

Minutes of the Stogumber Parish Council Parish Council Meeting

held on Thursday 11th July 2019

at Deane Close Common Room, commencing at 7.30pm

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

PRESENT

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice-chair), V Sellick, T Vesey, A White, G Tuckfield, R Foster and C Matravers (after item 7a)

C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

SCC Cllr C Lawrence, SWT Cllr P Pilkington

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Cllr T Brick, SWT Cllr M Kravis

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB & AW – Beacon Field (as neighbours)

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

4) District and County Councillor reports

SCC Cllr C Lawrence:

- Has spoken to Jo Sharp (Highways) and all is on track with the wig wags
- CL indicated that she may have access to a ‘prevention’ fund later in the year and would support the PC in a claim for funding a pedestrian access ramp from Beacon Field. The clerk to contact Highways to request that a feasibility study is carried out, in order to be ready for application to for funding in the autumn
- Schools- Somerset wellbeing framework. Helping children respect each other and themselves and to help children become more resilient and able to cope

SWT Cllr P Pilkington:

- Electric charge points; would Stogumber consider a charging point? Possible funding available for installation and the unit. The PC would need to organise a survey to be done asap to meet the September deadline for free units. PP to send application details to the clerk. Siting would need to be considered; it must be in a site accessible to the public. The PC would be responsible for its upkeep and insurance etc post installation. Councillors agreed that the Beacon Field car park would be the most suitable location GT requested details for the Stogumber Standard
- SWT Council is still in transformation
- Councillors reported to PP that they were not happy with decision of SWT not to issue paper planning docs anymore - PP to feed this back

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Chair

Date

- MS noted that the verge cutting at Crowcombe crossroads needs to be extended much further next year. PP noted that the Dunster panel meeting are open to Stogumber; David Peake (Highways) usually attends so it would give the parish a chance to feedback directly into local government

5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 9.5.19 and planning meetings held on 2.5.19, 23.5.19 & 27.6.19 (x 2)

The minutes for the above meetings were approved by councillors and signed by the Chair as a true record

6) Declarations of Acceptance of Office

The clerk reported that the councillors’ declarations of acceptance and register of interest forms have been lodged with SWT within the required timescale of the formation of the new parish council

7) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Wig-Wag lights outside the school

CB and MS met with Jo Sharp (Highways) and it was confirmed that the position of the sign to the lower side of school is to be at the end of the Village Hall, replacing the existing school sign. The ‘upper’ sign is to be located at the junction of Archers Grove. The order has now been placed by the PC with SCC Highways, at a total cost of £4,928
So far, the PC has received £500 from the PTA, together with £500 promised from StoGo and £300 from the Village Hall, towards the installation.

Cllr C Matravers joined the meeting at this point

b) Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

8) Playground – consider grant to Stogumber Play Ground Association

Councillors considered a grant to the Stogumber Playground Association and agreed an amount of £300

9) The Beacon Field

a) Car park – update

CB reported that the work and fencing is now complete and looks good. It has already been used for several village events.

AW offered to hold an additional spare set of keys to the upper field (CB already holds a set, as does the grass let tenant) in case emergency access is required.

The end of grant report and photographs have been submitted to Tesco by the clerk.

b) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field

The clerk to approach Highways regarding a feasibility study for a pedestrian ramp down from the car park (as per SCC Cllr CL’s report)

10) Highways / Footpaths

a) Updates on previously reported issues

- i) The road surface in Deane Close has been repaired
- ii) The other issues raised at the last PC meeting are to be inspected by the Highway Superintendent and if they are a safety consideration according to SCC policy, they

will mark the areas for repair.

b) Temporary road closures

None advised by Highways

c) Footpath ramp by church

SWT Cllr Marcus Kravis reported to the clerk, via email, that he is continuing to investigate with SWT

d) Additional Rubbish and Dog Waste Bins

CB has had several parishioners complain of dog poo and general rubbish in Beacon Field and have suggested a waste bin at the field entrance. The clerk had previously investigated potential costs with SWT; it would cost approx. £250 to purchase and install a waste bin and SWT would charge £5.03 per empty.

Councillors agreed to the installation of a new bin and the clerk was requested to progress this with SWT

e) Grit Bin – Capton

The PC asked by residents at Capton for a grit bin. A new bin would cost approximately £ 150 to purchase and SWT are expected to be refilling grit bins in parishes free of charge this winter.

Councillors resolved to purchase a new bin and the clerk was requested to liaise with Highways as to the positioning at the top of Capton Lane.

f) Any issues to report

i) The Parish Path Liaison Officer, Julian Spicer has advised that he doesn't wish to carry on with this role. SCC Rights of Way have been informed and a new volunteer is required to take up the role. GT offered to place an advertisement in the Stogumber Standard.

ii) Verges/safety splay at the Crowcombe crossroads on the A358. The grass is so high that it is blocking the sight lines for vehicles pulling out from the Stogumber direction. Highways have been approached on several occasions since mid-June but no further trimming has been carried out. SCC Cllr CL has offered to take this up with Highways on behalf of the PC

iii) The footpath behind Deane Close / Sunnydene is impassable and needs clearing. The clerk was requested to report to Rights of Way

iv) The footpath by Nevys Farm (the last 40 yards) is also impassable. Councillors questioned if it has been diverted with the correct permissions? If yes, it needs reinstating. Clerk to liaise with Rights of Way

v) Wood Lane requires trimming back. Clerk to report to Highways

vi) A curb stone has dropped outside no 1 Slade Close and needs repairing

vii) The vegetation outside the Almshouses still needs tidying (as reported previously)

viii) Overgrowing vegetation at Pixies Laughter. MS offered to approach the landowner

11) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 31.5.19, of £21,736.11. £2,018.25 of this balance is held in reserved funds. The clerk reported that, taking into amounts received and authorised during June and at this July meeting, current available funds stand at £15,290.18

b) Payments to approve

Clerks Salary (June & July 2019)	£567.50
HMRC (PAYE)	£60.40
Clerk's expenses and reimbursements	£52.87
SALC membership renewal	£182.46

Grant to Stogumber Play Ground Association	£300.00
SALC-Councillor training	£25.00
C Bramall, reimbursements (padlock, Spring Chain joiner, 3 keyring tags)	£12.23

c) Amounts received

17.6.19	PTA	Wig wag donation	£500.00
5.7.19	P Tapp	grass let 2019	£250.00
5.7.19	P Tapp	water	£12.53

d) Any other financial matters

- i) The clerk reported that a claim of £2,193.67 for the repayment of VAT paid to the PC had been submitted to HMRC in June
- ii) The clerk reported that the Certificate of Exemption from Audit has been lodged with the External Auditors, PJK Littlejohn LLP. The Notice of Public Rights, which run from Monday 17th June to Friday 26th July, has been displayed on the website and parish noticeboards

12) Consider the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue ‘Safer Together’ consultation

Councillors were concerned that Porlock is proposed to close; it is a remote station that carries out first responder work. The area of West Somerset is a large and fire engines can't be too far spaced out or it will impact rural communities. There were concerns raised that these proposals represent the 'thin end of the wedge'. For big fires all units from all areas are sent out so reductions will impact in all areas. Units being focussed in main towns is ill thought out as it can take some time to get out to rural communities

The clerk was requested to compose a draft response encapsulating the above point of view to circulate to councillors for consideration before forwarding to DSFR

13) Consider the Exmoor National Park Draft Rural Worker and Succession Farm Guidance consultation

Councillors resolved to respond that while they support the need for provision for succession farming, they feel that the same rules that apply to agricultural workers dwellings in the rest of the country should apply to the National Park. The key factor to ensure is that new housing granted planning permission with an agricultural tie cannot, at a later date, have the tie removed and be sold as 'normal' housing stock. The clerk to circulate a draft response to councillors

14) Planning:**a) Previously considered applications – updates**

- i) planning application 3/31/19/002

Lower Preston Farm. Various internal and external works to farmhouse with conversion of outbuilding No.2 for annexe GRANTED

- ii) planning application 3/31/19/001

Sunnydene, 14 Hill Street Replacement of garage with the erection of 1 No. detached dwelling GRANTED

- iii) planning application 3/31/19/004

Lower Preston Farm. Demolition of agricultural building and formation of tennis court WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT

- iv) planning application 31/19/001

Offices at Curdon Mill, Vellow Road, Stogumber, TA4 4LS

Notification for prior approval for change of use of building from office use (Class B1(a)) to a dwellinghouse (Class C3) GRANTED

v) planning application 6/31/19/001

Ashbeare House, Elworthy, Taunton. Proposed change of use of land to equestrian together with demolition of existing buildings and erection of stable block and storage outbuildings AWAITING DECISION

vi) planning application 3/31/19/007

Erection of single storey extensions to the west and south elevations and a first-floor extension to the north elevation (amended scheme to 3/31/05/030). Bosleys Cottage, Deans Lane, Stogumber, TA4 3QP AWAITING DECISION

vii) planning application 6/31/19/002

Springwater Farm, Maunsborough Lane, Elworthy, Taunton, Somerset. Proposed new timber cladding and first floor extension within the footprint of the existing garage structure together with the construction of a new first floor bridge connection AWAITING DECISION

b) Any other planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

The clerk reported that the Strategy team at SWT have started work on the new Local Plan for the new Council area.

They are at the very early stages of the process and are preparing to consult on the Statement of Community Involvement between 19 July and 30 September 2019.

SWT have advised the PC that it would be grateful if you could advise all your Parish Councillors and local residents of the forthcoming consultation, the draft SCI document will be available via the following link from 19 July, they will send a further email when the consultation starts:

www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/sci

15) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

• VS noted that there appears to be a lot of weeds around the footpaths and curbs in the parish. Councillors asked if another article could be put in the Standard asking that people to look after the section of curb outside their houses

• RF noted that VE day celebrations next year would need to commence planning soon. Should a working group of local groups being set up? RF offered to talk with Village Hall to see if they are wanting to lead the organisation of celebrations and progress it forward. The PC will support the activities organised

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.10