, excluding earmarked funds (play area funds of £325.21, defibrillator funds of £316.04, election funds of £300, splay construction funds of £4000 and lunch club funds of £350) and allowing for cheques authorised at this meeting and the PWBL loan repayment of £3223.02 due on 10.11.16

b) The Pensions Regulator – staging date & requirement to choose a pension scheme

The Clerk reported that the date to start the declaration of compliance has been set by the Regulator as 1 February 2017 and that, although the advice was that

the Council should have in place a pension provider by the staging date (1 May 2017), the Regulator had confirmed that it was not a statutory requirement and could be delayed until an employee expressed an intention to participate in a workplace pension. The Clerk also reported that whilst she did not intend to opt into a workplace pension it was still necessary for the Council to formally give notice of the options to its employees. It was resolved that notice be given of the rights of automatic enrolment and that no pension provider be nominated at this stage

c) Any Other Financial Matters

None

14. Planning

a) 3/31/16/012 Capton Quarry, Capton,(GR: 307801 - 139265)

Lateral extension (part retrospective) of existing quarry for mineral extraction of building stone to 76.5 metres – decision yet to be granted

b) 3/31/16/011 on Kingswood Farm, Nevys Lane to Yard Ash Lane

Stogumber TA4 3TP – permission granted

15. Highways

a) Any Issues to report

i. Clerk to chase Highways re overhanging trees opposite the school CMJ

ii. Restricted width access at Chedder Marsh – clerk to write to Bicknoller PC to request that they request a 'not suitable for large vehicles' sign at the Culverhayes fork CMJ

b) Winter Highways Arrangements 2016/17

Highways winter service 2017/18. Salt will be available to be collected by nominated councillor (CB) on Saturday 3rd December between 9am and 1pm. CB

Councillors to carry out a salt bin audit to see if any need refilling. It was queried if a salt bin would be useful at Capton Cross – clerk to investigate cost of a bin CMJ

16. Stogumber Village signs - update

The stone are now with VS awaiting shot blasting.

17. Any Other Business

i. A replacement lid for the bin outside the village hall is required. Clerk to enquire with WSDC regarding a replacement CMJ

ii. It was noted that excessive numbers of corvids were causing problems nesting in chimneys and in trees in the churchyard.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 12th January 2017 at Deane Close Common Room.

DRAFT