

Minutes, Stogumber Annual Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2022, commencing at 7. 40 pm

Held at Stogumber Village Hall

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

Cllrs M Symes (Chairman), C Bramall, T Brick, A White, V Sellick, R Foster, T Vesey

Cllr J Foley (from agenda item 6)

C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

1 x member of the public

SCC Cllr C Lawrence. SWT Cllr S Griffiths

Cllrs C Bramall, M Symes, T Brick, A White, V Sellick, R Foster and T Vesey signed their Acceptance of Office forms prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Matravers, as he could not be present that evening, had signed his Acceptance of Office Form prior to the meeting.

Public speaking:

- The rooks are a nuisance in the village. Can the PC control them? The clerk advised that this was not within the powers held by the Parish Council.
Cllr Sellick advised that, even if granted a license, shooting would not be safely achievable in a village situation. The Council advised the parishioner to contact DEFRA, the NFU and the CLA for further advice

The Member of the public left the meeting at this point

SC Cllr C Lawrence report:

M Kravis & C Lawrence are now SCC Cllrs for the new unitary.

The Liberal Democrats are now the majority party. Therefore, the One Somerset plan, agreed by central government - written by the Conservatives - now must be delivered by the Liberal Democrats.

Area Panel meetings will be vital (expected to be approx. 20 area panels across Somerset) otherwise areas of Somerset will feel left out and disjointed.

SPC Cllrs congratulated Christine Lawrence on her election and expressed their delight that she would still be representing them in the transition to a unitary.

SWT Cllr S Griffiths report:

This is now the last year of SWT; it ceases to exist as of 1st April 2023, so the focus is on ensuring a smooth transition to Unitary.

SWT Cllr S Griffiths left the meeting after his report

1) Election of Chairman and receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The appointment of M Symes was proposed by A White and seconded by V Sellick. There were no other nominations. All were in favour; the Chairman signed the

Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked C Bramall for all his work as the previous Chairman.

2) Election of Vice Chairman and receive the Vice Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllrs resolved not to appoint a vice chair at this meeting.

3) Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr C Matravers and SWT Cllr M Kravis

4) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB & AW – Beacon Field as neighbours

5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10/3/22 and 2/4/22

The minutes were approved by Members and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meetings.

6) Councillor co-option

Councillors unanimously resolved to co-opt Jeremy Foley to the Parish Council and he signed his Acceptance of Office form and joined the meeting.

7) Any matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

8) The Beacon Field: Any matters concerning the Beacon Field or car park

Footpath from car park to school. This suggested project had previously been raised with Highways (as the last part of any pathway would involve interaction with the road) but the impetus appears to have been lost. The clerk was requested to re-engage with Highways to progress plans being drawn up

SCC Cllr C Lawrence & Cllr R Foster left the meeting at this point

9) Climate Emergency Fund – the biodiversity project

- i) CB reported that hopefully the gates will be installed to complete the fencing works associated with the project
- ii) The information board has now been printed and the supporting frame is in the process of being made
- iii) As the biodiversity planting and fencing and the new outdoor hub encroach into the available grazing and make it more difficult to manage with large machinery, Cllrs resolved to reduce the annual rent for the Beacon Field to £200.

10) Highways / Footpaths

a) previously reported matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

- i) There is a large pot hole in Vellow Road, just before the Escott turning.
- ii) The pull in areas along the top of Ashbeer to Hartrow are in poor condition.

- iii) Road defects can be reported online to Highways; a system that allows the location of a defect to be specifically logged, together with any supporting information such as photographs. This system can be accessed by members of the public as well as Councillors and gives the opportunity for feedback to be received from Highways in regard to any repairs made. Councillors were encouraged to log faults on line in the future as they were noted rather than wait until a meeting to highlight an issue.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>

b) raised footpath along Station Road

MS reported that it is anticipated that the agreed repairs to the inside fencing will take place in early June.

c) any other matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

It was noted that some work had been carried out hedge overhanging Station Road but the holly is still overhanging and could cause issues with high sided vehicles.

11) Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

A good community effort has been made by Stogumber and it is hoped that it will be an excellent time of celebration in the village.

12) New Item of Playground Equipment: Fundraising update

Funds raised via grant applications so far totals £1250, together with an additional sum of between £500 and £1500 from Tescos (in store voting at the Minehead store closes at the end of June).

Still awaiting decisions from grant applications made to the National Lottery and Somerset Community Foundation

TV suggested that he could approach CRASH regarding a donation.

13) Planning:

a) Any current planning concerns

None

b) Previously reported planning concerns

None

c) Any other matters concerning planning

None

Cllr A White left the meeting at this point

14) Finance

a) To approve year end bank reconciliation, 31.3.22

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 31.3.22, of £34,435.49.

£6,565.65 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Consider Insurance renewal 1st June 2022

The PC is currently insured with Aviva, via BHIB Insurance Brokers. 2022/23 represents the last year of the three-year long-term agreement that the PC entered into with BHIB. The renewal premium is £229.47 for 2022/23 and councillors resolved to accept the renewal premium

c) Consider paying for clerk's annual SLCC membership

Councillors resolved to reimburse the clerk for the relevant proportion of the clerk's annual SLCC membership

d) Payments to approve

Cheque payments

D Valero	nestbox installation (bio diversity project)	£320.00
Design Hive, 1st installment	information board (bio diversity project)	£271.80
Design Hive, 2nd installment	information board (bio diversity project)	£271.80
C Morrison-Jones	Salary, April 22 & May 22, backpay and expenses	£746.72
HMRC	PAYE	£74.80
BHIB	insurance	£229.47
The Hawk and Owl Trust	owl box, biodiversity project	£100.00
Katriona Smith	internal audit fee	£30.00
Design Hive, 3rd instalment	information board, bio diversity project	£362.40

Debit card payments

Water2business	Beacon Field water	£15.98
----------------	--------------------	--------

Direct Debit payments:

PWLB	Beacon Field loan repayment	£3223.02
------	-----------------------------	----------

e) Amounts received

14.4.22	The Community Orchard Group	donation towards information board	£240.00
14.4.22	SWT	1st half of precept	£9,500.00

f) Any other financial matters

None

15) Consider Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor, Mrs K Smith, had carried out the internal audit and found the internal audit control arrangements to be satisfactory. Accordingly, the Internal Auditor had signed-off Page 4 of the Annual Return without qualification.

16) Annual Return – approve Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement

Members agreed that replies to Questions 1 to 9 all be “Yes”.

The page was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk

17) Annual Return – approve Section 2, the Accounting Statement

The clerk explained to the Council that the expenditure figures on the section for the year 20/21 were marked ‘restated’ as box 4 had been adjusted to reflect staff payroll costs only. Consequently box 6, all other payments, had also been ‘restated’ to accommodate the changes to box 4.

The Council considered the information prepared and signed by the Clerk that had been previously circulated. The statement was approved by the Council, and signed by the Chairman

18) Agree the dates of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights

Councillors resolved that the dates for the Period of the Exercise of Public rights would be those advised by the external auditors PKF Littlejohn; commencing on 13th June 2022 and ending on 22nd July 2022

19) Consider adoption of the LGA Code of Conduct

Councillors had previously received a draft of the new Code of Conduct and resolved to adopt the LGA Code of Conduct with no amendments made.

20) Meeting dates for 22/23

Councillors resolved that the following meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30pm, on the following dates:

Thursday 14th July 2022
Thursday 8th September 2022
Thursday 10th November 2022
Thursday 12th January 2023
Thursday 9th March 2023

21) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

- Lights through churchyard. The church warden supports the installation of lighting along the path. The clerk was requested to contact the lighting team at SCC to ask for a quotation
- The streetlight on Station Road at the end of Slade Close (outside number 4) is still flashing on and off. Clerk to resume enquiries with Magna as to responsibility.
- TB reported that the cricket club have purchased a defibrillator. It currently is in the club house, so only available when the club house is unlocked, but will soon be located externally and available for public use at all times.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.45

Minutes, Stogumber Play Ground Association Meeting

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Thursday 12th May 2022, commencing at 21.45 pm
Held at Stogumber Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs C Bramall, M Symes, T Brick, V Sellick, T Vesey, J Foley
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

Public speaking:

None

1) To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllrs C Matravers, A White and R Foster

2) To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 10th March 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

None

4) Playground upkeep:

a) New piece of equipment

The fundraising progress for the new piece of equipment was covered at the earlier PC meeting.

b) Any other matters concerning playground upkeep

- i) weeds and brambles growing in the area. Clerk was requested to chase up the weedkilling contractor
- ii) basket ball hoop is slightly bent down
- iii) bolts on back of goal posts showing some signs of corrosion.
- iv) need more wood chippings
- v) a new weekly schedule inspection rota needs to be drawn up to reflect the changes in the council. MS offered to do this

5) Finance:

a) Payments to approve

None

b) Amounts received

None

c) Approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the year end bank reconciliation, dated 31.3.22 of £227.96

6) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.53