

# Stogumber Parish Council.

Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The meeting started at 19:30

## Present

Councillors J. Spicer, Chairman, C Bramall, Tracey Brick, M Symes, G Tuckfield, T Vesey, V Sellick, C Matravers, J Hull. C Morrison-Jones, Clerk

District Councillor: A Trollope-Bellew. County Councillor C Lawrence

Ron Sharpe and four other members of the public

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	<b>Apologies.</b> All councillors present	
2.	<b>Appointment of new clerk and approval of contract of employment</b> JS introduce the new clerk and explained contract was based on standard SALC template with a travel allowance of £16 per visit to Stogumber. Some changes to working practice proposed to save council expenditure-clerk not having to attend planning meetings and council members to place noticed on boards prior to meetings. CB proposed, MS seconded and all voted in favour.	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations</b> CB – declared interest in Beacon Field as lives opposite	
4.	<b>Public Comments, Questions or Suggestions</b> None	
5.	<b>Defibrillator</b> Prior to the Parish Council meeting an informal meeting, hosted by Kim Davey from the ambulance service, and attended by 17 people was held to explore the feasibility of a defibrillator within the village. Various options were put forward a) A 4 year hire package via the NHS trust at a cost of £2,000 + VAT. This option would be dependent on an assessment of viability by the Trust and covers an unlocked, heated cabinet, defibrillator, rescue pack, pads, battery and awareness training. b) Via the British Heart Foundation. A grant from the BHF would halve the cost of the Trust package c) Via AED Locator – this company can supply locked cabinets, either coded (£2,000 + VAT, inc defibrillator) or SIM released (£3,500 + VAT, inc defibrillator). d) Buy defibrillator, cabinets etc as independent units and compile village's own 'package' Defibrillators can only be used if the victim is in a shockable rhythm (75% success rate in this case), not in all cases of heart failure. CPR is still the most vital tool in the case of total cardiac failure. It was agreed that J Hull would form a working party to investigate the possibilities further.	JH
6.	<b>Playground Management</b> Currently the playground is managed by an independent charity which sub-leases the ground from Fields In Trust, who in turn lease from Magna. The charity is no longer active and does not fulfil its statutory requirements regarding number of trustees, regular inspections and maintenance. It is currently unclear if insurance is held, but it is expected that it is probably invalid due to poor maintenance of structures. Following a recent Inspection the wooden structure was classed as 'High Risk' (and has since been cordoned off) and other areas were highlighted as needing repairs and refurbishment.	

It was suggested that the Parish Council takes over the finances and organisation of the playground and work with residents (personal costs to be reimbursed) to maintain and improve the facilities. The playground holds approximately £5,000 and the Parish Council holds approx £780 earmarked for playground upkeep.

Resolution 1 – proposed by CB, seconded by CM – agreed by all.

To start work on the plans outlined, as if the Parish Council is taking over responsibility for the overall management of the playground.

JS /  
CMJ

Resolution 2 - proposed, seconded and agreed by all.

A small group (CB, TV and some residents) to start assessing playground structures regarding repair / replacement

CB/TV

TB raised the question as to who was responsible for emptying the waste bins at the playground as it is not clear if they are being regularly cleared. JS explained that Somerset Waste Partnership was responsible for the bin at the edge of the playground (as it comprised one of the three bins that the village was entitled to without extra charges). The bin situated in the middle of the playground could possibly be emptied by residents or removed? – a point for discussion at later date? Clerk to contact SWP to confirm that the bin at the edge of the playground is being emptied weekly.

CMJ

## 7. Police Report

No police presence and no report provided

## 8. District and County Councillor Reports

**County** : Finances are under pressure, especially for adult social care and childrens' services. This will mean that it is unlikely that CC will fund the replacement of metal sign posts around the village. Christine suggested joining Exmoor in a bid to EDF for a grant. Christine agreed to obtain the grid references for all signs in Stogumber to enable PC to conduct a survey on condition. The Health & Wellbeing Fund will hopefully award a grant to the Stogumber Community Lunch project.

11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016 is the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and it is hoped, to compliment the Patron's Party on the Mall in London, that communities will host local celebrations. Christine discussed the possibility of applying to the Health & Wellbeing Fund for CPR training for the village.

**District** : China has signed to commit 1/3 of the funding (EDF to provide 2/3) towards Hinkley Point C. Final decisions regarding the go ahead are expected early next year.

WSDC are having to cut budget – huge savings needed.

## 9. The Beacon Field

a) A long reach hedge trimmer will be cutting back hedges soon.

b) Clerk to seek interested parties re the grass let for 1<sup>st</sup> Feb-31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2016, requesting that the grass is topped/eaten down before both the garden weekend and the music festival. It is anticipated to commence work on the splay / car park next year – approx ½ acre of grazing will be unavailable during that period.

CMJ

c) At a pre-application meeting held 2 weeks ago the final plans for the application were discussed. As yet the surface for the car park is unconfirmed but it was agreed to apply for hardcore and amend application at a later date if necessary. MS proposed, CM seconded – all agreed.

CB/  
CMJ

Approval for planning fee passed 10/9/15, item 12c (max £300). Applicant, Stogumber Parish Council, agent Claire Morrison-Jones, Clerk.

To seek 3 quotes for 3 options in anticipation of approval being granted

Option1 - splay construction only

Option 2 - splay and tarmac area construction

Option 3 - splay, tarmac and top car parking area construction

CB /  
TV

**10. Neighbourhood Plan Update**

James Shorten, planning consultant, attended for this agenda item. Draft has been amended in light of the public consultation in Jan-April and the WSDC discussions and correspondence over the Summer and Autumn. Changes made involve the policy regarding the ratio of affordable houses / new builds and the policy regarding the retaining of hedgerow when approving building works. In addition additional maps have been inserted showing the location of listed buildings within the village. It is now anticipated that the documents will be ready to go forward to formal public consultation.

JS

Proposed to proceed by CB, seconded by CM – all voted in favour of approving the revised draft and moving forward to consultation

**11. Option for land for new graveyard**

The option on the land being offered for a new graveyard for the next 20 years will cost approx £700 in legal fees. CRASH have agreed to pay £250 towards this. CB proposed to take this option, MS seconded – 8 voted in favour, 1 abstained

JS

**12. Acceptance of minutes of meetings**

It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 10/9/15 and 24/10/15 were a reasonable record of the meetings. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

**13. Finance**

- a) The second part of the precept has been received and the current account balance as of 1/10/15 is £10,799.60, this includes the play area funds and the NP grant. The reserve account balance as of 1/9/15 is £3,371.48
- b) It was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved that the authorised signatories in the current bank mandate be changed to remove Kim Rew and Jan Leeming and add Claire Morrison-Jones. The relevant bank mandate form and accompanying letter were signed by JS and CB. Clerk to present documents to NatWest and action the agreed changes.
- c) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:
  - Clerks gross salary (October and November) £328.07 (total amount split over 2 cheques between clerk and HMRC for clerk's PAYE)
  - Jan Leeming, £95.63, additional hours since resigning as clerk
  - Wessex Water, £29.60, water at Beacon Field
  - Staddons Architectural Services, £270, Beacon field map fees
  - University of West of England, £79, Local Plan printing
  - =Total cheques approved £802.03

CMJ

**14. Planning updates**

- a) 3/31/15/009 agricultural track (retrospective) Whitmore Lane - granted.
- b) 3/31/15/010 new build in garden of Quantock View – application supported
- c) High hedges – the situation has now been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.
- d) 3/31/15/011 – extension at 23, Lower Vellow – site meeting to be held on 14/11/15 at 11am.

**15. Highways**

- a) MS raised the issue of the overhanging hedge opposite the school. Clerk will write to Magna asking for the hedge to be trimmed back. If no response then the issue will be escalated to WSDC highways department.
- b) Rubble at Donniford Brook – MS confirmed that there is a licence held to place rubble there so the Parish Council will not get further involved.

CMJ

- c) Flooding at Zinch House – SCC flood risk manager, in conjunction with Wessex Water, has concluded that it is currently insufficient and the problems were probably caused when Waver Dene was built. Wessex Water will not adopt the drain whilst it is insufficient. It is hoped that the new ditch dug in the playing field will help alleviate the situation.

**16. SALC Training Dates**

It was agreed that the clerk could apply for SALC training courses in 2016

**17. Any Other Business.**

There was a request for the Parish Council to contact WSDC regarding the state of play with the adoption of Archers Grove and Wood Lane. JS

GT stated he is no longer able to attend the West Somerset Flood Group meetings, would anybody else be able to go. It was agreed to advertise in the Standard as the representative doesn't have to be a Councillor.

MS/GT – is there any progress on the flooding at Bridge Street. MS agreed to spray / remove the weeds along the bank. MS

The meeting closed at 21.38 p.m. The next meeting will be at 19:30 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at Deane Close Common Room.