

## Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013

The meeting started at 19:30

### Present

J. Spicer, Chairman                      K. Rew                      V Sellick                      M Moss                      C Bramall  
T Simpson                                      M Symes                      J Danson  
J Leeming, Clerk  
Advisors:                      T Vesey                      M Griffiths

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<b>Apologies.</b> There were apologies from C Matravers, A Trollope-Bellow and advisors R Sharpe and D Ilman.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interests.</b> CB declared a personal interest in Item 6, The Beacon Field. <b>Requests for Dispensation.</b> It has been recommended by WSC that because all councillors have a pecuniary financial interest in the setting of the precept, i.e. they all live in a property liable for council tax, that they all are granted a dispensation to enable SPC to discuss and set the precept. JL handed the relevant dispensation form to the councillors who had not previously signed it. This dispensation will be effective until the end of March 2013.	ALL
3.	<b>Public comments, questions or suggestions.</b> There were no public comments.	
4.	<b>Precept.</b> JL handed out calculations based on the revised tax base. JS explained the reasons why the tax base had been reduced and its effect on the precept. WSC have allocated a grant to parish councils to reduce the effect of this change. JL explained that if there were no increase in the parish part of the council tax then £9,967.92 would be raised by the precept. If the council wanted to keep the precept at £10,000 then a 0.34% rise (or 10p on a Band D property) would be needed. It was explained also that WSC could not guarantee a grant next year and the increase needed to raise a £10,000 precept without it would be nearly 11%. It was also explained that there was a risk the central government could cap parish council rises next year. After a discussion it was resolved to keep the precept at £10,000. JL to inform WSC.	JL
5.	<b>The Beacon Field.</b> It was explained that the Standing Orders specify in 30B "Any proposed contract for the supply of goods, materials, services and the execution of works with an estimated value in excess of £200 shall be procured on the basis of a formal tender". JL sought advice from SALC re works to the field entrance and was advised that as a contractor hadn't been appointed, the best solution would be to change the standing orders to increase the amount that would trigger the tender process. JL to include this on the agenda for the next meeting. It was agreed that three quotes should be sought for the proposed works, JL to contact contractors once CB and TV had drawn a sketch and specification of what was required.	CB TV JL
6.	<b>Neighbourhood Plan.</b> <b>Q2. Would we be happy for more houses to be built?</b> The final part of this question tackled the type of development, which would be acceptable, i.e. small scale, infill, or larger developments. It was agreed that larger developments of similar houses would not be appropriate but that infill and small possibly staged development would allow for a mix of types of houses. Density levels were discussed, it was felt that these would be higher if smaller properties for young families or first time buyers were built, but that green spaces within developments should be encouraged. <b>Q3 Does the village need more or improved sports and cultural facilities?</b> The Cricket Club has mixed views on whether it should extend its sporting facilities. It was agreed that an outdoor Multi Use Games Area would increase sports	

facilities in the village. A larger village hall could offer additional indoor sports such as badminton and short mat bowls, which would bring more people into the village. It was felt that the proposed music festival would be a good indicator of the cultural needs. The Church could be used more often as a venue with its proposed improved facilities. There are 3 other venues (village hall, pub's function room, cricket club) for cultural, events, which should all be protected.

**Q4. Does the village need to protect and / or increase the amount of jobs and business premises in the village?**

Agricultural: it was agreed that this should be protected but that the council should generally have a positive attitude towards farm diversification, but look at each case on its merit.

Tourist Accommodation: It was agreed that this should be encouraged although it was felt that caravan sites would only be acceptable subject to careful siting to minimise visual impact. It was agreed that if smaller houses for families were built that some way of ensuring they weren't bought for second homes or self-catering accommodation would be desirable.

Food and Drink: It was felt that a tea room / coffee shop should be encouraged as not all visitors to the village want to use the pub's facilities. It would also offer employment to young people in the village. The Church is considering opening for up to 3 days a week in the summer months to offer visitors refreshments. It was felt that take-away premises would not be appropriate and that there would be insufficient trade to make one viable. The mobile facilities such as the fish and chip van were welcomed.

Retail: It was agreed to encourage other retail premises so long as they weren't in direct competition with the General Store.

Offices: It was agreed that offices would be encouraged

Live-work premises: it was agreed that these should be encouraged but the

environmental impacts of them should be taken into account i.e. noise and smells

Residential institutions: It was agreed to encourage these with the exception of bail hostels which it was felt would not be appropriate within the village.

Craft / light industrial: it was agreed to encourage these, which would increase employment prospects.

General industrial: it was felt that transport links would prevent large-scale industrial units applying for permission. The merits of any application should be given consideration.

Storage and distribution: it was agreed that these would not be appropriate because of the increased traffic these would bring.

7. **Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman.**

TS reported that the owner of the dangerous dog had received a conditional discharge for 1 year. He would enquire what the conditions were and report back. TS

KR reported back from the Local Choices meeting she attended on Tuesday 29/1/13. SCC needed to make £20m savings, there were £6m additional funds for highways, and SCC was looking for more co-operation and collaboration between councils. Emails regarding issues on local roads should be sent to ATB and John Osman at SCC.

MM reported that there had been no progress on the bike track, MM and JL to contact R Criddle, contractor to see if a date to visit Bideford bike track can be arranged. MM JL

JL reported that there were no recent Listed Building Consent applications for The Almonry on WSC planning website. JS read out a draft letter asking the residents if they had sought advice from WSC and it was agreed that this should be sent. JL

The meeting closed at 9:10pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at Deane Close Common Room, the Neighbourhood Plan item will start at 8pm.