

Stogumber Parish Council
Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meeting
held following a presentation from Cllr D Fothergill (SCC) on the proposed
Somerset Unitary Authority
Held virtually on Zoom on Wednesday 1st July 2020
commencing at 20.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Bramall, M Symes, A White, T Vesey, V Sellick, R Foster, G Tuckfield

- 1) To receive any apologies of absence**
Cllrs T Brick, C Matravers
- 2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations**
None
- 3) Public comments or questions**
None
- 4) Consider the Parish Council response to the SCC consultation on forming a Unitary Authority**
Councillors considered the answers they wished to submit in response to the questionnaire:

What benefits do you believe could come from the proposal to create one Council for Somerset, delivering the services currently provided by the County and four District Councils?

efficiency and a saving in expenditure

What concerns do you have about the proposal to create one Council for Somerset, delivering the services currently provided by the County and four District Councils?

the proposed LCNs will be covering too large a geographical area

Considering the four possible outcomes below for the future of local government in Somerset, which of the following would be your preference:

- ☐ Remain 'as is'
- ☐ The existing county and four district councils (Somerset CC, Mendip DC, Sedgemoor DC, Somerset West & Taunton DC, South Somerset DC) working more closely through greater collaboration
- ☐ Creation of a new single-tier unitary council
- ☒ Unsure

Can you explain the reason for your answer?

Currently there has not been sufficient information available to comfortably express an opinion at this point

- 5) Any other business by permission of the Chairman**
 - i) Village car park signs**

CB reported that he now has 3 quotes:

Sign Maker - £320.15 VAT

Style Signs - £510

PJ Signs - £240 (no proofs/pictures seen as yet)

CB to return to PJ signs to ask for pictures of the finished product to circulate to Members

ii) Play ground

Clearer guidance on how to re-open safely are starting to become available. The play area needs to be fully risk assessed for both the children using it and the volunteers involved in the regular checks.

The potential opening date of 4th of July is guidance only, not a requirement.

Councillors resolved that, whilst they are keen to reopen the play area as soon as practical, the reopening of the play area would be delayed for a couple of weeks (18th July) to allow a full risk assessment and further research to be carried out.

CB offered to make a sign informing potential users that the play area remains closed until further notice whilst the PC evaluates how to reopen it safely.

iii) Highways

Despite considerable correspondence with Highways over the course of last summer, the splay at Crowcombe Crossroads again hasn't been cut back far enough to allow for a clear line of sight for vehicles exiting from the Stogumber direction.

The clerk was requested to contact Highways again to request that the vision splay is widened by 20 feet in each direction.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.21