

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 11th July 2013

The meeting started at 19:40

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman M Moss C Matravers J Danson
V Sellick K Rew C Bramall

J Leeming, Clerk, C Lawrence (County councillor), one member of the public

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from T Simpson and M Symes, advisors D Ilman and R Sharpe, District councillor A Trollope-Bellew and PCSO P Bolton	
2.	Declaration of Interest. CB declared an interest in item 7 as a neighbour KR declared an interest in item 12b as a casual employee of the school.	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. A member of the public spoke in response to a letter sent to him from SPC. The letter was sent in response to a complaint received regarding his dogs. He disputes the claims made in the complaint to the council and explained that he has had previous complaints from the same person. Each time he has asked WSC dog warden and planning department to inspect his property and they have found no problems. He said SPC could inspect his property at any time. It was agreed that SPC should respond to the complainant saying in the absence of any other complaints there is nothing further SPC can do.	JL
4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 3/6/13 and 13/6/13 were reasonable records of those meetings. They were signed by the chairman.	
5.	PCSO report JL read out the report sent to her from the PCSO. There were 24 calls during the month. Most were in relation to minor incidents. There was a domestic matter in the village which has been resolved with an arrest and court case and conditions placed on the offender. There was an incident in Deane Close involving the police and the fire brigade. There was no signs of a fire but there are allegations of damage to property and motor vehicle. A person was restrained and is receiving counselling and treatment.	
6.	District and County Councillors report There was no District councillor present to report County Councillor SCC are rewriting their county plan with a vision for the next 4 years. There will be £100m cuts in the next 4 years with 26.5m in year 1 so there will be lots of changes. The money received from central government is being reduced. SCC have introduced smart office working where employees can work remotely or use district offices, this is saving time and money. C block at County Hall will soon be redundant and could be rented out. CL is involved in 3 major project in the West Somerset area, proposed rollout of a safety walkway on the cobbles in Dunster, prevention work at Blue Anchor to make the cliffs more stable and flooding issues at Washford. The work at Blue Anchor and Washford is in conjunction with the Environment Agency. CL was sorry the way the news had been publicised regarding the age range consultation at West Somerset Community College and Dulverton School. She explained that there was further work to be done and heads of all the schools affected were meeting to decide the best way forward.	
7.	The Beacon Field a) Sheep have again got into a Quantock View property. Sheep were also reported to be on the road in a separate incident. CB has temporarily fixed the fence at the boundary of the field with Quantock View. It was agreed that SPC should get quotes for professionally securing the fencing boundaries, at Quantock View, along the top of the field near the copse and at the new entrance gate with a view to getting the works done in autumn. CB to get	

quotes.

- b) The Music Festival have provided JL with their risk assessment for using the Beacon Field as a temporary car park during the festival. A copy of their insurance will be forwarded before the event.
- c) CM reports that RPA had done an unannounced inspection of the field and it had passed this inspection.
- d) It was agreed that a notice should be put on the gate to ask dog owners to clean up after their dogs when using the field as the school is using it for outdoor lessons.

8 **Play Area and proposed bike track**

New play equipment has been installed and is being well used.

MM to take a photo and send to the Standard to publicise the play area.

JD has received alternative quotes for a bike track but as there is only £3k funds available from the play area committee there is still a long way to go to get sufficient funds. JD is looking at grants and is compiling a package to include a video of the children explaining why they want a track and a letter of support from the police. Minehead Eye is offering advice on who to approach for grants. JL offered to help with applications. JD suggested that the cheaper option of just shaping the mound may be a better option but the Playground Association won't insure one until it is in place and they won't give guidance about what it should consist of. A cheaper option would also prove a need which would help in future fund raising. MM to discuss with the play area committee how they want to proceed and report back. MM and the vicar are still working towards setting up a youth club, they are awaiting a response from the Village Hall and Cricket Club regarding space to hold a youth club.

JD JL

MM

9 **Finance**

- a) The current account balance of £2,820.71
The reserve account balance of £3,367.10
£2,572.49 has been transferred from the reserve a/c to the current a/c.

- b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed.

Clerk's salary and tax for July	£281.87
Office expenses	£12.77

10 **Planning**

- a) 3/31/13/006 + 007 1 Sawpitts Close, Extension of fence and erection of greenhouse and log shed, relocation of wooden fence GRANTED
- b) 3/31/13/008 The Cottage, Preston Lane, Extension and alterations to house
Awaiting a decision.
- c) 3/28/13/005 Erection of a Solar PV development and associated works on land at Aller Farm
Sampford Brett Parish Council are arranging a site visit for Tuesday 16th July at 4pm (to be confirmed) and a public meeting on Wednesday 17th July at 6:30pm at Sampford Brett Village Hall. JS to attend the site visit, CB to attend the public meeting

11 **Neighbourhood plan**

The draft statement of needs and wishes were discussed.

RS comments were read and noted.

1 Principles.

The principles were all agreed.

2. Scope.

There was a discussion regarding whether the statement should cover the whole of the parish or just the village but include the whole parish at a later review. JS stated that all previous discussions had only considered the village and that there had been no consultation with representatives from the hamlets and outlying areas. It was felt that the hamlets had been consulted through the survey and that the council represented and acted for the whole parish. It was felt by some that the statements would be equally relevant to the hamlets. JS felt some statements

would need to be reviewed and made clear that what was relevant to the village rather than the hamlets. If the plan included development outside the village then people in those developments would be unlikely to use the shop, pub and church; some statements and decisions were made with regard to safeguarding the services in the village. Excluding the hamlets at this stage would not prevent development as WSC local plan has specific policies for areas outside the primary settlements. It was agreed to include the hamlets and surrounding areas and review each statement with this in mind.

3. Housing.

3a. A 7.5% increase in the number of houses, spread evenly over the 10 years with no more than 3% in any 3 year period.

There was a discussion regarding whether the 7.5% increase should be for the village only or the whole parish. There are 184 houses in the village and 302 houses in the parish. WSC local plan allows for development in the areas outside the primary settlement with agricultural justification. JS felt development should take place in the village to support the services of the village, if 7.5% was allowed over the whole parish this may not happen. Once a neighbourhood plan was adopted that would prevail over WSC local plan so development could happen in the hamlets instead of the village. Development couldn't take place in two places. It was agreed to include the hamlets in the 7.5% increase over 10 years but have a split of 75% of that increase to take place in the village and 25% in the hamlets. This would equate to approximately 5 houses in the hamlets over the 10 year period.

3b. No additional affordable houses for rent: housing to comprise smaller 3 or 4 bedroom open-market houses.

There was a discussion whether appropriate housing for the elderly should be considered. Elderly people retiring to the village are likely to use the services in the village and employ local people e.g. gardener, carer etc. Deane Close Magna housing no longer specifies an age range for the bungalows so they are no longer specifically for the elderly. It was agreed to amend the statement to include 'housing suitable for the elderly'. The rest of the statement was agreed.

3c. If any development including both open market and affordable housing takes place, the affordable housing to be indistinguishable in scale and external appearance from open market housing.

There was unanimous agreement with this statement.

3d. New housing to be built as 'infill' single houses or small groups.

There was unanimous agreement with this statement.

4. Identify and safe-guard space for the school to build another classroom: safeguard outdoor play space for the school.

There was unanimous agreement with this statement.

12 Consultation on changes to education provision in West Somerset

JL gave a summary of the meeting at Wheddon Cross which she attended.

There was no-one present to give the school's view on the changes and JL had not received a response from an email asking their opinion.

After a discussion, it was agreed that JL would write to West Somerset Community College and say that SPC supported any view that Stogumber School put forward. JL

13 Highways

a) JL has received a copy of the final static diversion route plan which was shown to the councillors.

b) The temporary road closure between Rexton Lane and Lower Vexford is still in place.

14 Any other business by permission of the Chairman

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 8th August 2013 at Deane Close Common Room.