

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 1st May 2014

The meeting started at 19:40

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman M Symes A Mills C Matravers
C Bramall V Sellick J Danson K Rew

J Leeming, Clerk

C Lawrence (County Councillor) Advisors: R Sharpe

2 members of the public

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from A Trollope-Bellew and PCSO P Bolton.	
2.	Election of Officers. J Spicer was unanimously elected as Chairman and C Bramall was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.	
3.	Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations. AM and CB declared an interest in Item 8 The Beacon Field as a neighbour.	
4.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no comments, questions or suggestions from members of the public present, at the point. One member of the public wished to speak regarding item 7d.	
5.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 5/4/14 and 10/4/14 were reasonable records of the meetings. These were signed by the chairman.	
6.	PCSO report. PCSO sent a report which JL read out. For the previous month there had been 21 calls to the police for this area. 8 road related incidents, 3 loose animals (horses) on the A358, none resulting in injury or damage, 2 suspicious persons or vehicles and 8 others. There was only 1 low level crime reported which is being investigated.	
7.	District and County Councillors reports. District Councillor A Trollope-Bellew was not present and had advised that because he has been unable to attend WSC meetings, he had nothing to report. County Councillor C Lawrence reported that central government has given SCC £23m towards repairing damage to roads caused by the recent floods. This work is likely to take up to 18 months. SCC have £10m to bring fibre optic broadband to the county, this should be sufficient for 92.5% coverage and SCC are asking central government for additional funds to cover the rest of the area. SCC is still working with flood victims who are still not back in their homes. The Crown Estate is selling approx. 45 homes in Somerset. CL believes this will have a detrimental effect on small communities if these are sold as second homes.	
8.	The Beacon Field. a) Update The community orchard committee are considering an area of about half an acre for an orchard on the south facing slope of the field near the rear gate, they will come to SPC with a proposal for approval. b) Insurance. CB to contact DI to see if the Village Hall insurance would cover the temporary car parking on the field for events held at the village hall. c) Hedging at entrance to field. JL has contacted highways regarding advice on a visibility splay to the Beacon Field entrance but has not had a response as yet. d) Potential site for school. The school governors are conducting a review into the future of the Stogumber and Crowcombe schools and as part of that review there is a possibility that they may consider consolidating the 2 schools onto one site. As SPC intend to allocate the lower part of the Beacon Field for community use, there was a proposal that SPC should write to the governors letting them know that the Beacon Field could be a potential site for either a new school or a new village hall, freeing up the site of the	

current hall for school expansion.

A member of the public spoke that he felt SPC should be bold and offer part of the field for free to the school as the school is a very important part of the village. There was a discussion regarding both options and what would happen to the school site should a new school be built. It was agreed that there should be covenants on the land to ensure it would return to SPC should it no longer be used as an educational establishment.

A vote was taken on both options with a majority voting for the option to offer the land free to the school. JL to write to the governors with the offer.

9. Play Area and proposed bike track.

M Moss has resigned from the play area committee and JL spoke to the L Tribe, the remaining member. She is looking for additional support to run the play area and has suggested that SPC work with her and possibly other new members. JL to have further discussions with her and report back. JD has spoken to R Criddle who will contact L Tribe to arrange a date for the bike track, JD has offered his assistance.

JL
JD

10. Finance.

a) The Current account has a balance of £9,171.93, £1,696.22 of which is being held for the Play Area bike track. This includes the 1st instalment of the precept and £291.00 for the grass let. The Reserve account has a balance of £3,369.11.

b) Expenditure agreed was:

Clerk's salary and tax for April	£293.69
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Wessex water invoice	£11.24
SALC subscription	£172.33

The PWLB loan of £3,223.02 will be taken by direct debit on 12th May 2014

c) It was agreed to review the Statement of Internal Controls at the next meeting alongside agreeing the audit.

d) JL has received the renewal notice from the current insurance provider and obtained a further 2 quotes. She circulated a summary of the 3 quotes for comparison. It was agreed to accept the lowest of the three quotes and sign up to a 3 year Long Term Agreement. A cheque for £265.00 payable to Broker Network Ltd was signed

11. Neighbourhood Plan.

JS has had a meeting with Toby Clempson and Martin Wilsher at WSC to go through the draft statement. WSC have no fundamental objections to the content. JS and JL had a meeting with Somerset Community Council who have offered to help with getting grants to pay for a Policy Planning officer; one would be needed to help draft the statement into a planning document. JS has started looking for a Policy Planning officer. JS suggested the advisors would not be needed until this document has been written or there were specific items to consider.

12. Planning

3/31/14/005 Conversion of barn to dwelling including extension, Manor House, Hill Street and 3/31/14/006 Conversion of barn to dwelling including extension, Manor House, Hill Street – Listed Building Consent – the application has been withdrawn.

13. Highways.

AM reported a new post has been erected on Station road.

MS reported that the signpost for Preston Lane has not been put back and the Hartrow Lane sign is damaged. JL to report to Highways.

MS reported potholes in Preston Lane and outside Mill House Cottage, JL to report to Highways.

The BT line on Vellow Road still hangs down, JL to contact BT again.

JL

14. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

The West Somerset Flood Group have requested details of flood risks in the parish. JS has completed the form and it was agreed that this response should be forwarded. JL to forward.

The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

JL

The next meeting will be on the 12th June 2014 at 7:30pm on Thursday 1st May 2014, at Deane Close Common Room.