

# Minutes of the Stogumber Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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, G Tuckfield, V Sellick, T Brick, G Rexworthy, A White  
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)  
2 x members of the public  
Carin Gaertner, Working Wetland Catchment Project Manager & Bill Jenman, Landscape Development Officer of Quantocks ANOB

**Prior to the start of the meeting there were two short presentations:**

### **Presentation 1:**

Bill Jenman, Landscape Partnership Development Officer of Quantocks AONB, regarding the new Landscape Partnership Scheme

*Mr Jenman explained that he started at Easter as the Development Officer for the Landscape Partnership Scheme, and the project covers an area twice the size of the ANOB and includes about half of Stogumber parish.*

*The landscape is changing, as is landscape management. There is a lot of development, particularly on the Bridgwater side and a lot more visitor / recreational pressure on the whole area....this needs to be managed.*

*Project has now passed stage 1 and has 14 months to complete the bid for £2.6 million over 5 years.*

*The project list will be finalised by Easter 2019 and the finalised bid submitted in September 2019*

*Aims of the project: community engagement work, opportunities to get involved, habitat and species monitoring., advice on historic landscape management, archaeological digs. There is also a possibility to create a conversation about the vision for the Quantocks in 50 years' time.*

*Mr Jenman asked those present for suggestions as to who the project should talk to. Visitors surveys will be carried out (was last done in 2003)*

### **Presentation 2:**

Carina Gaertner, Working Wetland Catchment Project Manager, regarding the Natural Flood Management Flood Risk Scheme for Stogumber and Crowcombe

*This is a 3-year government funded project (Environment Agency) to reduce flooding in the Doniford catchment area*

*Aim is to deal with any surface water entering the streams and was prompted by past flooding in Williton*

*Ms Gaertner explained that to protect houses downstream you have to deal with the surface water up stream. The project is aiming to do this naturally; tree planting, woody debris dams, hedgerow planting, aerating soil etc. Some improvements are for the short term to help whilst longer term measures (ie tree planting) establish*

*Birds also like standing water and the Wetland Trust are looking to preserve current area and also restore habitats for birds and fish.*

*Little interventions throughout the whole catchment will produce results*

*Ms Gaertner asked councillors how the project team are best to engage community support?*

*GT- offered to write an article for the Stogumber Standard to engage the parish in the project*

*CB thanked both speakers for coming. If any parishioners have suggestions for either project, the relevant contact details can be found below:*

*Mr Bill Jenmn, Project Development Office for the Quantocks ANOB  
Email: [WJenman@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:WJenman@somerset.gov.uk)  
Tel:01823 451 884*

*Mrs Carina Gaertner, Working Wetland Catchment Project Manager  
Email: [Carina.Gaertner@wwt.org.uk](mailto:Carina.Gaertner@wwt.org.uk)  
Tel : 07557 971449*

*Both speakers left the meeting at this point*

**1) To receive any apologies of absence**

Cllrs T Vesey and C Matravers had offered apologies of absence in advance of the meeting  
SCC Cllr C Lawrence and WSDC Cllr A Trollope-Bellew apologised for not being able to attend

**2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations**

CB & AW-Beacon Field (as neighbours)  
VS- personal interest, Vellow Quarry

**3) Public comments, questions or suggestions**

The two members of the public present raised concerns regarding:  
agenda item 6a) speeding in Station Road

- a school should have a 20mph limit outside it. Highways should be made to pay for speed limit reduction signage
- one of the members of public present said they will start a village petition to get PC to get the speed limit reduced

agenda item 7 bonfires in the parish

- Members of the public believe that it a few regular offenders
- Constant smoke from bonfires is a health and safety hazard
- There are better ways of disposing of garden waste

**4) District and County Councillor reports**

WSDC Cllr A T-B had previously submitted a report that covered the following points:

- The DC put in a submission based on what the Boundary Commission had told us, we had two meetings with the chairman and chief executive and were told that in no way would a deviation of more than 10% be accepted. No one could work out a way of complying with this and not putting Stogumber in the Old Cleeve ward hence the DC's submission The shape of West Somerset, the coast and the populations of Minehead, Watchet and Williton make it a very difficult task. Now it is totally up to the BC and if you can provide sound evidence of why they are wrong they will treat your submission equally to that provided by the district or county Councils
- Now that the councils have Secretary of State sign off we are getting on making for a smooth transition to the new council.
- Transformation which will make £2.6m savings is proceeding and 4 of the 6 heads of service have been appointed from internal candidates. The last 2 posts have been advertised externally and we have had a large number of high quality applicants.
- The districts are having a conversation with the county council about their financial problems ...but there are up to eight possible solutions of which forming a unitary is one

**5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10/5/18 and the planning meeting held on 17/5/18**

The minutes for the PC meeting held on 10th of May 2018, and the planning meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were approved by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record

**6) Matters arising from the minutes**

**a) Speeding along Station Road /Wig Wag lights outside the school**

The clerk reported that the grant application to the Hinckley C mitigation fund to install Wig Wag lights outside the school had been turned down as the panel considered the installation to be a statutory duty of Highways, despite Highway confirming that they could not afford to carry out this installation

Councillors agreed that no one wants a child to get hurt. It was noted that some parents do need to stop parking on the zigzags outside the school and to supervise their children better going to school and also the school need to supervise parents parking and be more proactive in helping to solving this problem. Additionally, parents need to know that Beacon Field is available when pre-booked by the school for functions such as sports day. When the Beacon Field is surfaced, it will be available for parking everyday- parents must be encouraged to make use of it and not park on the road

PC agreed to revisit the issues surrounding lowering the speed limit with Highways

**b) Dog fouling in the parish**

Getting worse and it was noted that it was particularly bad recently in the churchyard.

Councillors hoped that parishioners would be pro-active in monitoring this and report any events of soiling that were witnessed

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

None

**7) Bonfires in the parish**

In addition to the concerns raised by the members of the public present. the parish council has received two letters from parishioners raising concerns about bonfires in the parish. Also, there have been a number of posts on this topic on the 'All things Stogumber' facebook page

It was noted that the PC has no powers to control burning, but there are two routes open to individuals who wish to pursue this matter if it is causing them undue distress:

*1) If any fires are considered out of control, dangerous or unsupervised then the fire brigade should be contacted on 999*

*2) If the smoke from fires is causing a nuisance, then this can be reported to the Environmental Health department at West Somerset Council. They can be contacted on 01643 703704 and their advice regarding bonfires can be found at*

*<https://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk/Environment/Pollution/Bonfires>*

Large gardens generate a lot of garden waste. However, social conscience should prevent repetitive burning by one individual.

It was noted that there are already notices on the parish noticeboard asking people to be aware when burning. It was agreed that these would be refreshed and an article would be written for the Stogumber Standard appealing to people to be responsible when considering having a bonfire.

*2 members of the public left the meeting*

**8) Playground – consider the PC fundraising for new play equipment**

GT reported that he had met with a representative from Playdale to discuss possible playground equipment that would be suitable for the Stogumber play area. A subsequent quote for the various suggested items has been circulated amongst councillors for consideration...prices for even simple

pieces of equipment were considerable.

Councillors noted that, when asked, children have previously requested a skate ramp and zip wire. It was agreed to formulate a 'wish list' plan of equipment which could then be costed out and fundraising possibilities considered.

#### **9) To Receive Reports from Members of meetings attended as representatives of the Parish Council.**

No meetings attended.

It was noted that the finger post restoration volunteers from Exmoor National Park are working their way around Stogumber parish (30 posts to do in the parish). The parish council resolved to use the Stogumber Standard to thank the volunteers for all their work.

#### **10) The Beacon Field**

##### **a) Finance / Fundraising update**

The clerk reported that 'safer to school and hall' had reached the final 3 in the Tesco (Minehead) Bags of Help scheme. For July and August, the Stogumber project will be one of the 3 projects within the Minehead store that will be available for shoppers to vote for via tokens received at the checkout. The project receiving the lowest number of votes will receive £1,000, whilst the project that tops the public vote will receive a grant for £4,000. A banner has been provided by Tesco to display in village to promote the project reaching the final 3.

The clerk had previously circulated an estimated projected month by month cash flow for the parish council for members to consider in regard to the decision to start phase 2 construction work on the car park.

Councillors reviewed these figures and resolved to request that the contractor start the work as soon as he can.

##### **b) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field**

Consider request from the school for parking on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> July for the Leavers service. Councillors agreed to this use.

#### **11) Highways / Footpaths**

##### **a) Updates on previously reported issues**

- i.** Mud in the centre of the road – Wood Lane. This has been inspected and at present it is not considered a safety defect. The debris from the bank slip has been removed.
- ii.** Pot holes opposite Boars head, Combe Cross Lane, Escott Lane, Lower Monksilver to Stogumber Road – These roads have been inspected and any pot holes above the safety intervention levels have been marked for repair.
- iii.** Vellow Road Edge deterioration – two areas have been marked for edge repairs.
- iv.** It was noted that the shrubs have been cut back outside Pixies Laughter.

##### **b) Any issues to report**

###### **i. Overgrown footpath path at Sunnydene field**

Rights of way can be reported on the Rights of Way website. Councillors requested that the clerk report the issue and also involve the PPLO.

###### **ii. Over grown hedge on the Vellow road**

The hedge (at a high level) is overhanging and hitting large lorries, buses etc. MS offered to approach land owner to ask if it can be cut back.

###### **iii. Any other issues to report**

At the junction at the Preston Lane triangle, towards Vexford, the tarmac at the edge of the road has worn away and catches the tyres of vehicles. Clerk to report.

#### **12) Consider PC response to consultation regarding the proposed new ward boundaries following the formation of a new council**

CB read out a letter from a parishioner objecting to the splitting of Stogumber from Crowcombe and Bicknoller.

Councillors agreed with the sentiment expressed in the letter and agreed for clerk to write a similar letter, with the draft to be circulated amongst councillors for approval before submission.

### 13) Finance

#### a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors approved the bank reconciliation, dated 31.5.18, of £24,271.26. This consists of £20,896.49 in the current account and £3,374.77 in the deposit account. £5,618.25 of this balance is held in reserved funds

#### b) Approve implementation of council employees NALC approved pay increase, backdated to 1.4.2018

NALC have published the approved pay increase, effective from 1.4.2018. Councillors unanimously agreed to implement the recommended pay increase

#### c) Payments to approve

Clerks Salary	£543.40
HMRC, PAYE	£54.40
Clerk's expenses	£31.00
SALC. GDPR training	£25.00
D Hobbs. Hedge Cutting, Beacon Field	£90.00 (inc VAT of £15.00)

#### d) Amounts received

16.5.18	NatWest	compensation	£228.95
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#### e) Request to update bank account signatories – update

NatWest have confirmed that the bank signatories have now been updated as requested to include M Symes and G Tuckfield

#### f) Annual Return – update

The clerk reported that the Annual Return had been submitted to the auditors on 30th May and the required documents posted to the Stogumber website. The period for the public inspection commenced on 4th June and runs until 13th July

#### g) Any other financial matters

None

### 14) Planning

#### i. Previously considered applications – updates

- a) 3/31/18/005 Erection of single storey extension to the south elevation of the pavilion plus alterations and re-grading of land to create a new seating area  
Stogumber Cricket Club, Station Road, Stogumber, TA4 3T – granted
- b) 3/31/18/003 Demolition of infill building, erection of single storey infill extension, two storey extension to the north east and outbuilding - granted  
Nevys Farm, Nevys Lane, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 3TP – granted
- c) 3/31/18/006. Erection of garden studio/workshop at Cheddarmarsh Cottage, Yard Ash Lane, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 3TW - granted

#### ii. Consider request to PC regarding support for proposed development at Vellow Quarry

A letter had been received by the parish council to request support 'in principle' of the development of a single dwelling with garage on the site of the redundant Vellow Quarry. It was resolved to respond the request stating that the PC was keen to support development in the hamlets in its neighbourhood plan but was prevented from doing so by the inspector as it was against national policy, but to support this request now would prejudice the council when a formal planning application is received

#### iii. Any other planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

None

*TB- left meeting at this point*

**15) General Data Protection Regulation**

The clerk reported that she had attended the SALC briefing on 22nd May, and briefing notes had been circulated to councillors.

Councillors agreed that the clerk should start work on destroying historic material that contains personal information that was no longer needed and that the PC would consider the NALC recommended policies for adoption at a later meeting.

**16) Employment matters – clerk’s appraisal**

CM was nominated to carry out the clerk’s annual appraisal

**17) Any other business by permission of the Chairman**

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22.15

## **Minutes of the Stogumber Playground Association Meeting**

Commencing at 22.15, immediately after the Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Deane Close Common Room

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

### **Present**

Cllrs C Bramall (chair), M Symes, G Tuckfield, V Sellick, G Rexworthy, A White  
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

- 1) **To receive any apologies of absence**  
Cllrs T Vesey, C Matravers and T Brick offered apologies for their absences
- 2) **Public comments, questions or suggestions**  
None
- 3) **To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 10/5/18**  
The minutes for the meeting held on 10th of May 2018 were approved by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record
- 4) **Matters arising from the minutes**  
None
- 5) **Playground upkeep**
  - a) **Any issues raised in the routine inspections**
    - i) Lots of litter has been left on the play area (bins were not full). Councillors agreed to meet up there on the next Saturday morning to help clear up
    - ii) It was noted that 2 rings on the rope ladder on the castle were loose. GT to arrange repair
  - d) **Update regarding repairs /maintenance**  
Ongoing

**c) Dog fouling and possible preventative measures – update**

- i. GT offered to check if the see if the playground maintenance volunteer has bought new ‘no dog’ signs yet
- ii. It was agreed that the proposal to fence off the younger childrens’ equipment would be put on hold until any new equipment, and its layout has been decided

**6) Finance**

**a) Payments to approve**

Fields In Trust	playground public liability insurance renewal, until 30.6.19	£112.00
C Moss	reimbursements	£81.91

**b) Amounts received**

None

**e) Approve bank reconciliation**

Councillors approved the bank reconciliation, dated 31.5.18, of £1,016.29

**f) Request to update bank account signatories – update**

NatWest have confirmed that the bank signatories have now been updated as requested to include M Symes and G Tuckfield

**g) Any other financial matters**

None

**7) Any other business by permission of the Chairman**

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22.22