

Minutes, Stogumber Parish Council Extra Ordinary Meeting

Thursday 16th December 2021, commencing at 7.30pm

Stogumber Village Hall

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

Present

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice-Chair), T Brick, A White, V Sellick,
T Vesey and R Foster.
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Apologies received from Cllrs G Tuckfield and C Matravers

Councillors resolved to approve Cllr Tuckfield's apology and reason for absence (ill health) and also to approve him being absent from meetings for more than six months due to ill health

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

None

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

4) Finance

To agree a budget and set precept for 2022/23

Councillors discussed the budget proposals circulated prior to the meeting and, in addition to the routinely budgeted for items, resolved to budget for, and once received to set aside in ringfenced funds, £6000 towards a new piece of playground equipment, £5000 towards the creation of a footpath from Beacon Field carpark to the school and £1000 towards the re-fencing costs of the raised path along Station Road

After agreeing the Parish Council budget for 2022/23, Councillors resolved to request a precept of £19,000. This represents a decrease of £1,500 from 2021/22 precept request and will result in a Band D property paying £58.96 for 2022/23, which is £4.85 less than 2021/22 (a 7.7% decrease).

5) To consider the below resolutions to ensure business continuity in anticipation of changes to Covid 19 guidance and legislation

(a) Should the council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the Clerk be given delegated authority to progress all ongoing matters and projects and authorise all regular payments and incur expenditure in line with the council's agreed budget.

(b) Any decisions taken under resolution (a) above will be taken, whenever possible, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the council. A record of all decisions and expenditure incurred under delegated authority will be kept and reported to members when the council next meets.

(c) Should the council be unable to meet for whatever reason, the authority to Decide the council's response to planning applications be delegated to the Clerk, in Consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the council. Whenever possible, members of the council will be informed of applications out for consultation

and will be invited to submit comments to the Clerk.

(d) The provisions outlined in resolutions (a-c) above will override any requirements to the contrary in the council's standing orders, financial regulations or terms of reference.

(e) Should the Clerk be unable to perform their duties, a nominated councillor will assume the role of Proper Officer and RFO in an unpaid capacity.

(f) The Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, may incur expenditure from the project earmarked reserve where such expenditure will help the community's efforts to support those in need of assistance or prevent social isolation.

(g) Should government allow councils to meet virtually (online), the council will take all reasonable steps to facilitate this

Councillors unanimously resolved to adopt the above resolutions to allow for continuity of business in the event of new Covid restrictions being put in place.

6) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

- i) VS noted that some parishioners had concerns walking along the unlit path through the Church Yard that connected the shop and pub to the village car park in Beacon Field. This path links the two halves of the village. It is vital that hurdles that may be impacting the use of the pub are addressed – the village must not lose the pub as a business. Councillors agreed that the first step in any possible action would be to consult the Church – TV offered to speak with the Church Warden.
- ii) A street light on Station Road (in between Beacon Field and Archers Grove but on the opposite side of road) isn't working, Clerk to
- iii) MS noted that the Highways issues previously reported to SCC still haven't been actioned.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm