

## Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

The meeting started at 19:30

### Present

J. Spicer, Chairman                      C Matravers    V Sellick            J Danson

K Rew    C Bramall        M Symes

J Leeming, Clerk

Advisors:        T Vesey, M Griffiths

C Lawrence, County Councillor, A Trollope-Bellew District Councillor

2 members of the public

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	<b>Apologies.</b> There were apologies from advisors R Sharpe and D Ilman.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations.</b> CB declared an interest in Item 7, The Beacon Field, as a neighbour.	
3.	<b>Public comments, questions or suggestions.</b> Two members of the public outlined a proposal to plant a cider orchard on part of the Beacon Field as a community project. They explained that SCC were providing grants to help with the costs of planting and that an area of half an acre would be sufficient to set aside for an orchard. There was agreement from the council to the idea in principle and to add the suggestion to the Neighbourhood plan statement. A suitable location would be discussed as part of the next steps in the Neighbourhood plan.	
4.	<b>Acceptance of minutes of meetings.</b> It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meeting held on 11/12/13 were a reasonable record of the meeting. They were signed by the chairman.	
5.	<b>PCSO report</b> There was no PCSO present to give a report. None had been received by the Clerk.	
6.	<b>District and County Councillors report.</b> <b>County Councillor.</b> SCC have grants available to help flooding victims. I Titcombe, SCC has been contacted regarding advice on traffic management and signage in the village. JL to contact him to organise a visit. A Health and Wellbeing grant for £1000 has been awarded to the proposed bike track. CL is looking at funding for mental health services and how spending on these services could be improved. <b>District Councillor.</b> An appeal has been lodged by the applicants for the Aller Farm Solar farm. The amalgamation of the officer team between TDBC and WSC is progressing with the top 3 tiers in place. Charging for pre-application planning advice is going to be introduced. The Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee Is meeting on 11 February at 2:15pm in Crowcombe Hall, councillors and members of the public are welcome to attend.	
7.	<b>The Beacon Field.</b> It was reported that there were still sheep on the Beacon Field. JL to write to the tenant asking him to remove them. CB and TV to replant approx. 30 trees in the copse to replace ones which have died. There was a discussion regarding access to the field and getting a balance between the costs of maintaining it and access, either by people or cars. Presently the grass let ensures the field is grazed, there is no budget for grass cutting if the field was not grazed and the loss of income from the grass let would need to be raised in other ways to balance the budget. CM and CB to talk to prospective tenants to see how flexible they would be regarding vacating the field when needed for car parking. It was suggested that the cost of organisations obtaining insurance would put people off using the car park. JL to enquire about the council	JL

obtaining insurance for the car parking which could cover third party events, the cost of this insurance to be passed to organisers using it.

**8. Play Area end proposed bike track.**

MM was not present to give an update on the progress of the bike track.

**9 Finance.**

a) The current account balance as of 6/01/14 is £4,429.11. The reserve account balance is £3,368.28

b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed.

Clerk's salary and tax for January	£284.67
Invoice for hedge cutting	£96.60

c) Budget for 2014 – 15

A draft budget was circulated and agreed.

d) Precept setting for 2014-15

Precept calculations were circulated and discussed alongside the approved budget for 2014-15. It was agreed to increase the precept to £11,000, including the WSC grant. JL to send the completed form to WSC

JL

**10. Neighbourhood Plan.**

It was agreed to remove some of the wording in 4b and remove the duplicated phrase in 5B. JS to publish the amended statement on the website and write an article for the Standard explaining the scope of the changes in light of the survey. The next decision to be made would be to decide what the neighbourhood plan area should be. Part of the parish lies within the Exmoor National Park Local Plan area and if this were to be included the neighbourhood plan would need to be satisfy that Local Plan. It was agreed to only include the part which falls within the WSC Local Plan area and consider including the Exmoor National Park area at the next review in 5 years. JL to write to WSC to apply for a neighbourhood area. The advisors were asked to consider if they wanted to continue with the next stage or be replaced. JS explained that the next stage would be to place some of the items geographically on a map of the village and to safeguard areas of land for these, e.g. the village hall, school expansion, long term car park and MUGA. There was discussion about the need to do this and the need to be flexible to react to development not envisaged within this plan. JS explained that any decisions would have to be ratified by the parish through further consultation and a referendum. The council had been asked, at an earlier public meeting, to plan for the future of the village and the field had been bought to safeguard it from unwanted development. There was no consensus on how to move the plan forward in the allotted timeslot, discussions would be continued at the next meeting.

JS JL

**11. Casual Vacancy.**

Following the resignation of T Simpson, the vacancy has been advertised. If there is no request for an election by 10 electors in the parish by Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a new councillor can be co-opted. After the 9<sup>th</sup> January, if there is no request for an election, JL to advertise for candidates on the noticeboard and JS to email people and write a piece for the Standard.

JS JL

**12. Crowcombe / Stogumber School consultation.**

MG, as a governor, outlined the proposed changes to the admissions policy from September 2015 for the schools. It is proposed that the catchment area be extended to cover the Quantock Towers geographical area. This would give parents more choices about schools. Preference would be given to children living in the two villages, should the school be oversubscribed as a result of the changes. It was agreed to support the changes, JL to write to the Chair of the Governing Body.

JL

**13. Planning.**

There are no current outstanding planning applications / issues in the parish.

**14. Highways.**

a) Speed Restrictions.

JL to contact I Titcombe at SCC to arrange a suitable date for him to walk around the village with councillors and give advice. JL to liaise with councillors on their

JL

availability once dates have been suggested.

b) Update

A BT wire is still hanging low on Vellow Road. There is a BT pole and a tree leaning in Wood Lane, JL to report both to BT. JL

**15. Dog Control Orders.**

JS explained that applying for dog control orders would not be practicable as the council does not have the resources to effectively police any order or the budget to pursue prosecutions in the Magistrates' court.

**16. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.**

There was no other business. The meeting ended at 9:35pm.

The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Deane Close Common Room.