

Stogumber Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11th November 2021, commencing at 7.30pm

Held at Stogumber Village Hall

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

Present:

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice-Chair), T Vesey, T Brick, C Matravers, A White, R Foster
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

SCC Cllr C Lawrence, SW&T Cllrs S Griffiths and M Kravis (late to meeting)

2 x member of the public (left after SCC emergency fund items)

1) To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies of absence received from Cllr V Sellick and G Tuckfield

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB & AW – Beacon field (as neighbours)

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

Bio-diversity project update:

A successful few days have recently been spent by the group planting the wildflower plugs (approx. 5000 plugs) with approx. 20-22 volunteers involved. The primary school are going to do some planting tomorrow.

The wildflower bulbs to be delivered next week.

The nursery have informed that the trees are ‘ready’ but can’t be dug until all leaves are fallen - probably will be the beginning of December. Suggestion that a working group could be organised, also including school (will advertise day in school newsletter). Try and make the planting a community project...maybe weekend of 11th December, depending on tree availability?

4) District and County Councillor reports

SWT Cllr S Griffiths:

- Apologies he has not attended a PC meeting previously.
- Somerset Unitary: The draft structural change order has now been shared with the 5 councils involved. The 5 councils have 2 weeks to respond to the proposals. Elections may be either 2022 or 2023. If elections are 2022, existing county council wards will be used but with 2 councillors in each - currently 55 County Wards so will equal 110 Ward Councillors in the new Unitary
- Local Community Networks (LCNs) will work as the area panels do at the moment

SWT Cllr M Kravis:

- Apologies for recent non attendance.
- Homelessness team continuing what was started in lockdown regarding housing homeless people.
- Still giving out business grants, focusing on slightly bigger business (15+ employees) that suffered during covid (eg breweries were not forced to shut but had no trade as pubs were shut)
- Hinkley workers going up to 8000 from 5000 as behind schedule and need to catch up

SCC Cllr C Lawrence

- Retaining wall by church ramp. David Peake (SCC Highways) has looked at it and confirmed that it comes under 'bridges'. The work has been allocated to be carried out
- Councillors thanked Christine for her help with this.
- Covid – Musgrove has 72 covid patients as of today....cases are rising. Musgrove has gone up an emergency level.
- Customer care service has been awarded the best customer call centre in the South West – achieved in partnership with Districts to ensure that 'one call only' enabled people to obtain the help that they needed.
- Councillors asked, will the Unitary Ward Councillors still attend PC meetings or will PCs have to attend area panel meetings to have their voice heard? Yes, they will still attend PC meetings but it is expected that there will be LCN (Local Community Network) meetings regularly (every 3 months)

5) Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 9th September, 11th September, 25th September and 16th October 2021

The minutes were approved by Members and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meetings.

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

None

7) Somerset Unitary

CB reported on a meeting he attended. A presentation was given by a consultant there who had worked with in an evolving unitary – his experiences were interesting and informative.

8) The Beacon Field:

a) Rubbish Bin

The clerk reported that the waste bin emptying contract for the Beacon Field has been renewed for another year

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

The gate post at the top of the field into the adjoining field needs replacing. MS has offered to get quote to present to the adjacent field owner for labour costs to erect it (TV has offered to supply the new gatepost)

9) Climate Emergency Fund

a) Outdoor Hub

This has been a huge success. The Hub project is now completed and was approved at the meeting held on 16th October. Sam Shaw from the Climate Emergency Fund is to visit site in early December to see the finished Hub

b) Biodiversity Project

- i) Graeme Ryan, the project co-ordinator, provided an update in public speaking.
- ii) CB reported that Dan Hutchings (fencing contractor) still has to commit to a date to start but should do in December
- iii) The donated telegraph pole for a kestrel box (also to be used as a gatepost) has already been erected.
- iv) The Bio-diversity group have considered the PC's health and safety requirements surrounding the use of the power scythe and have now concluded that they would prefer to outsource the cutting requirements, rather than the group purchase and the volunteers use the scythe. Additionally, it is now recognised that an insured and competent professional would be required to erect the bird boxes on house eaves in the village. Taking the above into consideration, the group has requested that a revised budget is approved by the PC before

being forwarded to the Climate Fund for approval. As the purchase of the powers scythe is now not required, there will be a significant underspend of the money granted for the biodiversity project and, as part of the revised spending plan presented, a request has been made for the purchase of additional wild flower seed and bulbs, a kestrel nest box and installation costs for the swift and house martin nest boxes. Councillors agreed the revised plans and budget and the clerk was requested to present the revised plan to the Climate Emergency Group for approval.

10) Highways / Footpaths

a) Previously reported matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

- i) The requested 'No Lorry' signs have now been erected by Highways top of Castlake Lane at Houndhill and the other end of the lane turning in from Stogumber
- ii) The water leak outside the pub is now fixed – reported to be a broken pipe
- iii) The grips at Ashbeer are still not cleared
- iv) The gullies at bottom of Ashbeer need clearing
- v) The fence at Vellow corner damaged in a RTA early in the year is still not repaired

b) Raised footpath and fencing along Station Road

- i) As reported by SCC Cllr C Lawrence in her report, this will be repaired by Highways 'bridges' department
- ii) Chris Moss is preparing a quote of repairing the internal fencing

c) Parking in the square and roads

- i) Parking at Sawpits. Christine Lawrence asked the PCSO to visit and speak to people. This appeared to help temporarily but the parking is increasing again. CM's open letter in the Stogumber Standard was good but hasn't appeared to have a significant impact
- ii) At the Almshouse the bushes are sticking out, causing cars to have to pull out into road to go past. Clerk to report to Highways

d) Drainage, lower Wood Lane

CB reported that the resident of Wood Farm had expressed an interest in joining the flood watch group as he has been involved in implementing a water slowing scheme with DEFRA and the EA.

e) Any other matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

- i) The drain opposite Deane Close garages is blocked and causing flooding
- ii) Lane End towards Higher Kingswood – the centre of road is overgrown with grass and vegetation
- iii) Hedge opposite the Tythe Barn - Highline have removed some branches, but a lot of work is still needing to be done. MS offered to remind the hedge owner that the work was still outstanding.

11) Queen's Jubilee beacon / celebration

National celebrations are being organised to light beacons in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd June 2022 at 9.15pm. The clerk was requested to register the Stogumber Beacon on the national register of beacons joining the formal celebrations.

12) Planning:

a) Any current planning concerns

None

b) Previously reported planning concerns

None

c) Any other matters concerning planning

None

13) Parish Council IT provision

For some time, SPC has been sharing the use of a laptop, printer etc on the understanding that at some point in the future it would need to invest in its own IT equipment. The clerk had previously prepared and circulated some example costings for a laptop, printer and associated equipment. As prices / availability are fluctuating on an almost daily basis, Councillors authorised a spend of up to £850 to allow the clerk to purchase the required equipment, giving the flexibility to seek out the best deal available at the time of purchase.

14) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 30.9.21, of £52,022.90. £18,491.08 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Payments to approve

Cheque payments:

C Morrison-Jones	£622.90	Salary – Oct & Nov 2021 – and expenses
HMRC	£59.60	PAYE
Stogumber Village Hall	£40.00	Hall hire . Nov 2021 & Jan 2022
MortiSport	£8,813.37	Final instalment of Outdoor Hub (16.10.21)
British Wild Flower Plants	£2,095.20	Wildflower plugs-biodiversity project (16.10.21)
ID Verde	£246.48	Waste bin collection annual renewal (23.10.21)

Direct Debit payments:

Public Works Loan Board	£3223.02	Beacon Field Loan Repayment (10.11.21)
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Debit card payments:

Water2business	£33.38	Water, Beacon Field (24.9.21)
Staples	£29.53	postage stamps (2.11.21)

c) Amounts received

14.9.21	SW&T	2nd half of precept	£10250
5.11.21	P Tapp	Beacon Field rent & water	£264.19

d) Fundraising for new playground equipment

The clerk apologised, but due to time spent on other projects, work on grant applications had not yet started

e) Any other financial matters

The clerk reported that a VAT reclaim for £3,422.06 (covering the period of 1.1.21-30.10.21) was submitted to HMRC on 3rd November

15) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

None

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

Stogumber Playground Association Meeting

Thursday 11th November 2021, commencing at 9.05pm

At Stogumber Village Hall

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

Present:

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice-Chair), T Vesey, T Brick, C Matravers, A White, R Foster
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

- 1) **To receive any apologies for absence**
Apologies of absence received from Cllr V Sellick and G Tuckfield
- 2) **Public comments or questions**
None
- 3) **To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 9th September 2021**
The minutes were approved by Members and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.
- 4) **Any matters arising from the minutes not covered below**
None
- 5) **Playground upkeep:**
 - a) **Annual Play Ground Inspection**
The Annual Playground inspection had not highlighted any high or medium risk issues. Councillors noted that the mole hills needed attention and that more woodchip was required under the swing
 - b) **New piece of equipment**
A quote has now been received from Morti Sport for a 4m climbing net for £12,999.00 +VAT. The previously noted quote from Dragon Play was £12,499.00 + VAT. Both quotes included the installation of grass safety matting under the piece of equipment. As there was very little difference between the two quotes, and that the provision and installation of the Outdoor Hub by MortiSport had gone so smoothly, Councillors resolved to use Morti Sport's quotation as a basis for the fundraising by the PC
 - c) **Any other matters concerning playground upkeep**
 - i) The tunnel (the black plastic) is heavily scored on the outside
 - ii) The clerk was requested to book weed spraying for next year
 - iii) Fungus was noted growing out of the woodchip. CM offered to deal with it during his next weekly inspection
- 6) **Finance:**
 - a) **Payments to approve**
None
 - b) **Amounts received**
None
 - c) **Approve bank reconciliation**
Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 29.9.21, of £270.47.
 - d) **Annual return**
The clerk reported that the annual return for the financial year 20/21 was filed with the Charity Commission on 4th November
- 7) **Any other business by permission of the Chairman**
None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15pm