

Stogumber Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room at 19.30 on January 13th 2010

1. Present

J. Spicer, Chairman	C. Bramall	D. Criddle
K. Rew	V. Sellick	M. Symes
T. Thomas	A. Weir, Clerk	

2. Apologies

C. Matravers	J. Merrick
T. Taylor, District Councillor	A. Trollope-Bellew, County Councillor
D. Rowe, PCSO.	

3. Minutes of meeting held on November 19th 2009

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman

4. Public comments, questions or suggestions

There were no members of the public present.

5. Finance

5a Precept: it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the precept should remain at £3000, three thousand pounds. It was noted and agreed that the precept would not cover expected expenditure (nor any extraordinary items) and therefore the Council's reserves would be eroded.

5b. Donations: it was proposed, seconded and agreed that we would this year donate to:
 CLOWNS £25
 Air Ambulance £25
 St Mary's Church, Stogumber £100 towards the cost of grass-cutting.

5c Clerk's pay: the Council will consider whether the Clerk's pay should be increased.

5d Audit: the Clerk reported to the Council that the it had been selected as one of the 5% of councils whose audit systems would be examined. We have been advised to more clearly minute and record all decisions, and especially those regarding payments.

5e Payments: the following payments were proposed seconded and agreed:
 Hire of Common Room for meetings (Sept, Nov and Jan at £12 each) £36
 Hedge cutting on Station Road (path to Cricket Club) £23.00
 Clerk's pay (Sep 10th to Dec19th) £707.62

5f Signatures: it was agreed that the following new signatories should be arranged for cheques: CB, MS and JS and KR remaining. CM and JM to be removed. **Action AW**

5g Future payments: it was agreed that the payment for the hand rail on the slipway in Station Road (see below) would come from the reserves, and that both the Chairman and the Clerk could go to the SALC briefing on new model Standing Orders on February 16th at £15 each.

6. Insurance

Clerk to speak to the Council's insurers to confirm that our public liability insurance would cover the new hand rail on the slipway on Station Road (see below). **Action AW**

7. S106

Ian Timms of West Somerset Council has emailed JS to say that the £18,000 S106 money expected on the sale of the fifth house in Archer's Close will be forthcoming despite Gadd's financial difficulties, because the money is due under the terms of the planning permission. The Parish Council was not entirely confident of this, but will wait until the sale of the fifth house has been agreed, by which time Gadd's position may be clearer.

8. Occasional transport

A new voluntary car lift service is being set up for Stogumber, as Crowcombe Cars are no longer able to extend their service to Stogumber. The Parish Council gave its thanks and congratulations to DC for the progress of this project.

9. Frequency of Parish Council meetings

It was agreed that the frequency of meetings should remain at one every two months.

10. Planning

It was proposed seconded and agreed that following a site meeting, the Clerk or a Councillor who had attended would draft recommendations to the planning authority (WSC or Exmoor National Park Authority) and circulate this to the Councillors who had attended the site meeting and that the approval of at least two Councillors (including if applicable the Councillor who drafted the recommendations) was necessary before the Clerk sends the recommendations.

Note: the Chairman understood the above to mean that the approval of two Councillors was necessary provided that no Councillors* objected to the draft, but that if any Councillors* did object to the draft then a majority of Councillors* would be required to approve the draft (* who had attended the site meeting). This matter to be put on the agenda for clarification at the next meeting. Action AW*

10a Ref: 03/31/09/18: internal alterations to first floor en-suite bathroom at James Barton. It was proposed seconded and agreed that a site meeting was not necessary because the alterations affect only modern internal partitions, and that the photographs and plans supplied with the application enabled the Parish Council to conclude that it had no objections to the application. Clerk to write to WSC. **Action AW**

10b Ref 03/31/09/019: erection of replacement dwelling with revisions to windows and uncovered outdoor swimming pool + removal of condition 2 to allow use of cement render and condition 3 to reinstate permitted development rights on application 3/31/08/018 at Ashway, Stogumber. A site meeting was held on Saturday 9th January, following which JS drafted recommendations. These were that the Council had no objection to swimming pool, replacement windows and changes to render material, but strongly objected to re-instatement of permitted development rights, on the grounds that subsequent owners may exploit the scope within permitted development rights to make changes that could have a significant impact. At this Council meeting (13 January 2010) this draft was approved.

Action AW

10c Ref: 03/31/09/020: single storey extension to front of existing property at 8, Sawpits Close. A site meeting was held on Saturday 9th January when it was agreed that the Council had no objections. **Action AW**

10d Ref. 03/31/09/016: installation of close-boarded gates at Lings Cottage, 7 Brook Street has been approved by WSC.

11 District Council report

TTaylor was not able to attend this meeting but sent a most helpful written report which was read to the meeting. Key points from this were:

It is extremely likely that the ward of Crowcombe and Stogumber will remain and will continue have one district councillor.

Hinkley Point. EDF is proposing building accommodation for 200 workers and a park-and-ride in Williton.

WSC finances are still weak and its component of the Council Tax may therefore be increased by 4-5%.

There should be £1000 S106 money available for investment in recreation facilities in Stogumber, when Ashbeer Barn Building is started.

12 County Council Report

ATB was unable to attend this meeting but sent a report by email which included the following points:

Central Government has taken control of County Council's salt grit reserves, so gritting secondary roads may no longer be possible.

There will be no increase in the County component of the Council Tax, thereby honouring an election pledge. There may be increases in the Police Authority and Fire and Rescue Service components.

Hinkley Point is taking a lot of County Council time.

13. Salt Bins

The new salt bins (purchase of which was approved at a previous meeting) will be positioned:

- a) At the corner of Hall Farm Drive and the new Hall Farm Barn footpath, as agreed between MS and Rob Hayes.
- b) On Station Road opposite the top of Pickpurse Lane, as agreed between CB and landowners Trevor and Lisa Simpson of Perceys, Wood Lane.

Suppliers and prices of bins are being researched by TThomas. **Action TThomas**

14. Publishing Parish Council's Meetings' Agendas and Minutes.

It was proposed seconded and agreed that these should be published in the Parish website maintained by John Leech.

15. Further publications and correspondence

Further publications and correspondence of general interest will be placed in the Church for anyone to look at.

16. Student bus passes

This matter to be carried-forward to the next meeting as ATB was not present to respond to the Parish Council's continued concerns about the high cost (c£500) to Stogumber children of travelling by bus to college to pursue their education.

17. Telephone box.

Clerk to confirm with BT the Parish Council's understanding that the telephone box can only be adopted *in situ* by the Parish Council, and that the box could not be purchased and removed by a private individual for this sum. **Action AW**

18. Trees from the School and improvements to the Village Hall Field

The School has decided that the sapling (which are very small) will be grown-on in pots, before being planted along the bottom of the Village Hall Field as agreed by the Village Hall Committee and the Churchwarden (DC).

Josh Wedderkopp (a teacher at the School) has contacted JS to say that the School wished to make some improvements at their end of the field: planting some fruit trees, making a vegetable garden and erecting a shelter. It was agreed that a small informal committee be created to investigate the proposal, comprising JS, DC (for the Church), KR (for the Village Hall Committee) and Josh Wedderkopp. *Action JS, DC and KR*

19. Waste bin outside the Village Hall

Suppliers and prices of bins are being researched by TThomas. *Action TThomas*

20 Disabled toilet

Clerk to investigate sources of funding and grants: it was suggested he should contact Kevin Chittenden of Crowcombe Parish Council for ideas. *Action AW*

21 New footpath Station Road

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Council should place an order with Phil Farmer to install the handrail on the slipway according to the quotation he gave for wooden posts with two metal rails at £1170 plus VAT. *Action AW*

JS reported that Peter Radford of Somerset County Council has undertaken to ensure that the fencing on roadside of the new Hall Farm Barn footpath will be extended towards the Village Hall, and that the gradient of the path between the electricity post and the Church gate will be reduced.

22, Bus Shelter by Archer's Close

Now that it appears that (all or parts of) Gadds may not be in administration, JS will remind them about their intention to put a roof on the shelter.

23. Letter concerning cats fouling gardens and paths

A letter (from three households in the centre of the village) was sent to the Stogumber Standard and copied to the Parish Council, complaining in strong terms about cats fouling gardens and paths. KR (an editor of the Standard) reported that the editors had decided not to publish the letter because it was likely to cause disharmony in the village and because some of the assertions in the letter were thought to be legally incorrect. Instead, a more moderate article will be published. As the letter had only been copied to the Parish Council, the Council decided to take no action at this stage, in the hope that feelings would subside with the publication of the article.

24. Somerset Waste Action

The information received by the Council will be placed in the Church.

25. Exmoor Association of Parish Councils Meeting

The next meeting will be at Exmoor House, Dulverton on Thursday 25th February at 18.30.

26. Deane Close notice board

This notice board can only be accessed by a key, so the Clerk will give to the key-holder any notices likely to be suitable for the notice board, so the key-holder can decide what to put up.

Action AW

- 27. Local plan: possibility of new housing development in Stogumber**
West Somerset Council published in 'West Somerset Matters' November edition (inserted in the Free Press) a map indicating that one (of three options) would designate Stogumber for new housing development. Formal consultation has not yet started but JS asked Councillors to give the matter some thought in preparation for the consultation exercise when it takes place. *Action ALL*
- 28 Items of Interest to Councillors and Clerks – SALC Information**
This included Model Standing Orders, Code of Conduct for Parish & Town Council Members, Hinkley Point, and several more topics.
- 29 West Somerset Local Action for Rural Communities.**
Details will be placed in the Church.
- 30. Next Meeting.**
This will be on Wednesday 10th March ,starting with the Annual Parish Meeting at 19.00.