

# Stogumber Parish Council.

Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The meeting started at 19:30

## Present

Councillors J. Spicer, Chairman, C Bramall, T Brick, M Symes, T Vesey, C Matravers, J Hull.

C Morrison-Jones, Clerk

District Councillor: A Trollope-Bellew. County Councillor C Lawrence

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	<b>Apologies.</b> Apologies received from Cllr G Tuckfield and PCSO P Bolton	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations</b> CB – declared interest in Beacon Field as lives opposite All councillors present signed a dispensation form, valid for the meeting on 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 and any subsequent meetings prior to April 2016, to enable the precept discussions, item 12, to take place.	
3.	<b>Public Comments, Questions or Suggestions</b> None	
4.	<b>Police Report</b> No police presence but PCSO had forwarded a report by email that was read out by the chairman. No longer able to separate out parish by parish as the beats have been rationalised and officer representation reduced There are 2 neighbourhood Police Community officers and one neighbourhood warranted Police Officer working out of Williton Recorded crimes for the entire Beat = 337 year to date, 15% down on last year Recorded incidents for the entire Beat: ASB                                    171 = 42% down on last year CRIME                                213 = 23% down on last year GENERAL                            491 = 13% down on last year PUBLIC SAFETY etc                689 = 18 % down on last year TRANSPORTATION                317 = 18% down on last year Power Tools non dwelling burglary in Stogumber - Wood lane area - a number of items stolen on approx. DEC 15 <sup>th</sup> 2015 . possible other premises also have been visited <u>Please be aware of your out buildings and sheds and security</u>	
5	<b>County Councillor Report</b> Cllr C Lawrence opened by apologising for not having the information available regarding grid references for the finger posts in Stogumber. She agreed to send to JS. SCC finances are not balancing: £5.5 million more than anticipated had been spent on children's services with 500 vulnerable children in care. The support for each child costs £1,000 per week and work is being done to make the prevention agenda stronger to prevent the need for taking into care. There are increasing numbers of older people so services in this area are also stretched. Cuts are going to be needed, ATWEST, concessionary patient transport, has a proposed 25% cut, still under negotiation. Beacons are planned around the country to celebrate the Queen's birthday on 21 <sup>st</sup> April. Hopefully Stogumber can be involved. Contact details are: Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster, The Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacons, Pageantmaster House, 110 Lowestoft Road, Garlestone-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 6NB Email : <a href="mailto:brunopeek@mac.com">brunopeek@mac.com</a> website : <a href="http://www.brunopeek.co.uk">www.brunopeek.co.uk</a> The new county plan will be launched soon with new priorities- amongst which are a	

**6. District Councillor Report**

Cllr A Trollope-Bellew reported that there was still no final investment decision regarding Hinkley Point C. However the budget for WSDC was now closed with £600,000 worth of savings having to be made. From April 2017 WSDC will not be running any public toilets but it is hoped that parishes concerned will take over their maintenance. District And County Councils will be doing less and less in order to make budgets balance and parishes will have to take more responsibility for their facilities if they wish to retain them.

**7. Minutes of meetings held on 12/11/15, 14/11/15, 12/12/15 and 9/1/16**

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the draft minutes of the meetings held on 12/11/15, 14/11/15, 12/12/15 and 9/1/16 were a true and accurate record of the meetings. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

**8. The Beacon Field**

- a. **Grass let** : The clerk reported that there had so far been no replies to the letters sent out regarding the grass let for 2016. CB agreed to chase Martin Waldock to see if he wished to renew the lease. CB
- b. **Planning permission for splay** : Thanks were given to A Trollope-Bellew for alerting the Parish council to the fact that application fee for Parish Councils is a reduced amount. There has been no decision from WSDC as yet – the 8 week period has not yet elapsed. A grant has been submitted to Tesco by TV towards building costs – no response as yet

**9. Neighbourhood Plan update**

The Plan is still within the consultation period and, so far, few responses had been received by the council. A provisional Parish Council meeting date has been reserved for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February in the event of any comments arising during the consultation process requiring discussion by the Parish Council.

**10.**

**Playground**

- I. At present, it has been confirmed by the current insurers of the playground, that the insurance in place will cover the Parish Council for liability arising from its involvement as their involvement is at the request of the charity who hold the policy. As such, the clerk advised that it would be prudent to have confirmed in writing the request for help from the parish council from the charity.
- II. In the short term it was felt that the best approach was to enable the existing charity to function by individual(s) volunteering to become trustees – the exact structure of the charity has yet to be determined – to enable the funds held by the charity to be utilised for the renovations and repairs needed. Longer term, to enable the parish council to take over the playground, the charity would be wound up to coincide with a new lease being granted (see point II below) JS / CMJ
- III. Fields in Trust (FIT) have been approached with regards to the Parish Council taking over the playground. Their suggestion is that FIT could ask Magna to cancel the lease with FIT and re-grant the lease to the Parish Council for a period of time at least as long as the time remaining on the existing lease. To do this FIT would require the parish council to sign a declaration that the playground will remain a playground whilst under lease. The cost of this declaration could be met by FIT in house lawyers – enquiries have been made as to potential costs. JS / CMJ

It was felt by all members present that it is vital to maintain residents' enthusiasm for the playground and make the playground inclusive to all children in the village.

- IV. The materials to repair the wooden structure have been purchased and repairs should start as soon as the weather improves. The insurance company has requested weekly inspections until the repairs are finished to ensure that the barriers and signs remain in place. JS has agreed to carry these out and report back to the clerk. JS
- V. It was unanimously approved to purchase two loads of woodchip (£90 per load) to improve the surface under equipment. This to be arranged once the ground dries up. CB
- VI. The waste bin at the edge of the playground is now being emptied by WSDC.
- VII. Flooding from the playground – the ditch is working well taking the water off the playground but Mrs West, Zinch House, was concerned that water was coming through the bank as the ground level on that side is much lower than on the playground side. CB, VS and JS met the previous weekend and suggested that the spoil in the playground was used to thicken up the bank to provide more of a barrier to the water. This was welcomed by Mrs West and will be acted upon by her son-in-law at a later point in the year.
- VIII. A check list regarding the playground and equipment would be useful when conducting regular inspections. Clerk to investigate CMJ

*The order of agenda items 11 and 12 were reversed in order to allow A Trollope-Bellew and C Lawrence to be present during the budget / precept discussions before leaving the meeting*

## 11. Finance

- a) Current account balance as at 31/12/15 is £4,457.53 allowing for unpresented cheques - actual available balance (after play area funds of £690,24 and lunchclub funds of £350) is £3417.29. Reserve account balance is £3,371.91. Therefore the total available balance is £6,789.20
- b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:
  - I. Clerk's gross salary (December and January) £446.77 (total amount split over 2 cheques between clerk and HMRC for clerk's PAYE)
  - II. Clerk's expenses, £125.10
  - III. C Moss – paid 27/12/15, approved by clerk, £74.52 (re-imburement for play area wood)
  - IV. West Somerset DC – paid 20/11/15 £192.50. Beacon Field planning application fee
  - V. Information Commissioner, £35, Data protection registration
  - VI. University of the West of England, currently awaiting invoice for £79. Neighbourhood Plan printing costs
  - VII. SALC, £25, in anticipation of invoice. Training course on 16/2/16

## 12. Budget for 2016-17 / Precept setting

The Clerk noted that increases in precept in the previous years have been low and reserves held by the Parish Council have steadily reduced. Additionally the Council has acquired many new responsibilities which, in time, may prove expensive to maintain. It is now advised that the reserves are too low and the Clerk recommended that the Council aimed to rebuild reserves to the recommended levels over the next three years. The Clerk presented a range of budget options to the Council, some allowing for the anticipated development of The Beacon Field. Councillors unanimously agreed that the phased car park development of the Beacon Field should commence in 2016 and as a consequence the Clerk recommended that the precept should be increased from the current £11,000 to £19,000 (for a Band D house that is an increase from £34.89 to

£59.76). The Parish Council agreed with this advice and unanimously voted to raise the precept request for 2016-17 to £19,000.

The relevant form was signed by the Chairman for the Clerk to forward to WSDC.

*District Councillor A Trollope-Bellew and County Councillor C Lawrence left the meeting after the budget and precept had been agreed*

**13. Planning updates**

**a) 3/31/15/013 James Barton, 4 Vellow Road. Changes to Staircase**

A site meeting was held on 9/1/16 and a Parish Council voted to support the application. No decision yet received from WSDC

**b) 3/31/15/010 new dwelling in grounds of Quantock View**

Permission has been granted by WSDC

**c) 3/31/15/001 single story extension 23 Lower Vellow**

Permission has been granted by WSDC

**14. Removal of bus concessions – impact on Stogumber**

No formal response has as yet been submitted by the Parish Council on this matter. The Chairman offered to write a response raising local concerns.

JS

**15. Highways**

**a) Updates**

Overhanging trees opposite the school – nothing has been done yet by the Magna tenant concerned

**b) Any issues to report**

i. Pot holes are appearing between 5 Higher Vellow and 2 Lower Vellow

CMJ

ii. Pot holes in Preston Lane

CMJ

iii. On Silverdown, between the top of Ashbeer Hill and Hartrow Cross there are pot holes appearing at the edge of the road

CMJ

iv. Telegraph pole is still leaning at alarming angle in Wood lane, by Quantock View

CMJ

**16. Defibrillator**

A working party has received a quote of £1800 from Ambulance Service to install and maintain a defibrillator for 4 years and also, vitally to provide support and CPR training to volunteers in the parish. On top of this cost will be installation costs as the cabinet has to be wired into an electricity supply.

JH

It was agreed by those present that the most suitable location for the defibrillator was likely to be the Church Porch as it provided some protection from the elements and was an easily recognised landmark within the village.

The Rotary Club (Minehead and The Quantocks) have very kindly offered a donation of £1000 so fundraising needs to commence to raise the rest of the money required.

**17. Any other business by permission of the Chairman**

a) Graveyard Option – this has now been signed.

The meeting closed at 21.13 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 19:30 on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at Deane Close Common Room.