

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 12th March 2015

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman C Matravers V Sellick
M Symes J Hull G Tuckfield

J Leeming, Clerk

County Councillor C Lawrence, District Councillor A Trollope-Bellew,
N Evelyn Village Agent

| Item | Topic. | Action |
|------|---|--------|
| 1. | Apologies. There were apologies from J Danson, K Rew and C Bramall. | |
| 2. | Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations. MS declared a personal interest in item 14e and 11g. | |
| 3. | Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no members of the public present. | |
| 4. | Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 3/1/15, 11/1/15, 24/1/15, 14/2/15 & 28/2/15 were reasonable records of the meeting. MS queried the minutes of 8/1/15 regarding the NP but agreed to bring up his query when the next draft of the NP is considered. The minutes were signed by the chairman. JS initialled a correction to the minutes of 27/11/14 – members of the public attending amended from 7 to 27. | |
| 5. | District and County Councillors report. District Councillor. WSC have produced a balanced budget, council tax will increase by 5p / week for Band D properties. This is the first increase in 4 years and there has been no call on reserves. There is funding from the revenue account for the capital account to spend on repairs to buildings etc. Joint legal services have been agreed with Mendip. Taunton Deane and WSC. Joint building control services between Mendip, TD. WSC and Sedgemoor are being discussed. There are rumours regarding Hinkley Point but it is hoped a final decision will be made June/July. There is £91k funding from the Rivers Authority for WSC. ATB is now deputy leader of WSC. County Councillor. SCC have produced a balanced budget of £320m, majority of expenditure in Adult Social Care and Education. There is £54m for capital expenditure in schools. There is a new phone no. for SCC 0300 123 2224. The library review recommended that the mobile library would continue to call at the school and Carslake but not at Sawpitts Close. | |
| 6. | Police Report. JL read a report from the police. No reported crimes during the previous month. 11 calls to the police, 3 calls relating to 2 male teenagers messing about on the West Somerset Railway tracks and misusing a brick shed at a crossing. There has been damage to the bus stop at Woolston Moor / A358 and the police think the same individuals are responsible. A parent has been warned about parking on the zig-zag markings outside the school. The police have run a successful rural / farm watch recently in West Somerset resulting in arrests. | |
| 7. | Village Agent Update. N Evelyn has now been village agent for 2 years. Lottery funding will ensure the service will continue for the next 3 years. He needs help with introductions to people who could benefit from his service as he can't approach people himself. Several suggestions were made to him. | |
| 8 | Neighbourhood Plan update. The latest draft NP has been sent to WSC for comment and a meeting with them will take place in March to discuss any amendments WSC feel may be necessary. Any agreed amendments will be included in a draft to be signed off at the April meeting. If there is no Parish election then the NP will be published for the formal | |

consultation, if there is to be an election then the formal consultation will take place after May 7th. WSC can comment on the formal consultation after the election.

9. West Somerset Draft Local Plan.

JS has gone through the WS draft Local Plan. A lot of the issues SPC raised from the 1st draft have been picked up. The only item to respond to is how the number of dwellings has been calculated. For Stogumber village the 10% increase in dwellings over 20 years has been calculated as 10% of the total number of dwellings in the parish and not 10% of the total number of dwellings in the village. JS to respond to WSC. JS

10. The Beacon Field.

J Shorten has produced a drawing for the visibility splay. He will now produce a section drawing to enable SPC to apply for permitted development rights. Part of Butts Cottage land will be used for the visibility splay, as agreed on the deeds when the Beacon Field was purchased. SPC resolved to write to the residents of Butts Cottage to assure them that the land will remain in their ownership. A member of the public has enquired if a bin could be placed at the entrance of the Beacon Field, which could be used by dog owners. It was agreed that JL should contact WSC to see if the bin at the top of Slade Close could be moved and whether it was acceptable to use such a bin for bagged dog mess. JL
It was agreed that letters offering the grass let in the Beacon Field should be sent out with the let running from the middle of April to the end of December. Any tenant would be asked to top the grass before Gardens Open and the Music Festival.

11. Finance.

a) The current account balance as of 10/3/15 is £3,322.07. The reserve account balance is £3,370.64

b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed.

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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Clerk's salary and tax for February | £300.17 |
| Clerk's salary and tax for March | £300.17 |
| Magna invoice for room hire | £30.00 |

A cheque for £200 for the sale of the entitlement of The Beacon Field has been received.

c) It was agreed to carry forward the allocation of donations to the next meeting. JL
JL to enquire how much the grass cutting costs the PCC each month and whether C.L.O.W.N.S. still visit Stogumber.

d) It was agreed to appoint J Bryant as internal auditor.

12. Risk Assessment.

JL to arrange the annual review of the risk assessment with CB and CM before the financial year end. JL CB
CM

13. Election.

Nomination packs were handed out to councillors present.

14. Planning.

a) 3/31/15/001 proposed dwelling at 'Smokey Hole', Castlake Lane – refused

b) 3/31/15/002 revised application for proposed New Dwelling, Purseys, Wood Lane, Stogumber - granted

c) 3/31/15/002 amendments to previous application at Quantock View, Wood Lane, Stogumber - support if materials used for roofing changed

d) CA/31/14/001 works to Elder tree, The Old Rectory, Vellow Road – no objection from WSC

e) CA/31/15/001 fell willow tree, Oldway House, Oldway Road – no objection from WSC

f) ABD31/15/001 Barn at Lower Vexford Farm prior approval for change of use – support

15. Highways.

A member of public has raised concerns regarding parking of vehicles opposite the junction of Wood Lane and Slade Close. Large vehicles are having to mount CB

the kerb to negotiate the corner and are damaging the grass verge. It was agreed that CB would speak to the resident in the first instance regarding the parking. MS reported that the hedge at Quantock View is overhanging the road and when cars are parked outside the school it makes the road very narrow. JL to report this to Highways. JL

16. Street Cleaning.

WSC have asked for assistance in reviewing the street cleaning contract. SPC had responded to a similar request in 2011. JL to respond with a list of roads where sweeping should be limited, i.e. stretches of road where there is a curb. JL

17. Play Area.

JS raised concerns about the Play Area Committee not being active and unable to recruit new members. He suggested that the future of the play area be considered by the new council in May. JL to contact Fields in Trust for advice and discuss options with the remaining members of the play area committee. JL

Magna and SCC Highways have undertaken tests on the drains over the play area but cannot follow the flow of water. It was agreed that ditches lost in the play area should probably be re-instated but not until it was discovered where the water from such ditches would run. It was suggested that exploratory trenches at Zinch House could be dug to see whether the drains run freely across this ground and whether water from ditches could link to such drains. JS to contact the residents of Zinch House.

18. Sand Bags.

JL has contacted WSC re their letter offering sand bags but had no response. ATB stated that WSC want to hand out empty sand bags for storage locally. GT to contact his neighbours to see if any are willing to store sandbags and in what quantity. GT

19. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

JL reported that she has had a request from Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit for emergency community contact details. JS to enquire of members of the public if they would be willing to act as emergency contacts. JS

JL reported that she had received a water bill for the tough on the Beacon Field which was considerably larger than usual. JL and CB to investigate if there is a leak. JL CB

The meeting closed at 9:30. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 16th April 2015 at Deane Close Common Room.