

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 13th March 2014

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman V Sellick J Danson C Bramall M Symes

J Leeming, Clerk

Advisors: M Griffiths

C Lawrence, County Councillor, P.C. A Ware, A Mills

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from K Rew, C Matravers, A Trollope-Bellew, District Councillor and advisors R Sharpe, T Vesey and D Ilman.	
2.	Co-option of new councillor. There was a unanimous vote to co-opt Alison Mills as a new councillor to fill the recent vacancy.	
3.	Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations. CB declared an interest in Item 8, The Beacon Field, as a neighbour. MS declared an interest in item 10, appointment of an internal auditor.	
4	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no members of the public present.	
5.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 8/1/14, 25,1,14, 23/2/14 and 1/3/14 were reasonable records of the meeting. These were signed by the chairman.	
6	PC report P.C. A Ware, Beat manager attended on behalf of P.C. Masters. For the previous month, there had been 3 crimes reported, 1 is still being investigated by CID. There had been 16 calls to the police, 2 alarm call outs, 2 vehicle breakdown, 3 welfare checks and 9 traffic and flood related. There is currently a consultation on changes to the beat areas, neighbourhood policing will continue and any changes will not take effect until 2015.	
7	District and County Councillors report. County Councillor. CL reported on how much work had been done, round the clock, by staff at County Hall and other agencies during the recent floods. She reported she had visited both Stogumber and Crowcombe Schools and had been very impressed with the children and staff. She has secured £250 for the schools for kitchen equipment as the schools will have to provide meals to under 7's from September. She has presented the Health and Wellbeing grant to play area committee. District Councillor. There was no district councillor present to give a report.	
8	The Beacon Field. a) The Open Gardens committee have requested use of the car park for the Open Gardens weekend and The NGS open gardens afternoon. The Music Festival committee have request use of the car park for the Music Festival. b) It was agreed to accept M Waldock's offer for the grass let on the Beacon field. JL to forward a grass let agreement and letter telling him when the field would be required for car parking. c) JL has approached 3 insurance companies specialising in parish council insurance and sought advice from SALC. The advice from all is that the council's public liability insurance would cover the land but not the activity if it were not organised by the council. She was advised that the council should expect users of the car park to obtain their own insurance. CB to investigate what insurance cover the Village Hall has and whether it can be extended to cover the car park for events in the village hall. d) Hedging. The school children and volunteers have planted the hedging plants donated by the Woodlands Trust on the bank in the Beacon field, near the road. The left over ones are to be given to the play area. There was a	JL CB

discussion regarding the recent changes on the field, and whether sufficient consultation takes place with the full council, prior to any changes being implemented. It was agreed to disband the sub-committee and have planning meetings involving the whole council, to discuss any future developments on the field.

9 Play Area end proposed bike track.

MM

MM has contacted R Criddle who is preparing an estimate. MM to have a meeting with RC and a volunteer when the weather improves to progress the bike track. MM has been approached by a neighbour of the field to complain about recent flooding. The problem has arisen because drains from Waverdine Close weren't properly connected and blocked with debris, causing surface water to build up. The drains have now been cleared.

10. Finance.

a) The current account balance as of 13/03/14 is £4,237.75, actual balance excluding the play area funds is £2,595.53. This includes a vat repayment of £163.40 and payment for water usage on the field of £26.51.

The reserve account balance as of 31/3/14 is £3,368.70

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

Clerk's salary and tax for February	£284.67
Clerk's salary and tax for March	£284.67
Office expenses – printer ink	£21.98
SALC invoice for 2 copies of 'The Good Councillor Guide'	£5.50

c) JS had undertaken a review of the clerk's performance over the last year and recommended the council award her the annual increment for 2014-15. This was unanimously agreed.

d) It was unanimously agreed to award a £100 grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard and £50 grant to CLOWNS.

e) It was agreed that J Bryant be appointed internal auditor for the 2013-14 internal audit.

JL

f) It was agreed to make changes to the draft financial regulations statement and re-circulate for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Neighbourhood Plan.

WSC have issued a consultation on the proposed neighbourhood area. The next steps are to identify areas in the parish for community development. JD reported that the Cricket Club does not wish to expand to include any other sporting facilities. JS explained that identifying potential sites does preclude other sites being used but would prevent planning permission for housing on those sites. MG reported that the school is undertaking a strategic review of primary education needs and how to meet them so cannot advise on what future requirements the school may have. In the short term there may be a requirement for additional temporary accommodation. After a discussion it was agreed that the bottom part of the Beacon Field (approx. 2 acres) should be held for future community development such as a new school or village hall. Access to the possible site of a new churchyard should also be allowed for across the field. There was a discussion about the possible siting of a community orchard and agreement to hold a meeting on the site to discuss this further.

12. Planning.

3/31/14/001 Removal of internal brick wall Higher Vexford, no comments were made by the parish council

JL

3/31/14/002 Conversion of store to office, Lower Preston Farm, supported by the parish council, permission granted by WSC

3/31/14/003 Replacement of roof tile to main house, 1 Hill Street, Stogumber, supported by the parish council

H/31/14/001 Removal of hedge on land SE of Catford Cottage, supported by the parish council but refused on the grounds of archaeology and history.

GDO 14/04 proposed alterations to existing track at Coombe Sydenham Park, supported by the parish council, Exmoor National Park have written to say prior

notification is not necessary.

13. Highways.

a) Speed restrictions within the village.

A representative from Somerset Highways has visited the village to give advice on potential traffic calming measures. He will organise a traffic survey along Station Road to establish the average speed and report back on what options are available.

b) Update.

The BT cable hanging down on Vellow Road and the leaning BT post have been reported. The post has been examined and will be addressed when the weather improves.

MS reported a pot hole on the road near the Station, JL to report to Highways.

JL to ask if the brook could be cleared to help prevent future flooding.

14. Consultations

a) Somerset Minerals Plan.

JL to contact Mr White at Capton Quarry to ask if he has any representations he would wish the parish council to make on his behalf. JL

b) Levels and Moors 20 year flooding action plan.

The council does not have any representations to make.

15. Letter of thanks to M Waldock for help with the flooding stream.

During the recent storms a tree trunk got wedged under the ford bridge. M Waldock removed it with his tractor and equipment, which reduced the effects of the flooding. It was agreed that the clerk should write a letter of thanks to him.

16. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

A question was raised about whether the sand bags collected from Highways need to be returned. It was thought that as the sand would be classed as contaminated and therefore could not be re-used, there would be no need.

The meeting ended at 9:40pm.

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 10th April 2014 at Deane Close Common Room.