

## Stogumber Parish Council.

Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015

The meeting started at 19:30

### Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

C Bramall

Tracey Brick

M Symes

G Tuckfield

T Vesey

J Leeming, Clerk

District Councillor: A Trollope-Bellew. County Councillor C Lawrence

Village Agent: D Dennis

One member of the public

Item	Topic.	Action
	JS began the meeting with a presentation to the retiring Clerk. There was a unanimous vote of thanks for her work as clerk.	
1.	<b>Apologies.</b> There were apologies from C Matravers, V Sellick and J Hull	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest and requests for dispensations.</b> CB declared an interest in item 9, The Beacon Field as a neighbour.	
3.	<b>Public comments, questions or suggestions.</b> The member of public added her thanks to the retiring clerk.	
4.	<b>Acceptance of minutes of meetings.</b> It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 29/6/15, 9/7/15, 8/8/15 were a reasonable record of the meetings. The minutes were signed by the chairman.	
5.	<b>District and County Councillor reports.</b> <b>County Council.</b> On th 3 <sup>rd</sup> September SCC held its 1 <sup>st</sup> Merchant Navy Day, it is hoped that this will be an annual event. £30m savings have to be found in the next financial year. There is £5k available for grants from the Health and Wellbeing fund this year. Applications to CL by the end of the year. SCC had a stand at Dunster show which attracted useful feedback from residents. There was a comment on the lack of marshals on the roads during the Dunster show and the problems that caused for commuting traffic. <b>District Council.</b> WSC is seeking comments from Parish Councils for their vision for the future. Central government is seeking to devolve more power to local councils. 17 Somerset and Devon district councils have submitted an expression of interest but the details have not been sorted out. There is further pressure on the budget because Hinkley Point business rates have been re-rated which will result in £313k less income per year than expected. Also WSC are expected to pay back the business rate rebate to EDF which WSC didn't receive in the first place. It is hoped that a decision on the final investment at Hinkley Point will be made in October. Watchet Paper Mill is likely to close with a loss of 179 jobs, this could affect the fire service in Williton as many of the volunteer firemen work at the paper mill.	
6.	<b>Village Agent.</b> The new village agent, Debbie Dennis, introduced herself and explained her role in the community. She explained that she worked through referrals and asked for help with these. It was suggested she introduced herself in the village shop, attended the monthly village lunches and wrote a monthly contribution to the Standard.	
7.	<b>Police report.</b> There was no representative from the police and no report has been received.	
8.	<b>Neighbourhood Plan update.</b> The person at TDBC who is looking at the NP has given an update on the NP plan today. JS and the consultant will study these and the comments from WSC, amend the NP and bring the draft amendments to the next meeting for approval. There has been a judicial review concerning the S106 and affordable housing	JS

policies. The NP had been changed to reflect the changes which have now been thrown out by this judicial review. JS has asked if it is possible to have a contingency plan in the NP to cover either policy.

9. **The Beacon Field.**
- a) Sheep defences have been erected around the trees in the Orchard to prevent further damage.
  - b) The Music Festival has requested use of the Beacon Field as a car park for the event. A risk assessment has been submitted and CB will be overseeing it. This was unanimously agreed to. CB
  - c) N Staddon is drawing up the plans for the visibility splay to submit with the planning permission. It was agreed to have a pre-application meeting with affected neighbours to discuss this once the drawings have been received. CB to organise a meeting CB
  - d) D Lewes solicitor has been in touch to enquire whether SPC wish to take up the offer of a 20 year option on the land for a proposed graveyard. After a discussion it was agreed to wait until after the next CRASH meeting to see if they were prepared to help pay the legal costs. JS to write to D Lewes to explain the delay. It was suggested that Somerset Community Foundation could help with a grant. JS to contact them. JS
10. **Play Area Update.**
- TB has been in touch with the Director of Magna, he is keen to offer support to the Playground Association but has had no contact with them. Magna have no funds to maintain play areas and it is not a role they would undertake but a Magna manager will contact TB to offer advice. There was a discussion regarding whether SPC should take over the running of the play area with help from volunteers. Fields in Trust would need to be contacted regarding any change in running of the play area as they hold the lease. It was agreed to inform the village that the options available were either SPC to take over the play area or close it as there is no effective committee to run it. JS to draft a statement and circulate for approval TB JS
11. **Recruitment of replacement clerk.**
- There has been one applicant so far for the clerk's job. It was agreed to interview this applicant before deciding whether to re-advertise the position. JS to organise the interview, TB, GT, CB and JS to be on the interview panel. JS, TB, CB, GT
12. **Finance.**
- a) The current account balance as of 9/9/15 is £5807.07, this includes the play area funds and the NP grant. The tax refund of £61.60, paid to the clerk, has been reclaimed from HMRC and paid into the current account. The Reserve account balance as of 9/9/15 is £3371.48. The external auditor has approved the annual audit.
  - b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed.

Clerk's salary and tax for August	£258.31
Clerk's salary and tax for September	£129.16
External Audit fee	£120.00
  - c) Up to £300 has been approved for expenditure on obtaining planning permission for the visibility splay at the Beacon Field. Expenditure of £150 was approved for hedge trimming, CB to contact the contractor. CB
13. **Planning.**
- a) 3/31/15/004 and 007, replacement shed at 1 Vellow Road, planning and listed building consent – granted
  - b) 3/31/15/006 Higher Kingswood, retrospective consent for change of use of land from agricultural to domestic fruit / vegetable – granted
  - c) 3/31/15/008 Erection of horse arena, Higher Vexford House – granted
  - d) Listed building consent for works to Coombe Sydenham House – granted
  - e) 3/31/15/009 Agricultural track, Whitemore Lane – no decision available.
  - f) CA/31/15/002 fell Leyland trees, Cridland Steep – no objection.
  - g) High hedges. One neighbour wishes to make a formal complaint about the JS CB

high hedges but has to make an attempt at mediation first. MS didn't think that SPC should get involved in disputes between neighbours. After a discussion the majority agreed that SPC would try to facilitate mediation between the neighbours, without taking sides. JS to send a letter to the two parties to see if they would be willing to discuss the matter with some councillors.

**14. Highways.**

- a) The Village Hall has looked at taking down the fence to allow people to use the footpath to gain access to the road. The Village Hall decided it would be unsafe to allow people to leave the path between parked cars. The school is looking at closing the gates when the minibus is being used. It was suggested that the kissing gate should be replaced with a gate so prams etc. could access the school when the gates were closed.
- b) The hedge opposite the village hall is overgrown and hanging over the road. JL JL to contact Magna again.
- c) Magna have written to say that there is no budget to make additional parking spaces for properties on Slade Close. JL to forward the letter to CB who will inform the residents concerned. JL, CB
- d) The Pickpurse Lane sign which needs to be refixed is being stored at No. 7 Pickpurse Lane.
- e) A BT line is hanging low in Wood Lane. This has been reported before but CB CB will contact BT again.
- f) The person who originally reported the rubble alongside Donniford Brook is considering contacting the Environment Agency. MS to speak to the landowner and report back. MS
- g) Wessex Water have examined the drains below Waverdine and have concluded that Magna are responsible for them. They are to contact Magna to get them to rectify the problem.

**15. Defibrillator.**

It was agreed that SPC would be in favour of a defibrillator being available in the village. JH was nominated to form a committee to carry this forward and report back. JH

**16. Brendon Hills Surgery consultation.**

SPC agreed that they should respond to this consultation by requesting that prescriptions should be available for collection from Central Stores, for patients registered with this surgery. JL to respond. JL

**17. Any Other Business.**

TV has attended the Code of Conduct training. JS and CB to attend the training next week.

The meeting closed at 21:50 p.m. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Deane Close Common Room.