

Minutes of the Stogumber Parish Council Meeting

held on Thursday 13th September 2018

at Deane Close Common Room, commencing at 7.30pm

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

C Bramall (Chairman), M Symes (Vice-Chairman), T Vesey, T Brick, G Tuckfield, V Sellick, C Matravers
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
SCC Cllr C Lawrence, WSDC Cllr A Trollope-Bellew

Prior to the meeting commencing, Tesco presented a cheque to the PC for £1,000 towards the car park development. The grant was awarded by Tesco (Minehead) via the 'bags of help' in-store grant scheme run during July and August

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Apologies received from Cllrs G Rexworthy

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB - Beacon Field (as a neighbour)

MS- agenda item 7

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

4) District and County Councillor reports

Cllr C Lawrence started her report by congratulating the PC on the grant awarded by Tesco.

- The new Finance Officer at County Hall has explained that even more funds than previously anticipated need to be saved by the end of year in order to balance the budget. Many of the cuts will be back office staff, so no direct impact to residents. Childrens care is still over budget, but Adult social care is working well and is within budget at present. Some of the proposed cuts needed to balance the budget are:

- i) The park & ride in Taunton. For a year Taunton Deane will take over the running of the park & ride and re-evaluate costings to see if it is possible to be kept open beyond the next year
- ii) CAB. £135,000 has been given for this year but next year could be problematic
- iii) Roadside salt bins in parishes may not be refilled. Also, the road gritting budget will be significantly reduced for the 2018/19 winter period

WSDC Cllrs A Trollope-Bellew

- SCC proposed cuts:
 - TD are funding park & ride for a year and hope to make it self-sustaining after that.
 - CAB, each district council has an officer reviewing how this will affect the district and what each district can do to help
 - Salting - none to be done 2018/19 on roads at over 500 feet. Self-salting -If PCs have to purchase their own salt supplies it is expected to work out at approx. £80 per parish
- Warding arrangements. ATB has written to the Boundary Commission supporting Stogumber's view and the Crowcombe PCs alternative proposals for the new wards. BC are expected to release their decision on 23rd October
- The new council now has a Shadow Executive and a Shadow Authority to ensure a seamless transition next year

- Somerset unitary - not just looking at the unitary option-there are 7 options, all of which are to be assessed by an independent assessor to see which, if any, are viable.
- Glover commission - has been set up to look into protected landscapes. Stogumber is currently between the Quantock AONB and Exmoor NP. 3 options are under consideration - no change, expand the AONB to follow landscape character or the ANOB joins up with NP. Will keep SPC updated on progress

5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2018

The minutes for the PC meeting held on 12th of July 2018 were approved by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record

6) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Speeding along Station Road /Wig Wag lights outside the school

Highways were contacted after the July meeting and their response was:

“The introduction of a speed limit in a rural location like Stogumber is dependent on a number of factors, mainly safety. This type of Traffic Management intervention would be a relatively major and very expensive scheme to introduce and therefore there would have to be a well proven safety need. One of the measurable indicators of a safety problem would be a record of injury collisions that would have occurred over the previous 5 years. There are no recorded injury collisions in the last 5 years.

.....and as Stogumber has virtually no street lighting, there would have to be a lot of extra signing in the village which would have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the area.

As the scheme would be so costly and time consuming, our office of 2 staff would not be able to cope with the additional work.....so a request of this nature would need to be to be considered for funding as a Small Improvement Scheme (SIS). I do need to advise you that it is unlikely that a 20mph speed limit in Stogumber could be pursued as a safety engineering SIS scheme at this time.

The School Keep Clear lines were refurbished back in late 2017, so I will have to carry out a site visit to check their condition along with the SLOW road markings. I will also check the condition and location of the associated School warning signs.”

Councillors agreed that the possibility of speed restrictions in the village seemed remote, however it was definitely worth continuing the pursuit of the installation of ‘wigwags’ outside the school. The Chairman offered to contact the school governors to ask if the school or the PTA would consider contributing towards this project together with the other village organisations have indicated that they would be willing give a donation. GT offered to publicise the need for fundraising in the Stogumber Standard.

b) Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

7) Noise in the village

A letter has been received by the chairman from a parishioner regarding the persistent noise of barking dogs in the village.

This was discussed at the meeting and councillors felt that this was not a PC matter. The clerk was requested to advise the parishioner to contact the RSPCA if it is considered a welfare issue, or if concerned about the noise to lodge a complaint to Environmental Health-

8) Playground – consider the PC fundraising for new play equipment

Councillors resolved that the PC will aim to fundraise for new equipment in conjunction with the SPGA

9) To Receive Reports of any meetings attended by Members as representatives of the Parish Council.

None

10) The Beacon Field

a) Finance / Fundraising update

£750 has been received from Stogumber Gardens Open

£1000 has been received from Tesco (Minehead), via their in-store 'bags of help' scheme

b) Car park construction update

The Chairman confirmed that Richard Criddle has been requested to commence work as soon as a space in his schedule becomes available. No quotes have yet been obtained for the fencing required. CB to obtain quotes

c) Consider request to use for wedding parking on 03/08/2019 and wedding parking and humanist wedding service on the Beacon Field on 31/08/2019

Councillors agreed to both of these requests

d) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field

None

11) Highways / Footpaths

a) Updates on previously reported issues

i) overgrown footpath in Sunnysdene field

The PPLO walked this path and has reported that it had been cleared, so there was no need to report to SCC

ii) road edge at Preston Lane triangle

Highways have confirmed that this area has been inspected and any areas that fall within the repair guidelines have been marked and scheduled for repair. This has now been repaired

iii) stile onto the footpath at the north end of Pickpurse

The PPLO has confirmed that this broken stile has been reported to SCC rights of way team. Councillors noted that as there is a pedestrian gate, a stile is not really necessary

b) Any issues to report

- potholes from Capton Cross down into Capton
- Potholes from Pixies Laughter to Hartrow
- Footpath ramp by side of church. Ramp is starting to crack and give way.
- PC to publicly thank the Exmoor volunteers for the work they have done on the historic fingerposts. CB offered to write an article for Stogumber Standard covering this
 - The village is looking untidy on sides of roads & pavements. Can parishioners be encouraged to 'look after their bit'? CB offered to include this matter in his Stogumber Standard article t

12) Boundary Commission consultation on proposed new ward boundaries

Following the July meeting, a letter was submitted to the Boundary Commission expressing Stogumber's dissatisfaction with the proposed new wards.

The PC was contacted by Crowcombe PC with an alternative ward boundary suggestion that was much more satisfactory than the proposal put forward by the Boundary Commission. This proposal, if adopted, would place Stogumber in a ward containing Crowcombe, Bicknoller, West Bagborough, Lydeard St Lawrence and Combe Florey. Councillors were consulted and agreed that the proposal put forward dealt with all the issues raised in Stogumber's response to the Boundary Commission and was much more appropriate for this parish. Therefore, a further letter was written to the Boundary Commission, supporting the proposal put forward by Crowcombe PC

13) Annual Return – Conclusion of audit 2017/18

The External Auditor's Report and Certificate has been received from PKF Littlejohn LLP confirming that the audit for 2017/18 has been completed satisfactorily, with no matters arising. The certificate of 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit', and a copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return has been placed on the website as required by statute

ATB & CL left meeting at this point

14) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors approved the bank reconciliation, dated 31.8.18, of £23,527.88. This consists of £20,367.69 in the current account and £3,375.19 in the deposit account. £5,618.25 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Payments to approve

Clerks Salary	£534.30	
HMRC	£52.00	
Clerk's expenses	£16.00	
PKF Littlejohn LLP, External auditor's fee	£240.00	(including VAT of £40.00)
Water2business, water trough in Beacon Field	£12.53	

c) Amounts received

31.8.18 Gardens Open, Splay donation £750.00

d) Any other financial matters

None

15) Planning

i. Previously considered applications – updates

None

ii. Consider planning application CA/31/18/001

Notification to fell one cypress tree within Stogumber Conservation Area

Little Orchard, Vellow Road, Stogumber TA4 3TL

Councillors resolved to approve this application

iii. Any other planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

None

16) General Data Protection Regulations

a) Update

The clerk reported that time had been spent researching the most efficient method to use for data storage for the PC and it was concluded that secure cloud storage fulfils all the requirements laid out by GDPR.

b) Consider purchase of a scanner

The PC resolved to purchase a flat-bed scanner to enable the digitalisation of PC records

c) Consider privacy policy to be adopted by the Parish Council

The clerk had previously circulated template privacy policies generated by NALC for consideration by councillors

Councillors resolved to adopt both policies

17) Employment matters

CM to attend to this and to feedback to the clerk prior to November PC meeting

18) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

The defibrillator is coming towards the end of its three-year lease from South West Ambulance Service. Councillors resolved to include in next year's budget provision to fund the purchase of a new defibrillator as and when the existing one is reclaimed by SWAS

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15

Minutes of the Stogumber Playground Association Meeting

held on 13th September 2018, commencing at 21.15

Deane Close Common Room

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

C Bramall (chairman), M Symes (Vice-Chairman), T Vesey, T Brick, G Tuckfield, V Sellick, C Matravets
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

- 1) **To receive any apologies of absence**
Apologies received from Cllr G Rexworthy
- 2) **Public comments, questions or suggestions**
None
- 3) **To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 12/07/18**
The minutes for the meeting held on 12th of July 2018 were approved by councillors and signed by the Chairman as a true record
- 4) **Matters arising from the minutes**
None
- 5) **Playground upkeep**
 - a) **Consider Annual playground inspection report**
The annual playground inspection report had previously been circulated to councillors. Two areas had been highlighted as ‘moderate risk’:
 - 1) The wooden castle structure – mainly rot within the timber
 - 2) The improvised tree swing that had been hung from a tree branch by an unknown person – this will be removed
 - b) **Any issues raised in the routine inspections**
It was noted that litter is a problem, particularly in the school holidays
 - c) **Update regarding repairs /maintenance**
The playground volunteer will continue with repairs to castle to try to maintain, but the structure really needs replacing. Creative Play have quoted for an ‘activity centre’ at approx. £6500 (ex VAT). A 21m zip wire costs in the region of £6000 (ex VAT). GT offered to progress with obtaining formal quotes to be to enable the PC to commence fundraising
- 6) **Finance**
 - a) **Payments to approve**
Taranaki Hall Farm, mower repairs £68.29
 - b) **Amounts received**
None
 - c) **Approve bank reconciliation**
Councillors approved the bank reconciliation, dated 31.8.18, of £822.38
 - d) **Any other financial matters**
None
- 7) **Any other business by permission of the Chairman**
None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.43