

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 12th June 2014

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman M Symes A Mills K Rew

J Leeming, Clerk

A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor)

4 members of the public

Item Topic.

Action

District Councillor's Report.

ATB reported that there has been a 1.9% increase in the West Somerset District share of the council tax. There has been saving with the joining up with Taunton Deane but money has still been taken from reserves to balance the budget. The joining up of officer teams is going well with the top three tiers of officers appointed. Extra-fast broadband is being rolled out. 25% of West Somerset are home workers so broadband is very important.

1. **Apologies.**

There were apologies from C Bramall, J Danson, V Sellick and C Matravers.

2. **Co-option of New Councillor.**

There was a unanimous vote to co-opt George Tuckfield as councillor to fill the recent vacancy.

3. **Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations.**

AM declared an interest in Item 7 The Beacon Field as a neighbour.

MS declared an interest in item 8e Internal Audit invoice as the internal auditor was a relation.

4. **Public comments, questions or suggestions.**

There were no comments, questions or suggestions from members of the public present, at the point.

5. **Acceptance of minutes of meetings.**

It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meeting held on 1/5/14 was a reasonable record of the meeting. These were signed by the chairman.

6. **The Beacon Field.**

a) Community Orchard.

G Ryan and J Hull reported on the progress of the proposed community orchard. A committee has been formed with a constitution. Plans of the proposed orchard were shown. After taking advice, the committee propose to plant approx. up to 28 mixed varieties of apple trees in the north west of the field near the gate with 8m between each tree. Trees will be protected by individual tree protectors. Sufficient space for access to the adjoining field will be left. The committee are applying for grants to fund the project and are also looking for people to sponsor trees. It is envisaged that planting would take place over a weekend in November, the grass let tenant would need to be asked to remove any sheep for the planting period.

The proposed orchard was agreed by council.

b) Insurance.

D Ilman did not get a definitive answer from the village hall insurance company regarding insuring the field for car parking. He has recommended JL contact their insurance company direct to discuss the requirements.

c) Splay at entrance to field.

Awaiting advice from SCC highways.

d) Potential site for school.

The governors have written to SPC thanking them for their offer of part of the field as a possible site for a new school and have invited JS to the next governors meeting to discuss it.

7. **Play Area and Proposed Bike Track.**

MM has handed over the finance and paperwork for the play area to JL. Once JL has looked through it she will organise a meeting with JS and L Tribe to see how SPC can assist with the play area going forward.

8. **Finance**

a) Audit.

The internal audit reported that the picnic benches should be added to the insurance policy. JL to action this.

The Annual Governance statements on the year end audit were read out and it was unanimously agreed that they were accurate and true. JL to forward the completed audit to the external auditors.

b) Clerks report and bank balances.

The current account has a balance of £4,912.96 of which £1,696.22 is being held for the Play Area bike track. The Reserve Account has a balance of £3,369.11.

c) Expenditure agreed was:

Clerk's salary and tax for June	£293.69
Magna invoice for hire of hall	£20.00
Internal Audit invoice	£48.00

9. Neighbourhood Plan.

2 planners have been approached to quote for preparing the planning document. A third is being sought to comply with financial regulations. A grant is being applied for to cover these costs. A Housing Needs survey will also be required, JS is having a meeting with Magna and a housing officer at WSC who may want to get involved in a survey.

10. Planning.

a) ABD/31/14/001 Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house, Higher Vexford Farm

JS and JL had a meeting with WSC planners on 12/6/14 a.m. to better understand the implications of the new Agricultural Building Permitted Development legislation and what parish councils could comment on. As the agent for the applicant has refused a site visit, it was agreed to hold a meeting on the highway where the proposed building could be viewed. The meeting to be arranged for Thursday 19th June at 8 p.m.

b) 3/31/14/007 Replace existing clay tiles with slates, 21 Oldway, Stogumber

A site meeting was held on 11/6/14 to consider the application. Those councillors present unanimously agreed to support the application. JL to write to WSC.

11. Highways.

Awaiting an update from SCC Highways regarding finger posts at Preston Lane and Hartrow. There are two potholes in Preston Lane and one on Ashbeer. Part of the side of the road between Stogumber and Kingswood has been washed away, JL to report to SCC.

12. Western Power Distribution Parish Council Pack.

Western Power Distribution have sent all parish councils an emergency pack as an example of what households could buy to prepare for possible power cuts. The pack includes a rechargeable radio, torch, and phone. It was agreed that this pack would be held at Central Stores.

13. Consultation on SCC funding cuts to AONB's.

SCC is consulting on a proposed to cut funding to AONB's from £45,000 to £5,000 in 2014/15. Although Stogumber is not in the AONB, it looks towards it and many residents use it. It was agreed that JL would respond to the consultation stating the scale of the cuts was excessive and the timescale too little to enable AONB's to plan.

14. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

SPC has been approached about the height of a conifer hedge and its impact on neighbours. JS to speak to the resident to see if the issue can be resolved.

D Lewes had given the church a 21 year option on part of her field for use as a replacement graveyard. TV and JS met with DL to discuss the option. DL has generously offered to transfer ownership of part of her field, approx. half an acre, behind Orchard View with access from the Beacon Field, to SPC to hold for future use as a graveyard. It is envisaged that a graveyard would not be required for a long time and who would run it would be discussed then. SPC agreed to accept the offer of land with a clause in the transfer that if the land were not to be used as graveyard then it be offered back to DL's beneficiaries. There was a vote of thanks

for DL's generous offer.
The meeting closed at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting will be on the 10th July 2014 at 7:30pm at Deane Close Common Room.