

Stogumber Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall on November 11th 2010. The meeting started at 19.45.

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

D. Criddle

C. Matravers

K. Rew

V. Sellick

M. Symes

T. Thomas

A. Weir, Clerk

D. Rowe PCSO

Mr A. Trollope-Bellew SCC

1. **Apologies** J. Danson, C. Bramall and T.Taylor for being unable to be at the start of the meeting
2. **Declaration of Interests**
MS in item 23 and VS in item 17.
- 3.. **Minutes of Meeting held on September 15th 2010.**
It was proposed and passed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting on 15th September were a reasonable record of the meeting. They were signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public comments, questions or suggestions**
No member of the public was present.
5. **Somerset County Council (SCC)**
Mr Trollope-Bellew told the council that he had resigned from the SCC Cabinet (Environment Portfolio-holder) but remains a County Councillor. He did not believe that for next year the roads could be kept to a satisfactory standard if the capital cost was to be cut by some 70%. It was intended to cut expenditure from £18M to £5M. This will mean that the expenditure will mainly go on A or B roads not on of the country lanes. The cuts in the road expenditure would almost certainly mean that road lighting would take longer to replace when it failed. He felt we should spend £24M on the roads. During the last year throughout the UK there had been more road deaths than if ten Jumbo jets had crashed. There had been more deaths than in previous years in Somerset. Hence road safety should be a high priority. The Quantock Hills Areas Of Natural Beauty Service would almost certainly receive cuts, perhaps with the loss of the wardens. It was not yet decided the details of what cuts the council will have to make but they were expected to have these details available by the start of January. Mr Trollope Bellew left the meeting after giving this report.
6. **Police Report**
Dave Rowe, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), reported that there had been thefts of the children's play equipment in Crowcombe and that there had been two burglaries in dwellings in the Crowcombe, Stogumber and Old Cleeve parishes in the start of November. It was suggested that extra care and attention needed to be given when leaving one's home unattended. There were still some problems with poaching on the Quantocks. The new Sergeant at Williton was Sergeant Zane Manu. PCSO Rowe left the meeting after giving this report.
7. **5 Projects**
The five projects,
 1. Stogumber Trail: investigations have started. **Action JS and JD**
 2. Village survey: some research has been done. **Action JS, DC and TThomas**
 3. Purchase of Miss May's field: Write to Executors to express interest. **Action AW**
 4. Car Parking: this project has been combined with 3. above.
 5. Facilities and activities for children and young people: progress is being made on the play area. **Action TThomas, CB, KR, CM**

8. **Section 106 money from Butts Orchard (Archer's Grove)**
The Chairman reported on his meeting with WSC (Adrian Dyer, Kenneth Taylor, Tim Taylor and WSC legal adviser Roy Pinney) on 2 November: West Somerset Council did not obtain the money from the developers before they went into administration. WSC said that taking legal action against the developers would not be worthwhile and that there is little likelihood of getting the money from the administrators. In the light of their failure to obtain this money on behalf of Stogumber, West Somerset Council are reviewing the way in which the Section 106 agreements are drafted and monitored. Other councils require developers to put the money into a bond at the start of the development, to ensure that it is available when the 'trigger point' (in this case the occupation of the fifth house) is reached. After some discussion, the Parish Council agreed that it would not campaign publically for WSC to itself fund some of the improvements that would have been done had WSC not failed to obtain the £18,000. During this discussion Mr T. Taylor arrived.
6. **District Council Report**
TT confirmed the cuts, savings, that will have to be made, the difficulties that will arise and said that WSC was particularly looking at cutting the non essential items like the Library Service
9. **Bus Shelter in Station Road**
Summerfield Homes had written to the Parish Council, asking our views on the location of the bus shelter which they were to provide as part of the planning permission granted for houses in Pickpurse Lane. After some discussion as to whether the bus shelter was required and, if so, where it would be located, the Parish Council decided that a public site meeting should be arranged to properly consider the matter and to give residents the opportunity to express the views. **Action TThomas**
10. **Pathway to Cricket Club**
A response would be sent to Summerfields' following their offer of £1,000 to the Parish Council to accept responsibility for the path. **Action AW**
11. **Children playing in Station Road and Archer's Grove**
A letter would be sent to Magna and the Police asking that they do what they could to discourage anti-social behaviour of some of the children in Archer's Grove and Station Road. **Action AW**
- CB came into the meeting.
12. **Waste bin to be positioned outside the Village Hall**
The School and the Village Hall Committee are happy for the bin to be moved from the telephone box in Brook Street to the gateway to the Village Hall car park. MS kindly offered to do the work. **Action MS**
13. **Salt bins**
The two salt bins agreed would be ordered. **Action AW**
It was also agreed that small bags for grit should be placed at the top of Shute Street.
- 14 Finance**
- 14.1 Bank Account Signatures were still not finalised. **Action JS and CB**
- 14.2 The present situation of Current Account £3535, Reserve Account £7. and AMC account £5730 was stated. The current account still has to cover the Clerk for the year and the salt bins and any other expenditure. This will total about £2700. and was why the £2000 had been transferred from the AMC Account
- 14.3 Proposed Finance regulations were given to the Councillors to be considered at the next meeting. **Action All**
- 14.4 The auditors report and fee for £58.75 had been paid

- 14.5 The amount that would be charged by WSC for administering a Parish Council election in May would be up to £2,300. It was agreed that if there were an election in May (if more than nine people stand for election to the nine places on the Parish Council) and the cost exceeded the money in the current account, more would have to be taken from reserves.
- 14.6 The Clerk has produced a draft budget for next year based on keeping the precept at £3000, to inform discussion of the precept at the next meeting. The Chairman noted that the Clerk's modest pay almost equals the Council's modest income, so almost all other expenditure comes out of reserves. This could not continue indefinitely, and the Chairman suggested that a future Council would need to consider whether to increase the precept or whether the cost of a future Clerk could be reduced if Councillors did some of the work currently done by the Clerk, and perhaps received a small allowance for doing so.
15. **Planning**
The clerk reported that permission had been granted for a first floor extension at Pound House, Brook Street.
16. **Review of West Somerset Electoral Boundaries**
The local Government Boundary Commission recommended the following:-
a) The electoral boundaries of Crowcombe and Stogumber would remain the same.
b) There would be 28 members of WSC not 31
c) It was expected that the growth of the electorate would be 2.5%.
WSC were requested to give us the number of new houses that had been added to the village, to inform the setting of the precept. **Action TTaylor**
- 17, **Lorries passing through stogumber.**
There have been some reports of excessive sizes lorries coming through the village and causing damage to the roads as well as sometimes making movement for others difficult. It is accepted that certain lorries must come into the village but it was suggested that perhaps 'Access Only' signs from the main roads into the village only might discourage the larger lorries from coming through. Guidance and criteria for such signs would be obtained from the County Council. **Action AW**
- 18, **Play area**
The play area committee are liaising with the contractors who are completing the new Magna Houses in Slade Close to ensure that the play area is restored and improved. They are also developing plans to use the £9,000 from Section 106 money (from the new houses that were built in Pickpurse Lane) probably in landscaping work to create a cycle track etc rather than the purchase of play equipment.
- 19, **Highway Matters**
- 19,1 The responsibility for the upkeep of the fencing on Station Road would be confirmed by letter to Mr R Hayes. **Action AW**
- 19.2 The final arrangements for the permissive path from Higher Kingswood to Kingswood would shortly be agreed by Kingswood residents, who would arrange for the work to be done.
- 19.3 The water authority had said that the water seepage in Shute Street near to the stream was not from their sources.
- 19.4 Ashbeer Hill grips should be completed in the near future.
- 19.5 There was no further progress on the Ashways and Ashbeer Hill junction.
- 19.6 The concern about the tree at the top of Pickpurse Lane would be reported to both Magna and the Highways. **Action AW**
- 19.7 Tolland Road will be closed for 12 weeks from 22nd November for water mains replacement.
20. **Parish Council Risk Assessment.**
The proposed Risk Assessment was distributed to the Councillors, to be discussed at the next meeting. **Action All**

21. **Somerset Art Work / Week**
The Council decided that it did not intend to lobby against the proposed stopping of funding by SCC for the arts in 2011/12.
22. **Somerset Association of Local Councils Meeting on 25th September 2010**
The Clerk reported that much of the proposed reductions had already been raised in the County Councillor's report. Sheila Wheeler had spoken at this meeting and much of what she said was in the letter received from her.
23. **Wedding reception in Old Vicarage Garden in 2012**
The Parish Council had no objections to their being a reception with the associated noise in the Old Vicarage.

24. **Forthcoming Meetings**

Organisation / Topic	Venue	Date	Time
		NOV	
WSC Planning Review	WS House, Killick Way	11	
Wales & West Utilities, Stakeholder Workshop for Gas Distribution Price Control Review effect from April 2013	Bristol, Anchor Rd., Harbourside Bristol	24	09.30
Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum Meeting	Exmore Memorial Hall, Exford	25	19.00
Area Panel	WS House, Killick Way	30	19.00
		DEC	
Age UK Somerset, Carol Service	Wells Cathedral	8	10.45
		JAN	
Magna Neighbourhood Inspection Schedule	Slade Close The Orchard, Deane Close	18	10.45 12.15

25. **Letter of Appreciation to 40 Commando, Royal Marines.**
It was unanimously agreed that a letter of appreciation of the work done by and the bravery of those in 40 Commando should be sent to their commanding officer. **Action JS, AW**
26. **Correspondence available**
1. Rural Services Network. Parish Newsletters
 2. West Somerset Strategic Partnership Tri-Annual Report.
 3. Wales and West Utilities, consultation on Gas Distribution Price Control Review
 4. Age Concern: volunteering opportunities; carol Service, Wells Cathedral 8th Dec.
 5. WSC A-Z of Services 2009 -10
 6. Rural Services Community,
 7. Exmoor National Park Achievements
 8. Victim Support Funding Request March 2010
 9. Police Authority News Letter
 10. South Western Ambulance Service- Twentyfourseven,
 11. SCSN. Somerset's Community Safety Newsletter,
 12. Community Led Planning database. Do we have a parish plan?
- Much of this correspondence is available at the West end of the church.

27. **Matters by permission of the Chairman**
The Chairman gave details about a sponsored march in aid of armed services charities, in May next year. It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objections to a refreshment point being set-up in the Square, and that details would be given to the Standard for possible inclusion.

28. **Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be at 19.30 on Thursday 13th January in Deane Close.