

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 13th March 2013

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman K. Rew V Sellick M Moss C Bramall
T Simpson M Symes J Danson
J Leeming, Clerk
P Bolton PCSO, A Trollope-Bellow District and County Councillor
Advisors: T Vesey M Griffiths

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from C Matravers and advisors R Sharpe and D Ilman. A Trollope-Bellow to arrive late.	
2.	Declaration of Interests. CB declared a personal interest in Item 9, The Beacon Field. TS declared a personal interest in item 6a, Appointment of new Neighbourhood Inspector. Requests for Dispensation. There were no requests for dispensations.	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments.	
4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the minutes from the meetings held on 9/1/13, 19/1/13, 30/1/13, 16/2/13 and 2/3/13 were a reasonable record of those meetings. These were signed by the chairman.	
5.	District and County Council reports. County. There will be no increase in the county council element of the council tax. Extra £4.8m funding has been found for vulnerable adults and children in care. There is a £38m capital fund for schools and roads. There are sufficient funds to mend potholes on the roads but little extra capacity to do so and a lot of potholes so progress could be slow. The land on the Quantocks which SCC owned has been handed over to Friends of the Quantocks. Negotiations are still taking place between the government and EDF regarding the price of electricity for Hinkley Point C, if the business case does not stack up, EDF won't build the reactor. Stogumber will become part of the Dunster Division following boundary changes. This will take effect after the May elections. District. WSC are still looking at the business case with TDBC to share services, a report is due in October. This could give WSC more resilience but it would still remain a sovereign council. 14 other rural areas face similar financial problems to WSC in the future. There will be a 3.7% increase in WSC element of the council tax which is the equivalent of £4.92 / year on a Band D house. Front line and voluntary services have been protected. ATB left the meeting.	
6.	PCSO Report. There have been 14 calls to the police in the last month, none of a serious matter. There has been 1 registered burglary on an insecure property. There is a suspicious white van driving around but the police do not have a full licence plate for it, and ask for any sightings to be reported. The obstructions on the roads in the village have been dealt with and foot patrols outside the school have been monitoring the parking there. The police request that they are informed of any posters re the badger cull be reported so they can remove them. Inspector Lisa Simpson is moving on to a new post at the end of the month, an interim Neighbourhood Inspector has been appointed until a replacement is found. TS reported that the owner of the dangerous dog had pleaded guilty at the magistrate's court and been given a conditional discharge with costs. KR to report this in the Standard. PCSO P Bolton left the meeting.	

7. **Stogumber Play Area.**

JD, MM and R Criddle visited the Exeter cycle track and have since met with the professional who built it, to discuss a quote for the Stogumber cycle track. The standard cost would be £18,500 but that could be reduced by R Criddle doing some of the work. JD has also had a meeting at Minehead Eye who would be keen to use a cycle track and pay to help with its upkeep. The play area committee have £3000 to towards the cost of the cycle track. Various options for grants to fund the track were discussed, JD to pursue with TS.

JD TS

Minehead Eye also offered to help set up a youth club in the village.

The question of using the school bus to take children to Minehead Eye was raised, MG as a school governor is to raise the matter at the next governors' meeting.

MG

MM has a quote for £11,999 inc. vat for new play equipment which she will forward to JL. This doesn't include bark chipping which would be an additional cost.

MM JL

8. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

a) Strategic principles

JS to draft new additional principles for approval.

b) Feedback re questions in briefing document

Q5 Does the Village need more children's play spaces.

It was agreed that more children's play spaces would be desirable. The proposed bike track and additional play equipment would go some way to satisfying this.

For what age groups

The additional play equipment and cycle track would cater for a range of age groups, the proposed MUGA would give additional scope for play spaces and activities.

What sort of space, indoor or outdoor

The proposed MUGA would increase the outdoor play space.

It was agreed that there is a need for additional indoor play space. CLOWNS which brings play equipment to the village hall is having funding withdrawn and may cease to exist. There is no longer a youth club

Indoor facilities would be desirable for toddlers and older children.

Q6. Does the village need new or improved public outdoor spaces.

It was agreed that a village green would be a desirable and attractive feature to the village, if positioned well.

It was agreed that the Churchyard and village square should be preserved as the heart of the village and that it would be difficult and not desirable to alter them.

Future events could still be held there as has been the case in the past.

Q7 What would help maintain viable farms and encourage local food production.

It was agreed that providing allotments would be desirable if a need was established and rules on managing them were drawn up to prevent them looking untidy. Land share, where people with large gardens they do not fully utilise, allow someone to cultivate part of it was discussed.

It was agreed that a community orchard would be desirable but it would need to be managed.

It was agreed that the parish council welcomes a thriving farming community and would be sympathetic to diversification and plans for change of use of farm buildings. Future plans for the village should take into account modern farming methods; field entrances need to be made wider and large machinery and equipment needs to be moved on narrow lanes, cars parked inconsiderately can cause problems with this.

Q8 Does the village need more facilities specifically for the elderly

It was agreed that the village environment was not mobility friendly and that access to footpaths was not wheelchair friendly but it was also agreed that tarmacing footpaths would not be practicable or desirable. It was agreed that there was a caring community in the village which helped the elderly and infirm when needed.

It was agreed to postpone further discussion on this question until R Sharpe could give feedback from his discussions with the elderly of the village.

c) Next steps

The discussion ended at 9:15pm to be continued at the next meeting. MG left the meeting.

9. The Beacon Field.

- a) JL has received one quote for the entrance alterations and has been promised a second by 15/3/13. RC confirmed his original quote. This matter to be discussed at the next meeting
- b) Pegs have been placed where the trees are to be planted and the ground around them treated. The permanent trees will be planted first then the school children will help plant the rest, before the end of March.
- c) Two offers for the grass let have been received. It was agreed to accept the higher one from K Norcutt. JL to write to both parties.

10. Finance.

- a) The assets on 6/3/13 are as follows:

Current account	£9,448.56
Reserve account	£5,938.88

The current account includes an additional £130 donation towards the tree planting, £16.35 payment for water usage on the field and £5,000 donation from Summerfield for equipment on the play area. There is a donation of for £57.50 from the carol singing collection to be banked.

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

Clerk's salary and PAYE February 2013	£272.95
Clerk's salary and PAYE March 2013	£272.95
SALC affiliation fee for 2013/14	£167.54
- c) Future expenditure of £365 for fencing of the copse and £129 for a picnic bench, was agreed both to be paid for from donations. A donation for an additional picnic bench has been offered, JD to collect and hand to JL.
- d) It was agreed to appoint J Bryant as internal auditor
- e) JS has reviewed the clerk's performance for the past year and it was agreed to increase the hourly rate in accordance with the national salary scales. The new hourly rate will be £10.841p per hour.

11. Donation Requests.

It was agreed to donate £50 to CLOWNS and £100 to the church for grass cutting in the churchyard.

12. Changes to Standing Orders.

The proposed changes have been circulated to councillors. They cover amendments to take into account the new Code of Conduct and an increase in the limit, after which SPC should put any works out to tender. The increase in the tender limit was agreed at £10,000. Both proposed changes were accepted. JL to implement.

JL

13. Complaint about Dog Nuisance.

JS read out a letter received complaining about the dogs at Vellow Road. It was agreed that JS would write to the owners of the dogs.

JS

14. Planning.

- a) Letter from The Almonry, Brook Street
JS read out the letter received in response to SPC's letter. This has been forwarded to WSC.
- b) Togford, Vellow Road – application withdrawn
- c) Orchard End, Vellow Road – application approved
- d) Northam Mill Barn – application approved
- e) The Lings – no decision made yet
- f) Field at Castlake

JS, CB, TS and JL visited the field at Castlake following complaints about the activity there. It was found that general rubbish has been dumped there in three separate locations. Some has been placed on the bank of the stream and could affect the flow. The wall at the edge of the field has been damaged and the road is collapsing as a result. Three horses are being kept on the field. JL has contacted, SCC highways, WSC planning and the Environment Agency. All three were aware

of the problem and action was being taken to rectify the situation. SPC will continue to monitor the situation and inform the relevant authorities of any changes.

g) WSC strategic housing land availability assessment JL
WSC have written to parish councils requesting them to identify land for potential housing developments. It was agreed that SPC were not in a position to respond at this time, JL to write to WSC.

15. Highways.

JL reported that Castlake Lane was closed until 15/3/13 to enable repairs to the wall and road.

MS reported an overhanging hedge at Kingswood, he was unsure of the exact position so would investigate further and report back.

JS reported a broken finger post at preston Lane, JL to inform Highways JL

16. Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman.

JL reported that she had received a complaint regarding garden waste being deposited on the bank behind 2 Archers Close. TS declared an interest as a neighbour. It was confirmed that the bank was part of the highway and agreed that JL should write to the owners of 2 Archers Close.

There have been complaints about dog mess. JL to investigate Dog Control Orders and report back.

The meeting closed at 10pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 17th April 2013 at Deane Close Common Room, the Neighbourhood Plan item will start at 8pm.