

## Stogumber Parish Council, SPC.

Minutes of meeting held in Village Hall on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

The meeting started at 19.30

### Present

J. Spicer	C. Bramall	J.Danson
C. Matravers	K. Rew	V. Sellick
M. Symes	T. Thomas	T.Simpson
Mr T Trollope-Bellew		
A. Weir, Clerk	J. Leeming, Clerk from June	

Item	Topic	Action
1	<b>Election of Chairman</b> J Spicer was elected. No other candidate was proposed	JS
2	<b>Election of Vice Chairman</b> C Bramall was elected. No other candidate was proposed	CB
3	<b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no absentees	
4	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> CB as a neighbour of Miss May's Field.	
5	<b>Public comments, questions or suggestions</b> There were no public comments, questions or suggestions	
6	<b>Co-option of two further Parish Councillors</b> K Rew and J Danson offered themselves for co-option for the two vacant seats; there were no other volunteers and K Rew and J Danson were co-opted. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent to Ms Daphne Criddle for her service as a Councillor over the past eight years.	AW
7	<b>Declaration of Acceptance of Office</b> Each Councillor was given a "Declaration of Acceptance of Office" form and all were returned signed later in the evening.	
8	<b>Parish Council meetings</b> It was agreed that the time of meetings should remain at 19.30 on Thursdays and that they should continue to take place in the Common Room at Deane Close. The dates until the end of March 2012 were agreed as 14 <sup>th</sup> July, 8 <sup>th</sup> September, 10 <sup>th</sup> November, 12 <sup>th</sup> January and 8 <sup>th</sup> March.	
9	<b>County and District Council reports</b> The County Council's, CC, savings include 560 posts and have to be £34M. As well as this there will be a cut of two corporate directors or 40% of top management. The District Council, DC, has to save spending £700K, which is significant from a £5M expected expenditure. An expert has looked at the problems thrown up by the Japanese disaster to see how similar effects might occur at Hinkley Point and does not believe that any extra factors need be added to the existing plans. Both the CC and the DC are working with EDF as this is one of the largest civil engineering projects in Europe situated in an area with a very small DC. The ward boundaries within the County will be reviewed by the Boundaries Commission.	
10	<b>Minutes of Meetings held in March 2011</b> It was proposed and passed unanimously that the minutes of the meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> March were a reasonable record of the meetings. They were signed by the Chairman.	
11	<b>Parish Clerk</b> The appointment of the new parish Clerk, Jan Leeming, was ratified, and it was agreed that she would take over on 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2011. The retiring Clerk would try to ensure that this change was notified to the relevant authorities.	AW

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12	<p><b>Training for Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks.</b></p> <p>The dates for such events were announced to the councillors and to the new clerk. The possible email training would be sent round to all councillors. It was agreed that any money needed for training would be found.</p>	AW
13	<p><b>Lead roles for Councillors</b></p> <p>It was agreed that there would be 'Lead' Councillors for certain areas of activity or responsibility. This would not be a delegation of decision-making, which would remain with the full Council, but the Lead Councillors would co-ordinate the implementation of decisions made by the full Council, and refer back to the full Council any matters that arise not covered by previous decisions made by the full Council. The Lead Councillors are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JS – Planning</li> <li>• CM – Finance</li> <li>• CB, MS, CM – Miss May's Field</li> <li>• MS, VS - Highways</li> <li>• TS – Rights of Way</li> </ul>	JS CM CB MS VS TS
14	<p><b>Miss May's Field.</b></p> <p>1) A picnic starting at 12.30 is being planned for June 5<sup>th</sup>, partly to celebrate the purchase of the field by the Parish Council. It is intended that there will be an opportunity for the public to inform the Council of any ideas that they feel should be considered for the use of the field.</p> <p>2) It was agreed that the offer to purchase the 'southern block' should be declined, as it is not yet clear that there would not be a community need or use for that part of the field.</p> <p>3) It was agreed that the PC could spend not more than £200.00 on installing a suitable water supply and distribution in the field.</p> <p>4) It was agreed that the option given by Daphne Lewis to use land in her field for a new graveyard would be checked, to inform discussions about where to best locate a new graveyard.</p> <p>5) The grass in the field had been let for agricultural use until the end of the year for £300.00, three hundred pounds. A longer grass let may be considered in future years.</p> <p>6) It was agreed that a survey of the field by metal detectors should not be carried out.</p> <p>7) It was suggested that the council should be prepared for any incursion onto the field by travellers, bikers, etc. It was agreed that TS and CM would see what advice is available.</p>	CB  JS  TS CM
16	<p><b>Parish Survey results</b></p> <p>The clerk circulated the initial Stogumber Parish Survey results. Residents' top five priorities for the new Parish Council are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection of green fields from development (66% of the 203 respondents voted for this)</li> <li>2. Better public transport (45%)</li> <li>3. More car-parking space in the village (43%)</li> <li>4. Protection of Historic Buildings and their surroundings (37%)</li> <li>5. Road improvements, such as more passing spaces (34%)</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed that we would explore with the school the scope for using their minibus to run a (perhaps once a week) service to Taunton.</p>	
	A T-B left the meeting	

17	<p><b>Stogumber Play Area</b></p> <p>A meeting is being arranged with Tony Murray (Chief Exec of Magna) and representatives of the Play Area committee, to agree what further work needs to be done by Magna to meet their commitments to the Play Area. It was agreed that Council would make an interest-free loan of not more than £200 available to the Play Area, to pay the planning application fee for the bike track. The loan will be repaid from the S106 monies that will be used for creating the bike track.</p>	JS TT
18	<p><b>Stogumber Parish Path</b></p> <p>The Parish Path is still under development, though taking a lower priority since the purchase of Miss May's Field. The next step will be consultation with landowners. It is hoped that the costs of created the waymarks would be met by sponsorship or advertising in the walk leaflet. Any proposal to spend Council money would be referred to the full Council for decision.</p>	JS

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15	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The Internal Audit had been carried out and signed by Anita Brewer and the Clerk read out section 2 of the Local Councils in England Annual return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The Council answered yes to the first eight responsibilities. The ninth and last does not apply to Stogumber PC. The amounts in Section 1 were also agreed and the Chairman signed the form in the relevant places.</p> <p>The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:-</p> <table> <tr> <td>Clerk's payment to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011</td> <td>£345.22,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insurance</td> <td>£439.07,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance for Miss May's field</td> <td>£50.60,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Internal Audit</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mapping Company for Miss May's Field Amendments</td> <td>£ 48.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clarke Willmott disbursement to Porter Dobson</td> <td>£ 60.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>The details of signatures for bank's cheques etc. will be decided at the next meeting.</p> <p>The retiring financial officer recommended that there were five signatures so that the risk of the clerk not being able to find two, quickly, was minimised.</p> <p>The present assets were:- Current Account: £6409.33, Reserve £7.95, AMC £5923.88.</p>	Clerk's payment to 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2011	£345.22,	Insurance	£439.07,	Balance for Miss May's field	£50.60,	Internal Audit	£30.00	Mapping Company for Miss May's Field Amendments	£ 48.00	Clarke Willmott disbursement to Porter Dobson	£ 60.00	AW      AW  PC
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19	<p><b>Path to Cricket Club</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the generous offer from George Montague of voluntary maintenance to the path.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to Summerfield formally accepting responsibility for the path in return for £1,000.</p>	AW												
20	<p><b>Bus Shelter on Station Road.</b></p> <p>If this could not be satisfactorily concluded Mr A Trollope- Bellew should be informed and asked to help.</p>	AW JS												
21	<p><b>Grant to PCC for cutting grass in St Mary's Church</b></p> <p>As a number of items of expenditure had been agreed at the meeting, it was agreed that consideration of a grant for grass-cutting would be postponed until the next meeting, when a summary of the Council's financial position would be available.</p>	AW												

22	<b>Salt Bin</b> The new salt bin had been installed in Vellow Road. The Clerk will inform the DC/CC of the new bins and request that all bins are filled when they next carry out this work.	AW
23	<b>Royal Wedding Street Party</b> The Councillors agreed that the street party had been a great success and that a letter of thanks should be sent to the organisers.	AW
24	<b>Boules Pitch</b> No further proposal has been received.	
25	<b>Planning</b> It was agreed that the plan for Kernshill should be supported on the basis of the site meeting a short time ago for the previous planning application, when the proposal covered the new application was also considered. It was agreed that the Council did not wish to give a view on the minor internal alterations or new timber entrance gates. A meeting would have to be arranged for the plans at Willow Cottage, Lower Vellow. There were several other planning matters that Council had heard were in progress. The Clerk will check with the DC whether applications had been submitted about Capton Farm and Keepers Cottage, and whether any new proposals had been submitted for Carslake Farm Barn where the Council had held a site meeting last year. It was also agreed that JS would ask the DC whether they were happy that the development at Hound Hill accorded with the approved application.	AW AW AW
27	<b>Exmoor National Park Authority</b> As only a relatively small proportion of the parish falls within the National Park, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not seek to nominate any parish council representatives for the ENP Authority.	
28	<b>Forces March on 26<sup>th</sup> May.</b> Any volunteer offers of refreshments would be welcome but the organisers do not see any help as being essential.	
26	<b>Highways</b> a) The areas to be resurfaced in June were as in the agenda. b) Broken reflectors letter was passed to the Highway's Lead Councillor. c) After a discussion it was felt that the risks associated with the traffic on Tower Hill was increased by the parked cars and that therefore it was agreed following a vote that the Council would send a letter of support similar to that from Sanford Brett. d) After much discussion it was agreed that CB should contact Mr Daniels to discuss parking in the layby on Lower Combe Cross Lane.	VS AW CB
29	<b>Publication of Notices, Agendas and Minutes</b> a) A further notice board nearer to Pickpurse Lane would help communication throughout the village. Now the use of the notice board on the side of the village hall would be investigated. The glass on this board was at present broken. b) Meeting notices, agendas and minutes would be supplied to John Leech to put on the Stogumber website. c) Kingswood Neighbourhood Association will be added to the circulation for meeting notices, agendas and minutes.	PS AW
30	<b>Any other business by permission of the Chairman.</b> None was raised.	
31	<b>The next meeting will be on Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup></b>	PC