

Minutes, Stogumber Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 12th January 2023, at the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm
(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

Cllrs M Symes (Chairman), T Brick, J Foley, C Bramall, C Matravers, A White, T Vesey, N Browne, V Sellick
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
2 x members of the public
SC Cllr M Kravis (from agenda item 8)

Public speaking:

- A member of the public reported back on research regarding brown/village signs

Before the start of the meeting the council paid their respects to George Tuckfield, who had recently passed away. His time as a parish councillor was much appreciated and he will be missed by all who knew him.

District and County Councillor reports:

SC Cllr M Kravis gave his report (after agenda item 8 as arrived late):

- 18 proposed LCNs for executive committee to decide on 18th
- Night-time buses are starting again
- Any journey £2 single fair until end of March
- 10 weeks to vesting day.
- retention/recruitment issues. A lot of agency staff having are having to be used

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from SC Cllr C Lawrence

2. Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB & AW – Beacon Field (as neighbours)

3. Receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th November 2022

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 by the agenda items below None

5. Somerset Unitary

- The clerk reported that she had contacted all West Somerset parishes to pass on the information regarding the grant payments to Taunton parishes and to ensure that they are aware of the funding inequality. Those who have replied have thanked SPC and were unaware of these funding differences. It is understood from SC Cllr Kravis that the issue has now been escalated due to pressure from parishes on Their ward members
- The new logo has been launched

- The LCN boundaries (18 LCNs proposed) have been revised and are going to the executive committee for approval on 18th January

6. The Beacon Field:

a) Beacon repainting and securing

Ongoing- delayed due to poor weather

b) Footpath from the car park

A group of councillors have met with a surveyor – awaiting some plans to explore what may be possible within the topographical limitations of the field in relation to the road.

c) Replacement oak trees

MS reported that 3 x 6' oak trees would cost £120.

Councillors resolved to purchase as soon as possible. MS to arrange.

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

- TB reported that the dog poo issue appears to be resolving. There is still some being left but not as much as previously.
- Bags of tree / conifer clippings have been left in front of the white transit van parked in the car park
- Puddle in gateway between beacon field and neighbouring field. It was suggested to fill it in with spoil/type 1 in spring
- CB offered to approach the present tenant to see if wants the field again for 2023. If not, the PC would have to mow once a year (and collect away the cuttings to allow the wild flowers to thrive)

7. Highways / Footpaths

a) Previously reported matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

- the overgrowth on the path to the to the cricket pitch has been cut back by the path owner
- another large pot hole at top of Ashbeer, and the drains are overflowing
CM offered to log the issues on the Highways online portal

b) Raised footpath along Station Road

The fencing work has now been completed by Highways. At end of the path, wheelchairs find it difficult to come off ramp as the path needs levelling up. CM to report to Highways

c) Lighting along footpath through church yard

The clerk reported that the license applications (sec 171 minor works on a public highway, and application to change the surface of a public right of way) were submitted on 8th December with the anticipation that the work would take place in February. Still in progress, no authorisation as yet from Highways
Councillors resolved that the clerk to authorise the work to proceed as soon as the necessary permissions had been granted.

d) Tourism / Village facilities signs

Sign could potentially include the wording 'Stogumber local facilities' and associated pictures (teacup, knife and fork, bed and breakfast, train, picnic bench, shop)

Clerk to liaise with highways for up to date prices and layouts

e) Speed limits within the village

Councillors noted that too many signs would be required which would spoil the village. Resolved not to move this action forward

f) Request for grit bin

Resolved not to move this action forward

g) Any other matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

None

8. The Village Shop; the “Save our Shop” meeting

Monday 16th Jan @ 7.30pm at the village hall

It has been well publicised and some people have put in hard work behind the scenes to investigate possibilities for a community shop

PC supports and encourages any efforts to run a community shop but is unable to get involved

M Kravis joined the meeting at this point, 8.23pm and gave his report

9. Planning:

a) Previously reported planning concerns

None

b) Any other matters concerning planning

Planning site meeting on 14th January to consider application 3/31/22/012

10. Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation, 31.11.22

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 30.11.22, of £26,392.24. £7000 of this balance is held in reserved funds.

b) Consider grant to Stogumber Playground Association

No grant requested

c) Payments to approve

C Morrison-Jones	£651.87	Salary & expenses
HMRC	£72.20	PAYE
ICO	£40.00	Data commissioner registration
Payments to report made between meetings under delegated powers		
Cheque payments		
SCC	£90.00	Application to change footpath surface
SCC	£2544.47	Return of unspent biodiversity project grant
Debit card payments		
Microsoft	£59.99	365 subscription renewal
SCC	£232.00	s171
Amazon	£68.99	noticeboard for Capton

d) Amounts received

None

e) Consider and approve the 23/24 budget and precept

Councillors resolved to agree the presented budget

Councillors resolved to set the precept for 23-24 at £21,350. This will result in a rise of £6.40 per year for a band D household, an percentage increase of 10.85%

f) Consider changing the PCs banking provider

Councillors resolved that the clerk commence the account opening application process for Unity Trust bank with the view to closing both the PCs NatWest accounts

- g) Any other financial matters reported to the clerk prior to the meeting**
None

SC Cllr M Kravis and the two members of the public present left the meeting at this point

11. Parish noticeboard at Capton

A new notice board has been purchased and MS will install

12. Third party use of Parish Council property

It has been made clear to the PC that their liability insurance for organised events is only valid when the PC is the sole and only organiser of any event.

Councillors resolved that, if any organisation or individual wishes to use PC owned facilities for an event, express permission must be sought and be granted from the PC via the clerk. Permission will only be granted once the PC is in receipt of the organisers public liability insurance cover and appropriately completed risk assessments. The application for permission process must be completed not less than one month before the date of the event.

This information is to be circulated amongst village groups that use the PC facilities for events and an article placed in the Standard

13. Items of report and matters for the next meeting

None

14. To resolve that due to confidential nature of the item, agenda item 15 is to be considered in closed session with the exclusion of press and public

Councillors resolved to hold item 15 in closed session due to the personal nature of the matters to be discussed.

15. Re-evaluation of the clerk's role

Councillors resolved that the clerk be remunerated at SCP point 16, as of 1st January. 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.47

Minutes, Stogumber Playground Association Meeting
12th January 2023, commencing at 21.48 at the Village Hall
(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

Cllrs M Symes (Chairman), T Brick, J Foley, C Bramall, C Matravers, A White, T Vesey, N Browne, V Sellick
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

None

2. **To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 10th November 2022**
The minutes were approved by Members and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting
3. **Any matters arising from the minutes not covered below**
No
4. **Playground upkeep:**
a) **No dog signs**
The new signs have been put in place
b) **Any other matters concerning playground upkeep**
i) Annual playground inspection, received 12.1.23
As no urgent matters have been raised in the report. It was agreed to discuss it in depth at next meeting, but in the interim MS will speak to C Moss about the highlighted wooden repairs
ii) The man hole has filled with soil again
5. **Finance:**
a) **Payments to approve**
C Morrison-Jones £88.33 no dog signs x 3
b) **Amounts received**
None
c) **Approve bank reconciliation**
As there has been no financial movement within the account since the previous meeting the previously approved bank reconciliation dated 31.3.22 of £227.96 is still correct
6. **Any other business by permission of the Chairman**
None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.58