

Stogumber Parish Council, SPC.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on January 12th 2012

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

C. Bramall

C. Matravers

K. Rew

V. Sellick

M. Symes

T. Simpson

J Leeming, Clerk

A Trollope-Bellow (District and County Councillor), P Bolton (PCSO)

Four members of the public

Item	Topic	Action
1	<p>Apologies: Apologies were accepted from J Danson and T Thomas who were unable to attend. K Rew declared she would have to leave early.</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interests. CB declared a personal interest in item 9, Miss May's field as a neighbour.</p>	
3	<p>Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were four members of the public present. There was no public comment at this time.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of Meetings held 10/11/2011 and 17/12/11. It was proposed and passed that the minutes of the meetings held on 10th November 2011 and 17th December 2011 were reasonable records of the meetings. They were signed by the chairman.</p>	
6	<p>Peter Bolton PCSO Police report There had been 21 calls during the period since the last meeting. There had been no major incidents during that period. There had been 1 incident of fighting on New Year's Day. There had been 1 RTA with a deer hitting a vehicle and 1 attempted break-in with nothing stolen. The police have secured funding to help pay towards the bike ramp in the play area. PB has spoken to the Youth Club committee regarding this. PB left the meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Local Plan. It was agreed to discuss the Local Plan item first to allow those attending the meeting specifically for that item to leave the meeting afterwards. JS, RP, CB and 3 member of Crowcombe Parish Council have met on 2 occasions to discuss the draft Local Plan and Neighbourhood plans. Roy Harbour of Crowcombe Parish Council presented the findings of the working party meetings regarding these. It was explained that there was no need to agree a response to the WSC Local Plan yet as the consultation period had not begun. Their findings are that the draft plan defines the areas of Minehead, Watchet and Williton but does not clearly define other areas, This leaves development plans for rural settlements open to various interpretations. The presumption is in favour of sustainable development and that which provides employment opportunities for local residents. There could be a cap on the maximum allowed houses in 'other settlements' in a year and the trigger for the affordable housing contribution is unfair, 'settlements elsewhere' could have a trigger of 1 – 3 houses whereas Minehead, Watchet and Williton would have a much higher trigger. It was agreed that the working party would continue to meet with the aim of agreeing a combined response and that the other villages in the district should be approached to see if they wanted to be included. It was felt that a combined response to the Local Plan would have more weight to it than responses from individual parishes. Members of the public felt that working with CPC had many benefits and that it should continue, they also felt it was imperative that SPC develop a Neighbourhood Plan and whilst it has been desirable in the past it is now essential to ensure SPC can ensure it has a say the future development of the parish.</p>	

A Neighbourhood Plan, if drawn up properly would have to be adopted by WSC and it would have to justify refusing decisions, which went against the plan. It was agreed to work towards a Neighbourhood Plan and to investigate whether any consultancy would be available to help assist in this. It was agreed that the whole community including the hamlets should be consulted on the content of the plan. It was agreed that JS to contact the consultant working with SPC to arrange a meeting, and that a council meeting be held after initial consultations to decide next steps.

JS

Members of the public and KR left the meeting.

5

County Report.

There are to be no cuts to bus services along the A358 between Minehead and Taunton because there are no subsidies on those routes. Library and Mobile Library services are to be reinstated but cuts will now come from other services to fund this and the costs, which were awarded against SCC. SCC is selling some parcels of land on the Quantock Hills. This does not affect Greatwood; the Forestry Commission has a 900+ year lease on this land. The parcels of land are areas of SSSI with open access and commoners rights, which would prevent any potential purchaser from developing or changing the land use in any way. SCC wants to reduce their liability and costs of maintaining these parcels of land.

District Report.

WSC are still waiting a response from SCC with regard to adopting the car park. ATB to pursue

ATB

It has been agreed that the bus shelter doesn't have to be built but that the developer has first to raise the kerb before being released from the planning condition.

The planning department cannot offer any dialogue with councillors because of a lack of resources. JS requested that the council be told when cases are going to committee, ATB to try and keep us updated. JS asked if it was possible to request some applications should go to committee. ATB agreed to forward these requests, the timescale is quite short so JL to inform all councillors as soon as applications are received so a decision can be made prior to a planning meeting as to whether it should be considered by committee or not.

There will need to be savings of £150,000 in WSC's 2012/13 budget and £50,000 in the 2013/14 budget. Cuts of 13.98% are being made to AONB and Citizens Advice, these are cuts passed on from central funding cuts. There will be a funding problem in 2014/15 when a lot more money will need to be raised. WSC council tax is 30% below average.

8

Precept for 2012/13.

JL presented budget and forecasted expenditure reports to the council showing what effect different levels of precept would have to the budget and to residents' council tax. There was discussion regarding the investment account and an agreement that this should be kept in reserve for future expenditure in developing Miss May's field. JS felt that there should be village buy-in to help fund raise for future developments, as SPC could not fund all the planned development. The proposed Localism bill may introduce clauses that could mean parish councils would need to hold a referendum before increasing the precept above a certain percentage. The cost of any referendum could offset any proposed increase, so it was agreed to set the precept at £10,000.00 to avoid large increases in the future. This would lead to an increase of £29.23 for a Band D property, which is within the limits anticipated at the time of the field purchase.

JL

9

Miss May's Field.

a) N Staddon has surveyed the field and this has been passed to P Haine to draw up plans for the various options for the car park, JS to discuss options with PH

JS

- b) A trench has been dug for the moving of the water supply. The work will be complete within a few days.
- c) D Lewis had kindly offered to pay to fence the hedge between Miss May's field and hers to protect the hedge. It was felt that because soil spoil from excavations for a car park may be placed against any fence it would be better to wait before erecting a fence. It was suggested that any future grass let should include the erection of an electric fence to prevent livestock damaging the hedge. CB to explain this to D Lewis and JL to write letter of thanks. CB
JL
- d) It was agreed to arrange to move the beacon onto the field, CM to mark its position on a map so JL can then register the beacon for the Jubilee celebrations. CM
JL
- e) There was no feedback.
- f) Reviewing the loan provider to be carried forward to a future meeting JS
- g) It was agreed to allow a grass let for the coming year but to state it was over 5.5 acres rather than 6.5 acres. This would allow for possible development of the car park during the year. CB to liase with JL regarding arranging a grass let. CB
JL
- 10 **Parish Survey results.**
- a) JS has written to the school about the possibility of using the school's minibus to transport children to Minehead Eye on a regular basis and has had a positive response but is awaiting further responses from the head teacher before proceeding. JS
- 11 b) The letter to residents of Vellow has not yet been sent. JS
- SCC bus subsidies reduction consultation.**
- The 500 service that comes through the village will be cut. There will be a 10% reduction in the subsidy for the Slinky bus. It was agreed that JL should respond to the consultation saying the village needed these services.
- 12 **Stogumber Play Area**
- a) TT not at the meeting to report on this
- b) The £2000.00 funding secured by the police need to be spent before the end of the financial year. Because the BMX track will need planning permission and this may not be obtained in time it was suggested that the money be spent on other equipment in the play area. CM and CB to liase with TT and the Play Area Committee to move this forward. Lisa Simpson has also offered her assistance. CM
CB
TT
- 13 **Finance.**
- a) A DEFRA grant of £529.34 and £15.00 from the sale of Walk books have been received.
The assets on 04/01/12 are as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Current account | £3,760.19 |
| Reserve account | £5,935.54 |
- b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Clerk's salary and PAYE 15 th December – 11 th January | £163.04 |
| Clerk's salary and PAYE 12 th January – 13 th February | £203.80 |
| Data Protection Act registration | £25.00 |
| C F Hawkins for hedge cutting | £54.00 |
| Expense incurred fitting pipeline / water tank in Miss May's field | £81.56 |
- c) The balance of the AMC account has been paid into the reserve account, which pays 0.05%. JL suggested transferring this to an account within NatWest paying 1.50% but with the restriction of 4 withdrawals per year. This was agreed and the relevant forms signed. JL
- d) There has been no progress on challenging the Audit invoice, JS and JL to continue to pursue this. JS
JL
- e) It was agreed to register the Council with the Data Protection Act. JL
- 14 **Freedom of Information Act.**
- JL has obtained a copy of Model Publication Scheme used by another parish and adapted it to suit SPC. It was agreed to adopt this and that JL would ALL

ensure the information was available as stated within it. All councillors to respond to an e-mail sent by JL stating what contact details they were happy to have published on the Stogumber website or for JL to give out on request.

- 15 **Planning.**
 a) The plans for replacement windows at 6 The High Street been approved by WSC.
 b) The plans for an extension and conservatory to The Firs, High Street have been approved by WSC.
 c) The plans for internal changes at The Linhay, Catford cottage have been approved by WSC.
 d) There has been no decision made by WSC on the 2nd storey extension at 23 Oldway.
 e) There has been no decision made by WSC on the felling of trees at Wynes, 1 Hill Street.
- 16 **Highways.**
 a) ATB had reported earlier there has been no progress on the adoption of the car park by SCC. ATB
 b) Mr & Mrs Gibbs have agreed to have the grit bin below Cridland Steep moved to their verge, but the bin has now been filled making it difficult to move. JS to investigate how easy it would be to move or whether it would be better to wait until it was empty. JS
 c) The litterbin outside the churchyard has been replaced with a larger one on a concrete slab. There has been concerns reported that the concrete slab could be a trip risk. MS to investigate whether there is a better way of securing this bin. MS
 d) ATB had reported earlier that the WSC have agreed that the bus shelter does not need to be built, awaiting on the developers to raise the kerb before releasing them from the planning obligation.
 e) SCC have written stating because no paving slabs have been replaced in recent years, a financial contribution would not be requested should the need to replace paving occur during 2012/13
 f) Potholes were reported at Beech Tree Hill, Escot Lane and Capton Lane. MS to report these to the highways dept. A resident at Carslake has requested the road be swept. MS
 Water flowing onto the road and causing floods at Cottiford has been reported. This is in Bicknoller Parish, JL to contact the clerk there to report it. JL
 Complaints have been received about the bins in the churchyard overflowing with bags of dog mess. WSC are not responsible for emptying these. JL to contact Tom Vesey to find out who empties these. JL
- 17 **Dog Control Orders.**
 WSC have written asking if the parish wants to introduce any dog control orders. The council felt the village hall committee, church, school and play area committee should be approached to ask for their opinions. JL
- 18 **Meetings**
 a) There were no objections to moving the annual parish meeting to May instead of March
 b) It was agreed that JL would contact all councillors to ask what dates suited them best for council meetings in the forthcoming year. Meeting dates would then be set at the next council meeting. JL
- 18 **Any other business by permission of the Chairman.**
 There was no other business to report.

The meeting closed at 22:10. The next meeting will be on 8th March 2012 at Deane Close Common Room.