

Stogumber Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on
13th July 2017.

The meeting started at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

C. Bramall (Chair), M. Symes, V. Sellick, G. Tuckfield, T. Vesey, C. Matravers, T Brick,
A White (after agenda item 8)
C Morrison-Jones, Clerk
C Lawrence (County Councillor),
18 x member of the public

1) To receive any apologies of absence

A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor)

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB- Beacon Field, as a neighbour

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None, other than those made about items 7 and 9

4) District and County Councillor reports

C Lawrence reported that she was no longer Chairman of the Council, a role that she had filled for 2 yrs. Now she is Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing, a role that focusses on public health. She reported that the 'give up smoking' campaign has been particularly effective, especially in stopping young people taking up smoking

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

Mostyn Symes was proposed and seconded to become Vice-Chairman. All were in favour and the Vice-Chairman signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office

6) Co-option of new Members to fill two casual vacancies on the council

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council following the resignations of Julian Spicer and Joe Hull. WSDC have been advised of the casual vacancies and the statutory notices displayed. No call for election has been received therefore the Parish Council is free to fill the vacancies by co-option.

Four parishioners had put their names forward for consideration for co-option. Following a vote by councillors, Alison White and Gemma Rexworthy were invited to join the Parish Council.

Alison White signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and joined the Council for the remainder off the meeting

Gemma Rexworthy was not present at the meeting; councillors resolved to co-opt her in her absence. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office is to be signed prior to GR joining councillors at the next meeting.

7) Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 11/5/17 plus the extra-ordinary meeting held on 31/5/17

Councillors agreed that these minutes represented a true record of the two meetings and they were signed by the Chairman.

Members of the public present raised issue with the statement made by the Chairman at the APCM regarding the political nature of the meeting. Whilst CB confirmed that the minutes represented a true record of his statement at the APCM on 11th May, he apologised for his use of the word political in his description of the fracking meeting and said that he wished to apologise and withdraw his reference to the meeting being political.

8) Matters arising from the minutes

None

9) Fracking

The Parish Council was presented with a petition, with 150 signatories, calling on the Council to resolve that it wishes Stogumber Parish to be a frack-free zone.

Many members of the public present expressed their concerns regarding fracking and explained that 82% of those approached with the petition decided to sign it in support of a frack-free Stogumber.

CB observed that the parish council has no powers to enforce any frack-free zone; it is a decision taken at national level. Members of the public explained that they believed declaring Stogumber a frack free zone would be physiologically a huge positive statement of solidarity with other areas that have already made the commitment. It was hoped that if enough parish councils join in declaring themselves as frack-free, then maybe it could have an effect on national policy.

Graeme Ryan was nominated as the contact person for the group to enable further liaison with the parish council

Councillors acknowledged that approximately 25% of electorate have taken time to sign the petition and a large number of people have attended tonight to show strength of feeling.

It was resolved to accept the petition as presented, with the promise to take a decision on the matter at the September parish council meeting.

In the interim, the parish council would seek advice from SALC and WSDC on the most appropriate way to utilise the petition.

SCC Cllr C Lawrence and all members of the public left the meeting at this point

10) Neighbourhood Plan

a) Consider map showing current extent of development

A map had been previously circulated to councillors outlining the current extent of development. CB explained the thought processes involved in defining the area included in the current extent of development. Councillors resolved to accept the map as presented. The map would now be sent to WSDC for their approval

b) Update on other matters regarding the Neighbourhood Plan

The NP has now been drafted by WSDC, on behalf of Stogumber, taking into account the examiner's report and advice.

Councillors discussed the merits of the adjusted plan and it was agreed that time was needed to fully compare the final draft with the original plan before coming to any final decisions.

It was resolved to call an extra-ordinary meeting on 27th July to discuss this. Anne Rhodes (WSDC) had offered to attend a future meeting to explain WSDC stance on the NP; this was felt to be most useful and councillors asked that she be invited to attend on the 27th July

11) The Beacon Field

a) Update on works

Work on the splay is now complete. Considerable praise has been received for the work that has been done. CB reported that he had submitted an article to the Stogumber Standard, outlining what had been achieved so far and that phases 2 (surfacing the car parking area) & 3 (fencing off the field from the car park area) are to follow as soon as funding is in place. The completion of phases 2 & 3 would enable the car park to be available at all times, rather than the current situation where it can be used for specific events only.

b) Finance / Fundraising update

£250 has been received from Stogumber Open Gardens towards phase 2, with another £750 donation promised for next year.

c) Consider request from the School and Stogumber Festival for parking

Requests have been received to use the Beacon Field for parking from the School & Fayre on this Saturday (4th & 21st July) and the Stogumber Festival (2nd & 8th September). In addition, Mrs Sherren's memorial service on 22nd Sept was expected to generate a significant number of vehicles. Councillors resolved to allow the field to be used for all these occasions. Additionally, the school had raised the question as to when the field would be available on a daily basis to enable pick up / drop offs to be carried out off the road. As explained in point 11 a), unrestricted parking would be possible when phases 2 & 3 have been completed. Concerns were raised by councillors that car park could be used as permanent parking rather than school drop off when works have been finished. The clerk also drew to the attention of councillors the potential issue of travellers settling in the field if the gate were to be left open 24/7. These are concerns that will need further consideration before allowing unrestricted vehicle access to the field.

d) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field

None

12) Playground

This will be covered at the meeting of the Playground Association, to be held directly after the parish council meeting.

13) Employment matters

The clerk's appraisal had not yet been carried out. CM tasked with organising this, to be discussed at the September meeting

14) Finance

a) Payments to approve

C Morrison-Jones	Salary	£547.34
HMRC	PAYE contribution	£22.40
C Morrison-Jones	Expenses & reimbursements	£33.72
SALC	Membership renewal	£181.10

b) Amounts received

6.6.17	WS DC	s106 money for Beacon Field splay	£1,000.00
2.6.17	CRASH	loan for splay construction	£5,000.00
29.6.17	Stogumber Festival	donation for car park	£500.00
4.7.17	HMRC	VAT reclaim 1.4.16-31.5.17	£3,279.34

c) Approve bank reconciliation

Current account balance as at 31/5/17 is £18,673.65.

Reserve account balance as at 31/5/17 is £3,373.67

Allowing for unpresented cheques totalling £16,664.67, total balance, as of 3.5.17, is £5,382.14, including earmarked funds

d) Any other financial matters notified to the clerk in advance of the meeting

The clerk reported that the Annual Return and associated papers have been sent to the external auditors, Grant Thornton, and the statutory notices regarding the commencement of the period for the exercise of public rights have been displayed as required

15) Planning

a) 3/31/17/010. Installation of secondary glazing with various internal alterations (part retention of works already undertaken). Cloud Cottage, 19 Brook Street, TA4 3SZ

Councillors resolved to pass no comment

b) Any other planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

None

16) Highways

a) Historic fingerposts

SCC are no longer have the funding available to maintain the historic fingerposts in the county. Highways are running training sessions (safe highway working procedure, materials to use etc) for volunteers to enable the historic fingerposts to be surveyed and ultimately repaired and maintained. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact the clerk for more details

b) parking on Tower Hill, Williton

The clerk had been contacted by Williton PC requesting support with the issue of cars parking outside the Methodist Church on Tower Hill, Williton.

Councillors thought that parking provided traffic calming and resolved not to support Williton in their campaign to restrict parking.

c) Any issues to report

- i) Notification received from Highways that Vellow Road, Stogumber, 130 metres east of the junction with Vellow to Vellow Wood Cross will be closed eastwards for a distance of 80 metres from 17th July for 5 days to enable drainage works to be carried out
- ii) Notification received from Highways that Leigh Lane, from the junction with Leigh Lane to Water Lane and Lower Vexford to Leigh Lane will be closed for a distance of 105 metres from 21st August 2017 for 5 days to enable earthworks to be carried out
- iii) MS had previously alerted the clerk to vegetation over growth along the road by the junction of Station Road and Brook Street, opposite the Blue House going up Station Road. This has been reported to Highways
- iv) Pixies Laughter, Ashbeer. A bush is growing out from wall and needs trimming back. CB offered to approach the property's owners
- v) The hedge along Wood Lane needs cutting back
- vi) Ashbeer hill, the ditches need clearing
- vii) The removal of the old village signs needs chasing up

17) Parish walk booklet – update

J Bryant had provided a report on progress to the council:

- Working Group in process of being formed.

- Appeal made for contributions in Stogumber Standard. One received to date.
- Approached Clerk for Parish Council's permission to use O.S. Maps.
- Assessed existing booklet to decide which walks to keep, improve or remove.
- Approached Halsgrove Publishers with idea of trying to get book commercially published.
- Obtained one quote from commercial printer: £250 for 250 copies and £375 for 500 for 20 page booklet with colour cover

The clerk has investigated with SALC re maps and there does not appear to be a generic agreement for PCs to use OS maps. Clerk to liaise further with J Bryant
TV suggested that maybe CRASH could be approached for funding towards the printing costs

18) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

A draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD has been produced that provides a comprehensive update to the 2007 Exmoor National Park LCA, and also provides more detailed guidance on the policies relating to landscape character in the adopted Local Plan 2011-2031. Views on the Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPD are invited between 14th July and 8th September 2017

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 14th September, commencing at 7.30pm, at the Deane Close Common Room