

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 24th October 2012

The meeting started at 19:35

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman	C. Bramall	K. Rew	C Matravers	
M. Symes	J Danson			
J Leeming, Clerk	A Trollope-Bellow (District and County Councillor)			
Advisors:	D Morrison	T Vesey	M Griffiths	D Ilman

Item	Topic	Action
1	Apologies: There were apologies from TS and MM. CB to arrive late	
2	Declaration of Interests. There were no declarations of interest	
3	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments at this time. The members of the public present had been invited to take part in the discussions to follow.	
4	Acceptance of minutes. It was proposed and passed that the minutes of the meetings held on 19/9/12 and 03/10/12 were reasonable records of the meetings. These were signed by the chairman.	
5	Neighbourhood Plan. a) Appointment of advisors. JS explained that the advisors had been invited to attend meetings to discuss the neighbourhood plan, and that they would be free to take part in all the discussions about the neighbourhood plan, not just the interests they represent. When formal decisions were being taken they would not be able to vote. He expected that a consensus would be reached prior to any votes. The advisors were to represent areas and interests in the village, which were not represented by parish councillors. The advisors are Mrs Daphne Morrison representing elderly concerns, Tom Vesey representing the church, Mike Griffiths, community school governor representing the school and Derek Ilman representing the village hall. It was suggested that DI also represent CRASH, he is to discuss this with the Crash committee in case they wish to appoint a different representative. When key points are reached there would be open meetings / exhibitions where all residents could air their views. b) Scope and boundaries. JS explained that a neighbourhood plan would have to adhere to the strategic plans included in WSC local plan but it is still not known when that plan will be published. WSC local plan would span 20 years, it is envisaged that the neighbourhood plan would probably cover 10 years with a review period with every new council. WSC planning department will give advice and guidance on how to draw up a plan and JS and CB are to meet them to discuss further. There was a discussion about the scope and boundaries of the plan and whether it should include some or all of the hamlets, whether the hamlets had different needs to the village or between themselves and how hamlets views could be represented. It was agreed that at this stage while discussions are broadly based, no decision would be made regarding the boundaries and that further down the process these would become obvious. CB and ATB joined the meeting. c) Understanding the needs and aspirations of the village / parish JS suggested that the group needed to look at: - What it had and wished to preserve and improve, What it didn't have and aspired to or needed. MG felt that other factors could affect plans such as demographics, rising elderly population, rising / falling school population, effects of Hinkley Point. He also suggested that the risk of losing one of the village's amenities such as	

school, pub or shop could change the whole character of the village and the plan should attempt to mitigate against these risks.

JS felt the Local plan would be able to set the scene for some of these areas. It was also suggested that a survey held in the village in 1997 could act as prompts as to what could be considered.

JS said the neighbourhood plan would be partly about setting the framework and parameters for planning policies for the area, i.e. what economic and other development would be welcome, and partly about how SPC could develop the field.

JS explained that briefing document had a lot of questions and the idea was that people could take these away and discuss with their groups and come back to the next meeting with feedback. It was felt that the briefing document covered a lot of the necessary questions.

All

MS felt that a neighbourhood plan should be fluid and not stifle development by putting too many restrictions, JS explained that the worry was that WSC Local Plan wouldn't support development outside Watchet, Williton and Minehead and would itself put restrictions unless there was a neighbourhood plan which would meet the needs of the parish. CB felt it was important to be brave and include things that might not be popular at the present time, such as industrial units and new houses but would give the opportunity at some point in the future for development.

JS felt the next step would be to try and formulate feedback from the briefing document into statements in the context of a plan, and test these by public consultation.

All

MG suggested a starting point would be to agree strategic principles to put some context to the plan. It was agreed that all would consider strategic principles and email them to everyone in the group prior to the next meeting. It was agreed that MG would look at what may happen in the wider area and how that may affect any plans and to report back to the next meeting. JS to supply MG with a copy of WSC draft local plan, which has a lot of the relevant information included.

All

It was agreed that the next meeting on 14 November would include a discussion regarding the strategic principles.

MG

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Finance.

It was proposed and agreed that the clerk's hours should be increased from 4 to 6 hours per week to reflect the increase in meetings and associated work for the clerk. JL said this would cost the council a further £546 this financial year but that the council had enough in the account to cover this cost without using any of the reserves.

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Miss May's Field.

Access to the field for a temporary car park.

CB had not had chance to investigate what improvements could be made to the access, which could reasonably be justified on agricultural grounds, at present the entrance is too narrow for some farm machinery. JD suggested discussing the requirements with M Waldcock if VS was too busy to help. CB to contact him and also to contact R Criddle to get an updated quote, taking any amendments into consideration.

CB

DM asked if their land would be used for the visibility splay. JS replied not at the moment as SPC did not want to do any work that would require planning permission and making a highways compliant entrance would require planning permission.

Renaming the field.

There is to be a piece in the Standard in November asking for suggestions. KR had already received some suggestions ahead of publication. The suggestions would be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

KR

Tree Planting

CB reported that the area of the field, which currently has bales on it, would be a suitable area for planting trees and placing some picnic benches. There

MG TV

was a discussion regarding the types of trees and the management of them. JS felt that a group other than SPC should take on the responsibility of organising, planting and caring for the trees. MG suggested that the school get involved and it was agreed that MG would discuss this with the school and that TV would offer his support to the school.

CB to find out the price of suitable benches and report back.

CB

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Any other business by permission of the Chairman

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 14th November at Deane Close Common Room.