

Stogumber Parish Council.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 12th January 2017

The meeting started at 19:50

Present

J. Spicer (Chairman), M Symes, T Vesey, C Bramall, C Matravers, J Hull, T Brick , V Sellick

C Morrison-Jones, Clerk

C Lawrence (County Councillor), A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor)

| Item | Topic. |
|-------------|---|
| 1. | Apologies G Tuckfield |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations. M Symes and T Vesey (Village Signs, financial contribution, item 17) |
| 3. | Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments, questions or suggestions made. |
| 4. | Minutes It was resolved that the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10/11/16 plus planning meetings held on 23/11 & 17/12/16 were a true and correct record of the meetings. |
| 5. | Matters Arising from the minutes None |
| 6. | County Councillor Report Williton and Minehead hospitals: Cllr Christine Lawrence reported that she had met with the clinical commissioning group to ascertain the Williton & Minehead hospitals situation. Wards in Minehead had been closed, due to lack of staff, and patients moved to Williton which is now full. The real problem is due to difficulties in recruiting staff, not finance, and this brings with it grave concerns as the area has a high proportion of elderly residents. Further talks are planned for two weeks' time with the partnership board regarding training and the need to encourage young people to train and remain in the area once qualified. Buses: the Porlock to Minehead service has been kept running for the present. It costs £13,000 per annum to run and this year's figures will be analysed to see if it can be made to break even. Broadband: on 31 st January there is a planned meeting for county councillors to explain how superfast, phase 2 is expected to be rolled out across the county. RNAS Yeovilton: The Commander, John Pentry, had recently met with C Lawrence to discuss why more local people don't apply to work at the airbase. It was concluded that more advertising / engagement with local colleges and schools was needed to engage the target audience – national recruitment events are organised but nothing specifically for local communities |
| | District Council Report Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported that the judicial review regarding the formation of a new council has been thrown out and the consultation period is currently open. Meetings and roadshows are currently being held (see agenda item 14) for more details. Work at Hinkley Point C is progressing with approx. 1500 people on site, rising to 2000 by the summer. Currently construction is focused on the infrastructure required. This is the biggest building project in Western Europe and will be the 3 rd most expensive build in the world. The Local Plan has now been adopted by West Somerset and runs to 2032 |
| 7. | Police report An email has been received from SALC that it will no longer be a requirement for police to |

attend parish council meetings as finances are tight, however police will attempt to attend a meeting if requested due to a particular need. It is now possible to go on line and find out local crime figures.

The chairman requested councillors to contact the clerk if they had any particular concerns and the PCSO can be requested to attend the next meeting

8. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The chairman reported that the formal consultation period ends tomorrow. A number of issues have come to light but have only been forwarded to the PC by West Somerset today. Why is this so last minute? Why have west Somerset not raised these concerns during the 2016 when the PC have been in constant dialogue with them?

The examination is organised for two weeks' time and this does not allow the PC time to formulate and discuss a response. The chairman suggested suspending the process and postponing the planned examination in order to gain more time.

The chairman went on to state that he feels that West Somerset haven't fulfilled their obligations and is considering contacting the government minister to register a complaint. Councillors resolved for J Spicer to request the examination is postponed to give Stogumber PC more time to consider and respond to comments raised during the consultation.

CL and ATB left the meeting at this point

9. Playground

The parish council became trustees of the playground association in December. Playground Association meetings will now be held prior to each PC meeting with their own minutes

10. The Beacon Field

T Vesey to push Mr Criddle for a start date, enough money for phase 1 has been secured. The chairman reported that the application to the national lottery grants for all has been declined but thinks that it can be retrieved as they didn't appreciate that the precept was secured income.

C Bramall reported that an application for £775,000 has been sent to the lottery fund by the village hall committee regarding the building of a new village hall on the Beacon Field. An agreement with the pre-school and the village hall still has not yet been reached as a charge can't be agreed. CB is continuing to liaise between both parties

11. Finance

a) Payments to approve / amounts received

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| 1.Clerk's salary | £359.23 | |
| 2.HMRC (clerk's PAYE) | £89.80 | |
| 3.Clerk's expenses for Nov & Dec | £16.00 | 0 |
| 4.P Sawatzki & Son. Hedge trimming (inc £24 VAT) | £144.00 | |
| 5. Information Commissioner, data protection registration | £35.00 | |
| 6. C Moss, fuel for mower reimbursement (inc £9.99 VAT) | £60.00 | |

Bank Balances

Current account balance as at 30/11/16 is £12,599.85.

Reserve account balance as at 1/9/16 is £3,373.49

Total balance is £15,972.83, including earmarked funds

b) Any other financial matters

None

12. Budget for 2017-18 / Precept setting

The clerk had previously prepared and circulated a draft budget for 2017/18. It was unanimously agreed to maintain the precept at £19,000, as planned last year, to enable

funding of the proposed splay / car parking works on the Beacon Field
The chairman signed the precept request form

- 13. Planning**
a) application 3/31/16/017 on Whitmoor Farm, Willett Hill Cross to Thornbush Cross, Elworthy, TA4 3QD – planning meeting held
b) application 3/31/16/015 23 Oldway Stogumber – planning meeting held
- 14. Consider PCs response to the proposed formation of a new Council combining West Somerset and Taunton Deane**
This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting, concurrent with Cllr A Trollope-Bellew's report
The chairman reported that he and J Hull attended a meeting the previous evening where it was said that the new council, subject to review by the Boundary Commissioner, would probably to be formed of 53 seats, 14 to be 'old' West Somerset. 63% of councillors would be 'not Taunton' so as a group 'not Taunton' would not be overruled by an urban council. A T-B reported that Hinkley Point C rates would only be due when generating actually starts – when it does they will be allocated to a 'national fund' for redistribution rather than to the new combined council
Concerns were raised that all meetings would be held in Taunton, in the far SE of the new area- it would be fairer to circulate around. Additionally, it was hoped that, as the formation is being done to save money, that the existing buildings could be utilised to house the new council
Resolved that the clerk write in support of the formation of a new council but expressing the PCs hopes that the meetings would circulate meetings around the new district and that no new buildings would be commissioned
- 15. Highways - any issues to report**
a) The clerk reported that Highways have finally agreed that they will cut back the trees opposite the village hall
b) Pot holes by Escott turning have now been filled in, but not before a claim was settled for damage to a parishioner's car
c) JH reported pot holes near Haddon House, Old Way
d) MS reported that concrete had been washed out of the ford at Shute Street
- 16. Poor lighting at bus stop - Woolston Moor**
A parishioner had emailed the PC requesting help. The bus stop is unlit and there is no recognised footway, both causing a hazard for those getting off the bus in the dark evenings
Resolved to ask Highways (and cc Bicknoller PC as within their parish boundary) if there was a solution available
- 17. Village Signs**
Still in progress. The contractor had indicated that the identified site by Mill Cottage may not be the best as too dark. After consideration, the PC resolved to continue with the original sites agreed
- 18. Any other business by permission of the Chairman**
Fracking. The PC had been contacted by an anti-fracking group in response to exploratory licenses being granted. Although Stogumber was not in the area identified within the drilling boundary, fracking can extend underground by 10km so potentially could extend under the parish. Councillors had varying opinions on fracking but agreed, as lay people not enough was known about the process to pass comment either in support or against

The meeting closed at 10.03pm

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 9th March 2017 at Deane Close Common Room.

DRAFT