

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 14th November 2012

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman K. Rew C Matravers
T Simpson V Sellick M Moss C Bramall
J Leeming, Clerk A Trollope-Bellow (District and County Councillor)
Advisors: T Vesey M Griffiths D Ilman
One member of the public.

Item	Topic	Action
1	Apologies. There were apologies from M Symes, J Danson and PC D Rowe. C Bramall to arrive late.	
2	Declaration of Interests. There were no declarations of interest.	
3	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments..	
4	Acceptance of minutes. It was proposed and passed that the minutes of the meetings held on 24/10/12 were a reasonable record of the meeting. These were signed by the chairman.	
5	District and County Council reports. County Council. SCC is hoping for a zero % increase in the council tax although the government subsidy has been reduced from £6m to £2m. There are increasing demographic pressures on the budget with increasing numbers of the elderly and young in care. A decision on Hinkley Point C is expected from the Secretary of State in March. EDF are waiting for the government to guarantee them a unit price for the electricity generated before guaranteeing to build the power station. BT has been nominated as the preferred supplier for increased broadband and work should start in May 2014 and be complete in 2015. Speed indicators devices on roads now record the actual speed but flash 30mph when an approaching car is speeding, this is to discourage drivers trying to see what speed they can achieve. District Council. The Veolia contract for street cleaning is being negotiated to take into account the reduction in length from the parishes. The feedback from Stogumber has not been included. JL to forward this to ATB and WSC. The government funding for councils will not be published until the Autumn review on Dec 5 th , WSC meets on Dec 19 th to discuss the budget and hope to have one in place mid Feb 2013. LGA report on the viability of WSC is to be published in the West Somerset Free Press on Friday 16 th Nov. There are ongoing problems with Williton pharmacy, which the area manager is trying to address. The Williton supermarket plans are expected to be submitted to planning in April 2013, the plans are likely to go out for consultation again because of the scope of the changes.	
6	PCSO Report. There was no representative from the police to give a report.	
7	Transport to Minehead Eye. There has been no response from J Perrot, SCC transport manager. ATB to contact him again. The vicar has found a minibus for hire at a reasonable rate as an interim measure. The youth club is hoping to start again after Christmas and training for the volunteers will begin over the Christmas break.	ATB
8	Play Area. Work on the cycle track cannot start until the weather is better and the heights for the track are established. The contractor is to look at the Bideford track to see the heights there. JS, CB and MM to accompany him. JS to arrange a suitable date.	CB MM JS
9	Finance.	

a) The assets on 14/11/12 are as follows:

Current account **£4,303.66**

Reserve account **£5,937.38**

Since the last meeting the second instalment of the precept £5000 has been paid into the account and the loan repayment of £3223.02 has been taken.

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

Clerk's salary and PAYE October 2012 £181.97

Clerk's salary and PAYE November 2012 £272.95

Wessex Water invoice £13.27

Hire of Village Hall for Open Meeting £10.00

C Bramall, materials for pipe laying for trough in field £18.00

C F Hawkins, hedge trimming £148.80

c) JL has produced a draft budget, which she explained. She will circulate a final budget before the next meeting when the precept will need to be set.

JL

10 **Donation Requests.**

a) There has been a request from the Church for a donation to help towards the cost of repairing the Church clock. TV was not present to outline the costs involved so it was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting. JL to bring the original request to the meeting.

b) There has been a donation request from Victim Support. It was felt that SPC would rather support local charities.

JL said that she had budgeted for £150 for donations through the year and to date only one donation had been made to the Jubilee committee, which was returned.

There have been no donation requests from the usual recipients, i.e. Clowns, Devon Air Ambulance and the Church for grass cutting. It was agreed that these would be the charities SPC would like to support and a final decision on the amounts would be made at the next meeting.

11 **Risk Assessment.**

JL CB,
CM

JL, CB and CM to agree a date to undertake this

12 **Planning**

a) Variation of condition for Summerfield to remove the need for a shelter at Slade Close – approved. JL to contact Summerfield regarding their donation to the Play Area.

JL

b) JS has received a letter from Mr Nicholas Emery regarding the complaint made about Northam Wood Mill. He summarised the content of the letter, which explained the reasons Mr Emery was unhappy with how SPC had handled the situation. After a discussion it was agreed that SPC had made the right decision in forwarding a planning matter to the planning authority and that SPC would explain this in its reply to Mr Emery.

13 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

CB, TV, DI joined the meeting.

a) Appointing an advisor for the elderly.

Daphne Morrison has stood down as advisor for the elderly because of other commitments. After discussion it was agreed to ask Ron Sharpe if he was still willing and able to talk to Deane Close residents regarding the plan.

JS

DI said that Crash had requested that William Theed be approached regarding a Crash representative. JS to contact him. CB said the village hall had requested 2 representatives but it was felt that the village hall was adequately represented. CB to report back to the village hall committee.

b) Strategic principles.

JS and MG have had a meeting with WSC planning department. WSC agreed that the local plan needed to be more encompassing and that it was to undergo major changes as a result of feedback from parishes but the revised draft plan won't be published for another year. WSC suggested that this revised draft could negate the need for a neighbourhood plan and that a parish plan or village design statement might be more appropriate, neither of which would have the same standing as a neighbourhood plan. It was agreed that SPC did not want to do nothing while waiting for the revised draft and would continue to work towards a neighbourhood

plan. WSC suggested possible funding to help towards the cost of the plan. MG explained how he had drawn up a list of principles by studying demographic, economic and skill based data for west Somerset from a variety of sources. He highlighted some of this data:, highest % of population is 60-69years and their buying power has pushed up property prices, there is a comparatively small 0-4years population, Hinkley Point C will increase the need for residential development and businesses to service the construction.

The 5 principles he outlined were discussed and agreed as:

Principal 1.

The character of the village and parish should be enhanced and not devalued.

Principle 2.

The plan must take account of the capacity and character of the road system within the parish.

Principle 3.

The plan must address how we can increase the number of young families within the parish.

Principle 4.

The plan must address how we can improve support and services for an elderly population.

Principle 5.

The plan should increase economic activity in the parish..

It was agreed that these would be published in the Standard, on the village website and SPC notice board to invite responses. All would also take them back to the groups they represent to discuss alongside the briefing document circulated at the last meeting.

All

It was agreed not to have a December meeting but to include the Neighbourhood plan in the January meeting at 8pm.

14

Miss May's Field

a) Temporary car park.

CB, TV, VS and CM have examined the entrance and concluded that the current entrance is inadequate for agricultural purposes (such as the removal of the large bales currently in the field), being too small for modern agricultural vehicles. The recommended that a slightly wider gate be installed, set back one vehicle's length from the road to provide an increased driving splay. It was agreed that as a courtesy CB would inform the residents of Slade Close opposite the entrance of the works and that an article would be placed in the Standard. CB to contact R Criddle for a revised quote and an estimated start date. JL to forward the original quote to CB. If the work were to proceed before the January meeting, an additional meeting would be held to agree the expenditure.

CB
KR

JL

b) Change of Name

KR

KR reported that she had received a variety of suggestions, some that the name shouldn't change. The most popular was for the Beacon Field. It was agreed that a further article would appear in the Standard to gauge opinion on that suggestion and no decision would be made until the next meeting.

c) Tree planting

CB TV

There are trees available from the Woodland Trust, free of charge and it was felt a pack of 105 would be suitable. The school has ordered a pack of 30 trees and will try and order extra. Trees can't be planted until the end of the grass let and the bales are removed but they can be planted any time up until the end of March. It was agreed that future grass lets would stipulate that nothing could be stored on the field. It was agreed that CB, TV and Joe Hull would form a sub-committee to be responsible for the creation and management of the copse, reporting back to SPC as appropriate. They would draw up a list of acceptable native trees that members of the public could plant if desired and would organise the tree planting and fencing.

CB had priced picnic benches at £130.00 each, he will get written quotes for approval for the next meeting.

15

Code of Conduct.

- JL and CB attended the Code of Conduct training at WSC. JL handed out briefing documents written by WSC monitoring officer Bruce Lang setting out the differences between the NALC/SALC code and WSC code. JL explained that the WSC code would give more flexibility because it had 3 categories of interest, one of which would not exclude a councillor from taking part in debates and votes. The NALC/SALC code only had 2 categories, both of which would exclude councillors who had declared an interest under either from taking part in the relevant debate. It was agreed that the WSC Code of Conduct would be adopted, that JL would draw up the necessary changes to the standing orders and produce a scheme for applying for and recording dispensations. JL
- 16 **Accessible Transport**
ATWEST have requested that SPC write to SCC in support of the continuation of the subsidy for community transport. It was agreed that JL enquire if STOGO receives funding from this subsidy and if so to highlight this when writing a letter of support to SCC. JL
- 17 **Highways**
a) Parking Area.
There was no update on the progress on transferring the car park to SPC.
b) Road closure on Station Road.
JL and the school have asked that the road closures be timed so as not to affect school transport but received a negative response from SCC. JS to ask ATB to investigate further. JS
ATB
c) Static diversion routes.
JL has received plans for static signage to be used for diversions in the event of a major incident on the main routes in West Somerset. It was agreed that this was a sensible approach.
- 18 **Meeting dates for 2013**
Dates for January and March have already been agreed. Other dates to be agreed at the January meeting.
- 19 **Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman.**
a) JL has received a letter from Somerset Highways offering bags of de-icing material to the council for collection on 24/11/12. It was agreed that this offer would not be taken up, there was no suitable place to store the bags until needed and if left on the roadside it was felt they would disappear before they were needed.
b) It was agreed that JL would contact Somerset Highways to remind them to fill the grit bins before the onset of winter.

The meeting closed at 10:00pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 9th January 2012 at Deane Close Common Room.