

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 8th August 2013

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman M Symes K Rew T Simpson

Advisors R Sharpe M Griffiths

J Leeming Clerk, C Lawrence (County councillor), two member of the public

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from C Matravers, M Moss, J Danson, V Sellick, C Bramall, advisors D Ilman and T Vesey and District councillor A Trollope-Bellew	
2.	Declaration of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no public comments at that time, members of the public present wished to comment on Item 9, Neighbourhood Plan.	
4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. JS reported back to council on the meeting at Capton Farm on 22/7/13. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 11/7/13 and 22/7/13 were reasonable records of those meetings. They were signed by the chairman.	
5.	The Beacon Field. It was reported that the school has made good use of the field as an outdoor classroom. JL reported that sheep had escaped into Quantock View on two separate occasions in the last two weeks. JL to contact CB re quote for stock proof fencing to the field.	JL CB
6.	Play Area and proposed bike track. CL reported that she had approached Lloyds Bank re community grants for the bike track, and there might be a possibility of a grant when it becomes a TSB bank. She felt the bike track would qualify for a Health and Wellbeing grant and a grant from Somerset Community Council. There was also a possibility of grants from EDF when the strike price was agreed for Hinkley Point. There was no-one present to report on how the play area committee wants to proceed, this will be carried forward to the next meeting.	
7.	Finance. a) National Salary Awards. NALC have issued new pay scales for clerks, applicable from April 2013. This is a 1% increase and would mean an additional cost of £33.70 for the year. It was agreed to award this increase to the clerk.	
8.	WSC Local Plan Consultation. a) Update from working party. WSC have published the revised draft local plan, the consultation period ends on 26/9/13. JS reported that the working party had met and would be meeting again on 10/8/13. A draft response would be circulated before the next meeting for consideration at that meeting. Most of the points raised during the last consultation have been addressed. There is a threshold of 3, rather than 1, for affordable houses in the villages but still a higher threshold for Minehead, Watchet and Williton.	
9.	Neighbourhood Plan. Members of the public spoke to express their wish that the plan should address energy use and conservation and resilience in terms of food production. They felt bio mass systems should be considered but the council felt not at the expense of food production. It was agreed to amend the housing section of the draft to say new developments should normally include some form of renewable energy. It was agreed that the statement regarding the mix of new housing should include the phrase 'housing suitable for the frail and elderly' The draft statement of needs and wishes were discussed from the point at which the previous meeting on 11/7/13 had reached.	

5. Recreation and Leisure, Sport and Culture

5a. A Village Hall with the main space around 18m long and 9m wide, sub-divisible; in addition, a stage, outdoor paved area, storage space, kitchen, toilets and shower(s). There was agreement with this statement.

5b. A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). There was agreement with this statement.

5c. A Village Green. There was agreement with this statement.

5d. The Square and northern Churchyard to be kept unobstructed to enable community events to be held there. There was agreement with this statement.

5e. More children's outdoor play space and equipment.

There was agreement with this statement but it was felt that if any new play area, village green and MUGA could be linked with a new village hall then all the facilities would all be better used. It was agreed that the draft should include a statement about protecting the pub and cricket club as community spaces.

6. Employment and Business

6a. More businesses to provide employment opportunities, goods and services to residents. There was agreement with this statement.

6b. More tourist accommodation, including hotels, inns, bed and breakfast and self-catering businesses. Sites for towed and static caravans or chalets to be carefully selected and screened not to harm the character or appearance of the village. There was agreement with this statement.

6c. More food and drink businesses, such as restaurants, pubs, cafés, tea-gardens, etc, subject to impact on neighbours. However, no permanent take-away. There was agreement with this statement.

6d. More retail businesses. There was agreement with this statement but it was felt that the existing pub and shop businesses should be protected.

6e. More offices. There was agreement with this statement.

6f. More live-work premises, where homes are combined with offices, workshops, etc. There was agreement with this statement.

6g. Residential institutions for the elderly or disabled.

There was agreement with this statement and a comment that it was a shame elderly of the village feel they have to move out because of the lack of suitable services and housing.

6h. More craft and light industrial premises, subject to impact on neighbours. There was agreement with this statement.

6i. No general industrial, storage or distribution businesses that require the use of large vehicles or a large number of vehicle movements.

There was agreement with this statement.

7. Agriculture and Food Production.

7a. Encourage existing and new agricultural and horticultural businesses. Support farm diversification; relocation of farm yards and buildings to more suitable locations; new uses for existing farm buildings; appropriate design of new roads, gates and car-parking to maintain and improve access for farm vehicles. There was agreement with this statement.

7b. Support local and community food production, such as allotments, community and commercial orchards, community and commercial small-holdings. There was agreement with this statement. It was agreed that the draft should include a statement about actively encourage superfast broadband to the area as that would encourage new businesses and improve employment prospects.

8. Roads and rights of way

8a. Station Road (between the Village Hall and the Cricket Club) to be made safer for pedestrians, children, cyclists, horse-riders and other road-users.

There was agreement with this statement.

8b. A traffic-free route from Pickpurse Lane to Hill Street.

There was agreement with this statement but concerns were raised about maintenance of a permanent footpath.

8c. A pavement must be created when any road-side land is developed.

There was agreement to this statement subject to the character of the village

being maintained.

8d. On footpaths on the edge of the village, replace stiles with large kissing gates suitable for less agile users. There was agreement with this statement.

8e. Passing places on the approach roads, but not general road-widening.

There was agreement with this statement.

Options for improving transport links and accessibility were discussed, including supporting a commuter service via WSR and community transport schemes.

9. Protect the approaches and setting of Stogumber. There was agreement with this statement.

10. New buildings to respect the character of the village and the setting of historic buildings; walling materials for all new buildings to be render or natural local red sandstone; roofing materials to be natural slate, clay tile or thatch. There was agreement with this statement.

11. No building on land that is at risk of flooding, and no development or engineering works that would increase the risk of flooding downstream.

There was agreement with this statement.

12. Encourage alternative energy-production, such as small-scale hydro-electric schemes, where there is acceptable impact on the character and setting of the village and historic buildings is acceptable. Ground-source and thermo-dynamic heating will always be acceptable. Photovoltaic arrays will usually be acceptable when mounted on new buildings and on hidden valleys of old or historic buildings, but will not be acceptable when mounted on the ground unless the site is screened from view.

It was agreed to include biomass energy production but not at the expense of food production.

Other areas not covered in the draft but it was agreed should be included were:

Creation of a temporary or permanent car park

The need for an extension to the graveyard

To include the church as a cultural and community space and support its maintenance and accessibility

JS to incorporate the changes discussed and re-circulate the draft for consideration at the meeting on 12/9/13.

10 Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman.

It was reported that the planning application at Preston Lane has been refused by WSC.

JS read out a letter from Ian Liddell-Grainger M.P. requesting support for a reduction in the rural penalty, applied to central government grants. It was agreed to support this cause, JL to sign and return the petition on behalf of SPC.

JL

It was reported that hedges in Wood Lane have not been cut back and that one drain in Wood Lane has blocked after the recent storms. JL to report to Highways

JL

The meeting closed at 9:10pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 12th September 2013 at Deane Close Common Room.