

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 8th January 2015

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

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from A Trollope-Bellew and C Bramall.	
2.	Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations. There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no members of the public present.	
4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 27/11/14, 30/11/14 and 4/12/14 were reasonable records of the meeting. They were signed by the chairman.	
5.	District and County Councillors report. County Councillor. SCC have produced a balanced budget, it was hoped that the planned cuts wouldn't affect rural areas. SCC and central government have given funds to the Somerset Rivers Authority whose aim is to take preventative measures to reduce the flooding risks. Plans are in place to tackle any Ebola risk in the area. There has been progress in stopping the illegal sale of tobacco in the area. Stogumber Primary School has received a £500 grant from the Health and Wellbeing fund. District Councillor. There was no district councillor present.	
6.	Neighbourhood Plan. The feedback from the Open Meeting in November was discussed. Setting of Stogumber. There was opposition at the open meeting to sites being identified as important to the setting of Stogumber. JS explained that although the meeting had a vote of 16:12 to remove this policy, the original parish survey from which the NP has been driven had the protection of green field sites from development as the top priority in the village (65% of respondents) and the second survey had 93.5% (43 respondents) in agreement that the approaches and settings of Stogumber should be protected. It was agreed that identified site should be removed from the maps and a description of the setting of Stogumber be added to aid planners. Green field sites would still be protected under the policy, "the proposals would not have significant harmful impacts on the landscape or built character of the area", and a higher criteria would be needed for any development on the approaches. Housing policy. Central Government have issued a new policy which states that in rural areas developments of 6 – 10 houses would attract a financial contribution for affordable housing but not necessarily on the same site. This means that the policy of 1 in every 3 would be affordable would only apply for sites of over 10 houses, sites of 6 - 10 houses would have a ratio of 1 in 6 affordable.. The NP would need to be changed to reflect this. There was opposition at the open meeting to a limit on the size of new homes. It was agreed to a change in policy to an average size of 100 sq. m. this would enable mixed development and could end up delivering more of the smaller properties needed in the village. Sites could be combined to include the affordable housing element. It was agreed that permitted development rights would be removed on any new houses, this would mean any extensions would require planning permission. Other amendments to the draft were:	

Add a description of the parish.

Explain why the part of the parish within the Exmoor National Park was being excluded.

Correct labels on maps.

Include surface water flooding map to identify flood risk areas.

Live / work policy to be checked against WSC policy.

Concerns that residential institutions could encourage an increase in traffic are not borne out by statistics.

Distinguish between community open spaces and public open spaces.

Cricket Club to be identified as private club but of value to the community.

Remove reference to Post office as the shop or NP can have no control over its future.

WSC would prefer there not to be a policy on the church as it is protected by its Grade 1 status.

Agreed that new businesses could have a harmful impact on the road network but would be not be allowed if harm was seen as significant.

Agreed that Low Impact Agricultural holdings policy would not preclude applications for Agricultural ties but would be seen as a stepping stone to one, where a viable business was created first.

J Shorten to amend the draft and circulate before the next meeting for agreement.

7. **Beacon Field.**

a) The boundary hedge has been flailed. The neighbours in Quantock View have complained because they believe they own the hedge and weren't consulted. JS has asked for a copy of their deeds to confirm ownership, in future neighbours should be contacted before that hedge is trimmed. SPC have the right to cut the sides which faces the Beacon Field.

b) JD expressed disappointment that the beacon was not to be lit for the Wassail. It was agreed that JD and TV would organise the lighting of the beacon, JL to contact the police and fire brigade to notify them. KR volunteered her son to be present as a qualified first aider.

c) J Shorten will draw up plans for a visibility splay to conform to highways advice. This will be submitted to WSC under permitted development rights. If this is agreed, quotes will be sought for the works. It was suggested that a splay include a footpath but it was agreed that the costs would probably be prohibitive. After the splay has been created, planning permission can then be sought for alterations to the drive and a permanent car park surface.

8 **Finance.**

a) The current account balance as of 8/1/15 is £4,349.37 The reserve account balance is £3,370.22

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

Clerk's salary and tax for January	£300.17
ICO Data Protection registration	£35.00
Geo & Co Invoice (from Locality grant)	£1,920.00

c) Budget for 2015-16

A draft budget was circulated and agreed.

d) Precept setting for 2015-16

Precept calculations were circulated and discussed alongside the approved budget for 2015-16. It was agreed to leave the precept at £11,000, this will mean a rise of 5.66% because WSC are not passing on central gvt funds. The clerk's hours to be reduced from 6 to 5 from April because the additional work required for the NP should end then. JL to send the completed precept form to WSC

9. **Planning.**

a) 3/31/14/014 Extension and alterations, The Cottage, Preston Lane - granted

b) 3/31/14/015 Retrospective application for retention of link doorway, Willow Cottage, Lower Vellow - granted

c) CA/31/14/002 Works to trees, Manor Linneys, 7 High Street – no objection

d) 6/31/14/101 & 6/31/14/102LB Proposed alterations and use of part of a

traditional building as an estate office, Coombe Sydenham Country Park - withdrawn

- e) 3/31/14/016 Proposed New Dwelling, Purseys, Wood Lane, Stogumber – a further meeting to take place on Sunday 11/1/15 to discuss the additional drawings sent to SPC.

10. Highways.

JL reported a road closure on Vellow Road on 15/1/15 for 1 day.

11. Rights of Way improvement plan consultation.

It was agreed that no comment would be made to this consultation.

12. Agree meeting dates for 2015.

The meeting dates as circulated prior to the meeting were agreed.

13. Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

JL has received an email from CCS asking for support to fight funding cuts to rural community councils. JL to circulate it to councillors.

JL has received a letter from WSC asking if SPC would be prepared to store sand bags in the parish for future flood defences. JL to write to WSC asking for more information before SPC could make a decision.

JD asked how residents could report high hedges, JS to forward the link on WSC website to a form to submit to WSC. JD reported that some residents weren't aware that meetings were open to the public. JL to ensure that this is included on agendas which are published. JS to write a short notice for the Standard.

JH asked if it was worth considering having a defibrillator in the village. JL reported that Bicknoller First Responders carry a one and cover Stogumber. This matter to be carried forward.

The meeting closed at 9:55. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 12th March 20145 at Deane Close Common Room.