

Minutes, Stogumber Parish Council Meeting

Held virtually on Zoom on Thursday 11th March 2021

commencing at 7.30pm

In the format to be presented at the next meeting for approval)

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice), T Vesey, C Matravers, A White, V Sellick, T Brick, G Tuckfield
(joined the meeting during item 5 after internet connection issues)

C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

SWT Cllrs M Kravis

SCC Cllr C Lawrence

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Apologies of absence from Cllr R Foster

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB & AW – Beacon Field (as neighbours)

3) To approve the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2021

The minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes will be signed when the parish council next meet in person

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

None

5) District and County Councillor reports

SCC Cllr C Lawrence

- Thank you to all those volunteering at vaccination centres
- Staff at a county hall have been busy booking people into vaccinations – so far have booked in 27,000 people for vaccination
- Take care still, continue wearing masks.
- Adult social care – working well to get people out of hospital quickly with help in place to assist people in their own homes – ‘home first’ scheme
- Free school meals are being continued over Easter

Cllr G Tuckfield joined the meeting

SWT Cllr M Kravis

- Area panels stopped because of covid and have not really restarted. Would like to bring them back and get them better attended
- DC have managed to balance the budget without cutting any services. Budget is now passed and set
- New operator for watchet marina from April. Outer harbour has been dredged. Hopefully new operator in place will seem improvements and changes.

- Homelessness – emergency centres in Trull, and Minehead have proved invaluable. Excellent work, hoping it will continue. As well as putting a roof overhead homeless people, their ongoing support is vital

6) Public comments or questions

None

7) Somerset Unitary consultation

Parish Councils have not been named as specific consultees in this government consultation. The consultation opened on 22nd February and provides the opportunity to comment on both proposals put forward for Somerset - The four district councils jointly submitted proposal for two unitary councils and Somerset County Council's submitted proposal for a single unitary council for the area of Somerset County.

Councillors noted their disappointment that Parish Councils have not been identified as named consultees for this consultation - both proposals offer a significant change in the reorganisation of local governance and services

Information on both proposals can be found at

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/somerset/>

where it also possible to submit an online response. It is also possible to respond by letter to Governance Reform and Democracy, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

The consultation closes on 19th April 2021.

Councillors felt that there was a distinct lack of information, especially from Stronger Somerset (the Districts' proposals), in regard to the consultation. Already PCs are being marginalised. More information is needed to be able to pass comment.

Councillors resolved to delegate power to the clerk to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council, encompassing the views expressed by Council Members following the various online presentations that are being planned by both Unitary bids.

8) Parish Council grant applications to the SCC Climate Emergency Fund

The results from the bid application submitted by SPC are expected very soon.

* information received after the meeting from SCC confirmed

that full funding has been awarded to the Bio-Diversity project and the Outdoor Learning Shelter project. The Electric Car Charging Point bid was not awarded by SCC as it felt that there were other funding sources that the PC could approach for this project.

9) The Beacon Field:

a) Grass Let 2021

Mr Tapp has confirmed that he wishes to continue the grass let for the 2021 season under the same cost and conditions in place for the 2020 season

b) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field or car park

A start has been made on the planting of a hedge around the car park using young trees available in the parish

10) Highways / Footpaths

a) previously reported matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

i) Wessex water were requested to investigate the suspected leak between Togford and Lane End Cottage. Their initial investigations indicated that it was not chlorinated water but further testing would be required to confirm this. No further feedback has yet been received by the clerk

ii) Traffic Management have indicated that it would look favourably on the PC request for new advisory signage to deter heavy vehicles using Castlake Lane and a site inspection will be carried out with the suggested placement of the signs to be at the junctions at each end of Castlake

Lane. The clerk has also reminded Traffic Management of the request made last year by the PC for the repainting of the SLOW road markings on the approaches to the village.

Traffic management have stated that any new instructions to our contractor for new traffic signs and / or lining work can't be ordered until the 1st April.

iii) Bicknoller PC have confirmed that the overgrown hedge at Woolston discussed at the last Stogumber PC meeting is not owned by Bicknoller PC, but is in Bicknoller parish. Bicknoller PC have reported the issue to Highways

iv) The hedge on Station Road has still not been trimmed by the owner

b) any other matters concerning Highways or Footpaths – send to CL

i) reported by the clerk to Highways 26th Jan - a lorry has taken out a concrete post and rail at Vellow Corner

ii) road surface towards Capton. A parishioner has raised concerns over the lack of drainage causing ground water to run down. This means that over all but the driest summer months the road is permanently muddy, and icy in cold spells, and is also causing significant damage to the edges of the road surface.

iii) edge deterioration on Vellow road from the 1st Escott turning for about 100 yards

iv) tree down in Nevys Lane last night that has created a hole on edge of road.

v) bottom of hill street. The sign that says not suitable for heavy goods vehicles is not sited in the best place; could it be moved back to Hill Street/Dene Close junction as currently lorries are committed to their route by the time they see the sign.

vi) 2 Pot holes between Catford Cottage and Oldway on the Stogumber side
Councillors requested that the clerk raise these issues with Highways

11) Planning:

a) Any current planning concerns

i) Application 3/31/21/002. The Clerk is currently in correspondence with SW&T in regard to Council's handling of this application. The PC was initially not consulted on this application, despite being a statutory consultee and certain documents had not been published on the portal, making it difficult for responders to understand the true nature and implications of the application.

ii) Higher Preston Farm- previous applications have been refused. Planning suggested a Q application on an existing farm building. Applicant proceeded with this (spending time and money) and now has been told that a Q application is not allowed in this circumstances. The applicant has followed officers advice yet is forced to withdraw the application. Council asked M Kravis to investigate this and how it is possible for officers to give advice which is a waste of Hawkins time and money

b) Previously reported planning concerns

None

c) Planning applications responded to under delegated powers since the last meeting

i) 3/31/21/002 on Rowden Farm, Monksilver, Stogumber, TA4 4JD.

Removal of Condition No. 08 (agricultural tie) of application 3/31/78/014

The Parish Council formally objected to this application on the grounds that it would effectively cause the loss of an agriculturally tied residence in the parish. SW&T have yet to pass decision

ii) 3/31/21/001 Wood Farm Cottage, Wood Lane, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 3TJ

Conversion of garage/store to provide annexe to the main house comprising of two bedrooms, a bathroom and games room.

Supported by councillors and a response sent to SW&T by the clerk under delegated powers. SW&T have yet to pass decision

iii) 3/31/21/003 Seven Crosses, 11 High Street, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 3TA

Replacement timber framed conservatory to the rear elevation.

Supported by councillors and a response sent to SW&T by the clerk under delegated powers. SW&T have yet to pass decision

iv) 31/20/002 Barn at Higher Preston Farm, Preston Lane, Stogumber, TA4 3QQ

Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development.

This application has been withdrawn by the applicant

12) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 31.1.21, of £22,094.64. £1,590 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Payments to approve

Cheque payments:

C Morrison-Jones	£580.40	Salary – Feb & March 2021 – and expenses
HMRC	£59.60	PAYE
P Sawatski & Son	£134.40	Hedge cutting

Debit card payments:

4.3.21 Zoom Subscription £14.39 4.3-3.4.21

c) Amounts received

None

d) VAT reclaim

The clerk reported that a VAT reclaim (to 31.12.20) for £909.68 was submitted to HMRC on 24th February

e) Review Asset Register

Councillors agreed that the previously circulated list of council assets was correct

f) Review Internal Controls Document

Councillors agreed that the previously circulated internal control document was fit for purpose

g) Review Risk Management Document

Councillors agreed that the previously circulated internal control document was fit for purpose

h) Appointment of Internal Auditor

The clerk was authorised to request that Katriona Smith carries out the audit for the 2020/21 financial year

i) Any other financial matters

none

13) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

Difficulty driving through village when vehicle recovery vehicle (which parks on the pavement) had a car parked behind it which blocked access through. Suggested that the owner is left a note to suggest that the truck is left in the Beacon Field car park to prevent clogging up the pavement and road

14) May Meetings - date change

The current legislation that allows Parish Council to meet remotely expires on 7th May. At present is it not clear if this legislation is going to be renewed. If it isn't renewed, remote meeting will not be lawful and the requirement for the PC to hold its Annual Meeting in May (that was revoked last year) will be back in force.

Therefore, councillors considered it prudent to schedule the Annual Parish Meeting and the PC's Annual meeting for 6th May this year- this is the 1st Thursday of the month, rather than the

customary 2nd Thursday usually used by SPC. Then this gives the PC the option to conduct the required Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Council Meeting remotely, if necessary, whilst still under the current legislation, without having to wait and see if and when any legislation will be renewed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15

Minutes, Stogumber Playground Association Meeting

Held virtually on Zoom on 11th March 2021,
commencing at 21.15

In the format to be presented at the next meeting for approval)

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice), T Vesey, C Matravers, A White, V Sellick. G Tuckfield, T Brick C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Apologies received from Cllr R Foster

2) Public comments or questions

None

3) To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 14th January 2021

The minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes will be signed when the parish council next meet in person

4) Any matters arising from the minutes not covered below

Clerk to contact Magna again in regards to the fencing and drain

5) Playground upkeep:

a) New piece of equipment

CB offered to research potential new equipment and circulate information to councillors

b) Any other matters concerning playground upkeep

AW noted that she had to pick up a significant amount of rubbish during the last inspection.

6) Finance:

a) Payments approved since the last meeting

None

b) Amounts received

None

c) Approve bank reconciliation

No transactions have occurred since the last approved bank reconciliation which agreed at the November meeting. Available funds stand at £323.18

7) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.21