

Stogumber Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Deane Close Common Room
on 11th January 2018, commencing at 7.30pm

(in the format to be presented for approval at the next meeting)

Present:

C. Bramall (Chair), M. Symes (Vice Chairman), V. Sellick, G. Tuckfield, A White,
C Morrison-Jones, Clerk
1x member of the public

C Lawrence (Somerset County Councillor)
A Trollope-Bellew (West Somerset District Councillor)

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Cllrs T Vesey, G Rexworthy, T Brick and C Matravets

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB- Beacon Field, as a neighbour
AW-Beacon Field, as a neighbour

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

Otto Faithorne, the grazier of Daphne Lewis's field informed councillors that dog fouling is still occurring, and not just on the direct line of the path. He has put up a sign but no change. Dogs are being walked off leads and so are out of control and aren't under supervision and it isn't noticed when they foul. The top gate was locked to send a message as it isn't a public footpath but no change in behaviours as people are climbing the gate. There are so many responsible people walking their dogs in the parish and he doesn't want the irresponsible few to spoil it for those that do pick up, but the continual fouling is a health hazard and will affect the wellbeing of his stock

CB reported that the PC has stickers from WS to put up but doesn't feel that it will make much difference as it is a problem that has been apparent in the parish for many years. At the last meeting a dog waste bin was discussed but on further consultation it was not wanted by the neighbours by Daphne Lewis's field

It was noted that elsewhere the habit seems to be that dog muck is bagged and then left hung in trees which is even worse

ATB asked how long has the path been walked for-if it has been used for over 20 years unchallenged then it becomes a public footpath.

It was agreed that GS would write another article for the Stogumber Standard to highlight the problem and it was suggested that the grazier erected signs to highlight the issues of loose dogs being dangerous and worrying stock

1 member of the public left at this point

4) District and County Councillor reports

SCC Cllr C Lawrence

Before Christine started her report, she wished all those present a Happy New Year

- SCC is in the process of balancing its books. Not doing too badly, no expected cuts that will directly impact Stogumber. But looking to future budgets as SCC needs to save money
- 3 new special autism centres are being built to give children affected the best support
- Safer Somerset Partnership. The aim is for '1 team' (police plus other agencies) to work in particular areas to try and help families in need of real help (not necessarily financial) ...it has been shown that intensive, short term help can really set them back on track. Its been so successful there will soon be a '1 team' in Watchet and in Minehead
- CL has written to the West Somerset Free Press to express support for the work done to progress towards a merged TD & WS council
- dog fouling...could the Free Press be requested to run an article re looking after your pets/responsible pet ownership?

WSDC Cllr A Trollope-Bellew

- New council. Consultation ends 19th Jan. Please can the PC, and any individuals who are so inclined, write to the Secretary of State to support the formation of a new council (SoS email address is sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk). Those who are against have failed to provide any viable alternative. Hopefully SoS will make his decision soon after 19th. SoS has been left in post after the latest cabinet re-shuffle so at least there is continuity and it shouldn't delay the decision.
- Budget is resolved for 2018/19. £170,000 saved by not funding public toilets
- Hinkley business rates. This has caused high volatility in WS budget as appeals cause figures to keep fluctuating. Hopefully now that a deal has been reached there will be no more appeals
- Hinkley B due to stop generating 2023, Hinkley C due to start 2025. This means that currently there will be a 2year gap in rates revenue
- China has announced that it will not be taking plastic waste from the UK anymore. Somerset has never sent any to China as it is sorted before collection so can be sold in UK, so this announcement will not affect Somerset residents. A lot of authorities co-mingle plastic waste and therefore cannot sell in UK.

5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 9/11/17 plus the extra-ordinary planning meetings held on 2/12/17 and 9/12/2017

Councillors agreed that these minutes represented a true record of the meetings and they were signed by the Chairman.

6) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Neighbourhood Plan

On 22nd November 2017, West Somerset's Full Council unanimously voted for the Stogumber Neighbourhood Plan to be made a development plan document for the area. The WSC website has been updated to reflect that the Stogumber Neighbourhood Development Plan has been made.

Weblink - <https://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Planning---Building/Neighbourhood-Planning/Stogumber-Neighbourhood-Plan>

ATB stated to councillors that he will still continue to raise the issue of wishing to build in the hamlets with Central Government

b) Parking/speeding along Station Road

CL said that SCC Cllr J Woodman (Member for Highways) will hopefully be at the next area panel meeting so could be asked question. SIDS are not being made available

anymore; villages will have to find the funds to purchase themselves...could small villages maybe share funding for a unit?

CB noted that parking along Station Road showed no real change. Hopefully phase 2 of the construction of the Beacon Field car park may alleviate this

c) Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

7) Playground

Playground matters to be covered at the following playground meeting

8) To Receive Reports from Members of Meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council.

None

9) The Beacon Field

a) Dog fouling

Covered in public speaking. Stickers from WS need some MDF backing boards to stick to before being placed in strategic places. CB offered to organise this. It had been suggested that providing a bag dispenser (as discussed last meeting) could lead to bags of muck left hanging on trees and this idea was put on hold for the time being

b) Phase 2 of the car park construction

The clerk has just received an updated quote from Criddle for £10250 +VAT for a 30m square of hardcore on levelled area. Another £1000 will also be needed for fencing. Now that a firm price had been received, the clerk reported that grant applications to outside funding bodies can be submitted.

MS noted that once the hardcore is laid, funds should be put aside to allow for routine maintenance as cars turning in the area will, over time, pull it about. It was also noted that when car park is completed there will need to be a review of signage for the field to indicate that it is available for parking

c) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field

i) The clerk reported that the PC had still not received payment of rent and water from the grazier, despite written reminders. CB to pursue this

ii) The wassail is scheduled for 20th January at 6.45pm for approx. 1hr. Councillors approved the request to use the field and the grazier was informed that the stock need to be fenced in for this event

10) Finance

a) Payments to approve

C Morrison-Jones	Salary	£550.40
HMRC	PAYE contribution	£24.40
C Morrison-Jones	Expenses & reimbursements	£38.33
Information Commissioner	Data protection registration	£35.00
Stogumber Village Hall	Hall hire chq issued 26.11.17	£24.00

b) Amounts received

None

c) Approve bank reconciliation

Current account balance as at 30/11/17 is £16204.94

Reserve account balance as at 30/11/17 is £3,373.94

Resulting in the total balance held, as of 30/11/17, of £19,536.87, including earmarked funds of £3,568.25 and accounting for un-presented cheques totalling £41.50

d) NatWest - mandate update

The clerk reported that she has received acknowledgement of the complaint raised with NatWest and assurances that when the forms are re-submitted the process will be monitored to ensure the mandate is actioned. It is noted that an identical complaint on behalf of SPGA has resulted in £50 compensation - no such offer has yet been made to SPC
GT confirmed that he has visited the Minehead branch of NatWest and has re-submitted the forms

e) Any other financial matters notified to the clerk in advance of the meeting

None

11) Budget for 2018-19 / Precept setting

The clerk had previously prepared some budget options for 2018/19 and circulated amongst councillors. These options, and particularly those concerning the funding of phase 2 of the Beacon Field project, were discussed by councillors. The figures indicated that funding could be found from PC budget to complete phase 2, but not until 2nd half of precept were paid at the end of September 2018, unless grant funding applications to outside agencies proved successful

Councillors unanimously resolved to set the precept for 2018/19 at £19,000, which will result in a charge of £58.45 for a band D household – a reduction of 2.16% from 2017/18

12) Planning: Any planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

Update - Leigh Mill (in Crowcombe parish) has now been grade II listed and the application to demolish it has been withdrawn

13) The proposed formation of a new Council combining West Somerset and Taunton Deane

Councillors unanimously resolved to write another letter, confirming their support of the proposed formation of a new council

14) Highways

i. Updates on previously reported issues

a) Highways have confirmed that the pothole in Hill Street, opposite Boars Head cottage has been inspected and will be repaired

b) Japanese knotweed at Kingswood pump: After various emails to WS & Highways it has been clarified that at the moment the Knotweed would seem to be confined to land in private ownership so the Highway Authority will not take any action. It has been suggested that if the PC are in correspondence with the two owners it might wish to draw it to their attention. CB offered to talk to owners of adjoining properties to notify them of the problem

ii. Any other issues to report

b) A parishioner has contacted the PC, concerned that stones are being stolen from the footpath by Christine Hayes barn and the church. Concerned that there will be a landslide. CB has inspected and thinks that it isn't happening and not an issue to concern the PC

c) Mud on the following roads: Wood Lane, road to Higher Preston, Lane End Cottage (Vellow Road) to Higher Kingswood, Escott Lane. Clerk to report to Highways

d) At the top of Ashbeer Hill the sign post on the triangle is unreadable

15) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm