

Stogumber Parish Council

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting on 27th July 2017.

The meeting started at 7.30 p.m, at Deane Close Common Room

Present:

C. Bramall (Chair), M. Symes, V. Sellick, G. Tuckfield, T. Vesey, C. Matravers, G Rexworthy, A White, T Brick

C Morrison-Jones (Clerk)

A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor), A Rhodes (Policy Officer, Planning and Environment, WSDC)

G Rexworthy signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the start of the meeting

The Chairman thanked Ann Rhodes for attending tonight

1) To receive any apologies of absence

SCC Cllr C Lawrence

WSDC Cllr A Trollope-Bellew for late arrival

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

None

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

4) Neighbourhood Plan.

a) Consider the revisions made to the plan in response to the recommendations made by the Examiner

A Rhodes introduced herself to councillors and said that it was evident that the NP was a result of a great amount of community effort. She went on to explain that the Examiner made some recommendations to amend the original proposals to reflect National and WS Policy; a NP cannot contradict National or District Plans, only enhance them. WSDC agreed with examiners recommendations as they made the plan legally compliant. If changes are made to policies now it will have to go back to the examiner for re-examination.

MS asked if the plan could be altered in the future, after adoption, if needs changed. A Rhodes explained that if Stogumber wants a policy changed, then it would have to go back to Examiner and then to referendum.

Councillors asked is Stogumber better to go with plan or not? A Rhodes explained that community aspirations have been included in the NP and, whilst they are not a Policy, simply are aspirations, they will have influence and be taken into consideration in the future. They will be used by WDC as a tool when considering matters in the future

VS commented that he was disappointed that what started with the aim of forming a plan for the parish has now ended up as a village plan; people in the hamlets have been excluded from the plan. A Rhodes explained that this was to ensure that the NP was in line with National, and therefore WS, Policy. She confirmed though, that if the process was taken through to referendum, residents of the hamlets (if they are not within the Exmoor National Park, which has its own Plan) will have a vote.

CM proposed, and GT seconded, to submit the plan forward to referendum with the modifications made in light of the advice of the Examiner and let the community decide, in the referendum, whether the plan should be adopted. Councillors voted by a majority (7 for, 2 against) to proceed with plan.

b) Consider revising the map showing current extent of development in response to representations made by WSDC

A Rhodes explained that the existing built up area is not the same as existing developed area...built up area does not have to include gardens, allotments, cricket pitch etc and she had professional concerns that the outline map previously agreed by the PC was too large and didn't protect community assets, such as the cricket pitch or play area, sufficiently. The relevant policy in the NP says development will be encouraged within the area of current development or within 50m of boundary of area -this is potentially a very large area open for development if a defined area includes all non-agricultural land around the village.

ATB noted that the planning committee will often grant development outside the plan area if it is considered to have merit, but if it refuses an application within the plan there is more opportunity for the developer to appeal against the decision. Therefore, if a defined area includes recreational areas it may be harder to protect them from future development.

A Rhodes confirmed that the Examiner has ruled that the NP can go forward with or without a map. The merits of not including a definitive map in the NP were discussed by councillors.

TB proposed, CM seconded, that no map to be included in the NP. Councillors voted by a majority to submit the NP without a map defining the current extent of development.

A Rhodes then confirmed the timescale and processes that would follow next:

- The NP will be presented to the WSC Local Development Panel on 1st August 2017
- The referendum will then have to be held within 56 working days from the 1st August. It will be held on a Thursday and WS Electoral Services will manage the referendum process.
- WS will cover the cost of printing copies of the NP to enable them to be readily available for parishioners to view in various locations around the parish. Additionally, copies of the plan will be available on line, both on the WS and Stogumber websites. There will also be an article in the Stogumber Standard to draw parishioner's attention to the referendum. WS may be able to print leaflets for door drop around the parish with information regarding the referendum, as long as the information they contained was factual and not leading parishioners to vote in a particular direction
- The referendum question will be a simple 'yes' or 'no' as to whether the NP should be adopted.
- If greater than 50% of the parishioners expressing an opinion support the NP it then it goes to cabinet for official adoption (a formality)

5) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

A planning meeting is scheduled for 3rd August, to consider planning application 3/31/17/012 at Whitmoor Farm, Willett Hill Cross to Thornbush Cross, Elworthy, TA4 3QD. Apologies in advance from CM & TB that they would be unable to attend

The Chairman thanked A Rhodes for giving up her time to attend the meeting; it was very much appreciated by councillors.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9pm