

Stogumber Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

To be held virtually on Zoom on Thursday 25th June 2020
commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice), T Vesey, C Matravers, T Brick, A White, R Foster, V Sellick

SWT Cllr P Pilkington

SCC Cllr C Lawrence (after 8pm)

1) To receive any apologies of absence

SWT Cllr M Kravis

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

CB & AW – Beacon Field

3) Public comments or questions

None

4) District and County Councillor reports

SWT Cllr P Pilkington hoped that the parish has coped ok during lockdown?

- SWT have been supporting business with discretionary funding and as a district council have coped well with the unusual circumstances. Officers have been working as near normal as is possible. July 4th brings a new stage of reopening and signage will have to be changed from 2m to 1m distancing. SWT car parking is to remain free for the foreseeable future.
- Electric car charging point. CB asked Cllr Pilkington if there had been any change in the funding options from SWT regarding installing electric car parking charging points. PP confirmed that it is still the same as last year, £1500 per installation. Councillors noted that this will be nowhere near the amount required to install a charging point in the Beacon Field but agreed to obtain a quotation to pass onto Cllr Pilkington to explore further.
- Somerset Unitary. County is driving the idea of a Unitary Authority, the Districts are not keen and SWT think it is ill advised to have these discussions during a pandemic. The TD & WS merger didn't pan out as projected, so personally Cllr Pilkington has reservations.

SCC Cllr C Lawrence thanked everyone for their kind wishes when her husband was ill. He is now home and making steady, but slow, progress.

- Grateful for all the efforts villages have made helping parishioners during lock down. Stay vigilant and stay safe. Covid won't be gone for a very long time yet.
- Unitary Authority. Cllr Lawrence reported that she had just been with Carhampton PC where they were addressed by Cllr D Fothergill (SCC Leader). He could also meet with SPC if required. Councillors asked Cllr Lawrence if she could please organise this in time for the 3rd July response deadline.

Cllr Lawrence went on to explain that a lot of thought has gone into this proposal; covid has clearly demonstrated that things can never be the same again and things need to change. You must always do your best in the present to learn from the past. One third of the population of Somerset will soon be over 85 and Somerset needs to get the very best for us all, young and old. Now is not the time to be hesitant. There has been enthusiasm from the public and Covid

has shown that one single point of contact has worked well and can be so much more efficient.

5) To approve the minutes of Parish Council meetings held on 12th, 14th and 21st March 2020

The minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes will be signed when the parish council next meet in person.

6) Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

7) The Beacon Field:

a) Car Park signage

CB reported that he had contacted three companies regarding signage – 1 at the entrance to the field and 1 by Sawpits. These would be double sided, painted (green background, white lettering) aluminium composite

2 quotes received and 1 quote yet to come. It was agreed for CB to continue with obtaining the quotes and illustrations to circulate amongst Members for consideration.

b) Electric car charging point in the Beacon Field car park

This matter was already covered during SWT Cllr P Pilkington section of the agenda

c) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field or car park

None

8) Highways / Footpaths: Any urgent matters concerning Highways or Footpaths

The clerk was requested to report the following issues to Highways:

- Pot hole in Station Road by the raised walkway
- Tractors and wide vehicles are damaging the banks of the small lanes and pulling mud and debris into the road which needs clearing away. TV offered to provide a list of the roads affected to the clerk after the meeting.
- Pot holes in Preston Lane to Lower and Higher Preston Farms
- The edge of Navy's Lane is being eroded away by construction vehicles

9) Planning:

a) Any urgent matters concerning planning matters

Nevys Farm :-2 buildings at top of the site have been removed and replaced by a larger barn- which doesn't appear in recently approved planning application...has this taken place under permitted development rights or is it a breach of planning? The clerk was requested to ask the planning department at SWT for clarification

b) For report: planning applications responded to under delegated powers

The following applications have been responded to by the clerk since March under delegated powers following electronic consultation with Members:

i) ABD/31/20/001 (SW&T) Mill Fruit Farm, Nevys Lane, Stogumber, TA4 3TP. Prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Supported

ii) 3/31/20/009 (SW&T) on Barn at Boarpath Lane, Rexton Lane, Lydeard St Lawrence, TA4 3QL. Conversion of agricultural barn to 1 No. dwelling (Class C3a) with associated works. Supported

iii) 3/31/20/010 (SW&T) on Wood Farm Cottage, Wood Lane, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 3TJ. Erection of replacement extension to south elevation and porch to west elevation (resubmission of 3/31/20/004). Supported

iv) 3/31/20/011 (SW&T) on Higher Preston Farm, Preston Lane, Stogumber, TA4 3QQ

Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling (resubmission of 3/31/19/009). Supported together with a request that the application is referred to Committee for decision

v) 6/12/20/101 (ENP) Springwater Farm, ELWORTHY, LYDEARD ST. LAWRENCE, TAUNTON, TA4 3PY. Proposed new livestock building. No change to support originally submitted in February

- 10) Consider the Parish Council response to the SCC consultation on forming a Unitary Authority**
Councillors resolved to wait until a meeting with Cllr Fothergill (SCC Leader) before lodging a response.

11) Finance

a) To approve Year End Accounts – 2019/20

Councillors resolved to approve the end of year bank reconciliation, dated 31.3.20, of £20,267.57. £1,866.04 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) For report:

i) Payments approved since the last meeting

The following payments have been authorised under delegated powers since the March 12th PC meeting:

7.4.2020

Mrs Katherine Butler, funds held on behalf of Stogumber Lunch Club £150.00

Water2business, Beacon Field trough £12.77

May 2020

C Morrison-Jones, salary & expenses April & May 20 £707.88

HMRC, PAYE £56.20

PWLB, Loan repayment (D/D) £3223.02

CRASH, loan repayment £5000.00

BHIB, insurance (3yr LTA) £229.47

SWAST, Defibrillator lease renewal (4yrs) £2160.00

SWT, 2019 uncontested election fee £100.00

Mrs K Butler, meals for socially isolating parishioners £360.00

ii) Amounts received

15.4.20 Receipt of 1st half of precept (SW&T) £10,000.00

4.5.20 Receipt of grant from western power distribution (corona help grant) £700.00

iii) The Parish Council as an employer: Pension re-enrolment requirement

The clerk reported that the 3rd anniversary of the PCs staging date with the Pensions Regulator fell on 1st May 2020, with the redeclaration of compliance deadline being by 30th September 2020. She confirmed that she had submitted the required declaration of compliance with the Pension Regulator on behalf of the Parish Council in regard to its duties as an employer on 21st May 2020 confirming that none of the staff employed by the PC (the clerk) were eligible for a workplace pension scheme to be provided

12) Consider Internal Auditor's Report

The Internal Auditor, Mrs K Smith, had carried out the internal audit and found the internal audit control arrangements to be satisfactory. Accordingly, the Internal Auditor had signed-off Page 5 of the Annual Return without qualification.

Due to expenditure in excess of £25,000 for the 2019/20 financial year, Stogumber Parish Council will not be exempt from the limited assurance review and as such the AGAR documents will be required to be submitted to the external auditors for review

13) Annual Return – approve Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement

Due to Covid-19, the date for the submission of the audit, and the corresponding dates for public consultation, have been extended. Members agreed that replies to Questions 1 to 9 all be “Yes”. The page was then signed by the Chairman and will be returned to the clerk to obtain her physical signature before submission to the external auditors

14) Annual Return – approve Section 2, the Accounting Statement

The Council considered the information prepared and signed by the Clerk that had been previously circulated. The statement was approved, and signed by the Chairman

15) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.05

Stogumber Playground Association Meeting

To be held via the Zoom remote platform immediately after the Parish Council Meeting.
25th June 2020, commencing at 21.05

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Bramall (Chair), M Symes (Vice), T Vesey, C Matravers, T Brick, A White, R Foster,

- 1) **To receive any apologies of absence**
Cllr V Sellick
- 2) **Public comments or questions**
None
- 3) **To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 12th March 2020**
The minutes were approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. The minutes will be signed when the parish council next meet in person
- 4) **Any matters arising from the minutes not covered below**
None
- 5) **Playground upkeep: Any urgent matters concerning playground upkeep**
Due to the corona virus, since the announcement of Government regulations on 23rd March, the playground has been closed. Councillors wished to thank Chris Moss for his continued excellent work during lockdown keeping the area smart and tidy. After the publication of the agenda for this meeting, Government restrictions have been altered and, as of 4th July, outdoor playgrounds will be allowed to re-open.
The official guidelines on how to safely re-open are still evolving but the apparatus needs inspecting before re-opening, all surfaces cleaned and a risk assessment for safe usage needs to be carried out. This is an ongoing process that will continue as more guidance becomes
- 6) **Finance**
 - a) **To approve the Year End Accounts 2019/20**
Councillors resolved to approve the end of year bank reconciliation, dated 31.3.20, of £181.81.

b) For report:

i) Payments approved since the last meeting

None

ii) Amounts received

None

7) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

The clerk was requested to remind Woodl Land South-West that another application of weedkiller around the apparatus was required.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15

DRAFT