

Stogumber Parish Council, SPC.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 1st May 2012

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

C. Bramall

K. Rew

M. Symes

T. Simpson

J Danson

J Leeming, Clerk

A Trollope-Bellow (District and County Councillor)

P Haine (member of the public)

Item	Topic	Action
1	Apologies: Apologies were accepted from Cliff Matravers and Viv Sellick. Tracey Thomas did not attend.	
2	Declaration of Interests. CB declared a personal interest in item 5 Miss May's field as a neighbour. MS declared a personal interest in item 5b, a family member works for one of the contractors providing estimates.	
3	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments from the member of the public present.	
4	Local Plan. JS explained that the working party (consisting of member of Stogumber and Crowcombe Parish councils) had met 3 times and had attended a workshop with West Somerset Council to discuss the draft Local plan. The working party has drafted a joint response to the consultation questions in the format preferred by WSC. Copies of that response were handed out to councillors. Not all the questions had been discussed in detail, where there was agreement to a question, a positive response was given, where the question dealt with matters not directly affecting SPC, the response was 'we do not have a view on this policy'. JS went through each question and outlined the responses and the reasons behind them. There were discussions on each point and broad agreement with the responses as outlined. MS felt that the proposed limits on development were unfair, as they would not apply to the hamlets as well as villages, making it harder to build in the hamlets. Everyone felt that the definitions of settlements were unclear and unhelpful in trying to understand the consultation document. MS felt it was unfair that the requirements that need to be satisfied for development do not apply to Minehead, Watchet and Williton. CB explained that WSC reasons for having a higher threshold for affordable housing in Minehead, Watchet and Williton were that developers would not build if the threshold was low and they were more likely to build small open market housing in the towns than in villages. The draft response has been sent to other parish councils in the area, JL to await any feedback from them before sending it to WSC, a joint response from several parish councils may carry more weight with WSC. A vote of thanks was recorded for all the hard work JS and the members of the working party have put in to produce the consultation responses. ATB left the meeting.	JL
5	Miss May's Field. Copies of a draft consultation document were handed out to councillors. The neighbours approached do not want part of their garden used to provide a visibility splay to a car park entrance. This rules out the preferred option for the entrance and siting of the car park. P Haine produced technical drawings and explained the other options available for a car park and the implications of each option. It was agreed that it would be better to have separate vehicle and pedestrian accesses to a car	

park with the pedestrian access as close to the school as possible and to include a barrier to prevent children running straight onto the road. It was agreed that any track to a car park should also be extended to provide access to Daphne Lewis's field for the possible graveyard extension and for overflow parking on the grass for events such as Open Gardens when up to 50-60 extra spaces may be needed.

There were lengthy discussions regarding the entrance to a car park. It was felt by some councillors that having the entrance where the current gate is, would mean that a village green area in the natural bowl of the field would be compromised and that the car park and track would dominate the look of the field. Other councillors felt this was the most practicable and cost effective solution. There were discussions regarding whether a car park should be screened or visible and whether the hedge bank should be removed. It was raised whether there was a need for a formal car park or whether informal parking on the field for village events would be a better solution. There would still be a need to create a track for access to the field and this would still require considerable earthmoving and highways permission. There would also be a possible restriction on the number of days informal parking would be allowed.

It was agreed to consult residents on whether a car park was wanted and whether the village was prepared to raise funds to pay for it.

There was no agreement over whether the consultation should address the issue of where the car park and entrance would be sited. MS felt that consultation might still not give a definitive answer to that issue and ultimately the council would have to make the final decision, if residents gave the go-ahead for a car park.

JS

JS to redraw the plan for the field, showing the various options to present at the next meeting with a view to reaching agreement over what the consultation should consist of.

KR proposed a vote of thanks to P Haine for the work he has done on behalf of the council.

b) The estimates for the earthmoving to create a car park were based on having the car park as close to the school as possible and a shared pedestrian and vehicle access. 2 estimates were for £30,000 + vat and one was for £15,000 + vat but this one would increase if rock was discovered during the excavation works.

c) R Hayes has been approached to move the beacon, which will happen before the Jubilee weekend.

6 **Stogumber Play Area.**

This item to be carried over to the next meeting.

7 **Finance.**

- a) It was agreed that Judy Bryant would be approached to perform the internal audit on the 2011-12 accounts.
- b) Cheques totalling £81.52 were agreed and signed for the clerk's salary and tax for the period 15th March 2012 to 31 March 2012.
- c) Cheques totalling £181.97 were agreed and signed for the clerk's salary and tax for the April 2012.

8 **Jubilee Celebrations Update.**

This item to be carried over to the next meeting.

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

There was no other business raised.

The meeting closed at 22:00. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th May at Deane Close Common Room. This Meeting will start at 7pm with the Annual Parish meeting.