

## Stogumber Parish Council, SPC.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The meeting started at 19:30

### Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

C. Bramall

C. Matravers

K. Rew

V. Sellick

M. Symes

T. Simpson

J Danson

J Leeming, Clerk

A Trollope-Bellow (District and County Councillor), PC David Masters (Beat Manager, Williton)

Item	Topic	Action
1	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Apologies were accepted from KR who would have to leave early and ATB who expected to be late. T Thomas did not attend.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declaration of Interests.</b> CB declared a personal interest in item 8, Miss May's field as a neighbour.</p>	
3	<p><b>Public comments, questions or suggestions.</b> There were no members of the public present.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of Meetings held 12/1/2012 and 3/3/12.</b> MS asked if an amendment he had requested had been added to the minutes for 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012. This had not but was added at the meeting. It was proposed and passed that the amended minutes for the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and the minutes for 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 were reasonable records of the meetings. They were signed by the chairman.</p>	
6	<p><b>PC David Masters Police report</b> PC David Masters introduced himself as the Community Beat Manager for the Williton Area. He explained his area covers 9 parish councils and while he liked to keep contact with all councils it was not always possible to attend meetings in person but a PCSO would attend when he couldn't. There had been 21 calls during the period since the last meeting. There had been 3 night time break-ins, 1 residential with nothing taken, 1 non dwelling where items were taken and breezeblocks taken from Stogumber Railway Station. The Beat team are raising awareness in the area of a property marking scheme, which would help police return stolen property to their owners when recovered. He asked if there were any questions, MS said it was nice to see the PCSO walking around the village. It was reported that the Vicar had had oil taken from her tank for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, soon after delivery. DM said he would look into that and visit the Vicar. The police have secured funding to help pay towards play equipment in the play area. DM to speak to TT about this funding. DM asked the council to join him in sending condolences to the family and friends of the soldiers killed in Afghanistan this week. DM gave out his business cards and left the meeting.</p>	
11	<p><b>Finance.</b> a) Repayment of Vat of £388.82 has been paid into the current a/c The assets on 08/03/12 are as follows: Current account                                   <b>£3,665.71</b> Reserve account                                   <b>£5,935.54</b> It was explained because of problems with NatWest, the mandate requesting new signatures for the accounts has not been actioned. A formal complaint has been lodged with the bank. Cheques will have to be signed by KR and CM until the matter is resolved. JL's salary and PAYE cheques for February will need to be re-issued because of invalid signatures on the original cheques. b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:</p>	

Clerk's salary and PAYE 12 <sup>th</sup> January – 13 <sup>th</sup> February	£203.80
Clerk's salary and PAYE 14 <sup>th</sup> February - 14 <sup>th</sup> March	£163.04
R&D Criddle – excavation for water pipe on parish field	£192.00
Wessex Water standing charge	£10.03

c) The Nat West reserve account could not be transferred to a higher interest account because of the problems with the mandate. This will happen once NatWest have resolved this.

d) JS has drafted a letter to the PM re the audit invoice, JL to forward this.

e) JL requested that she attend a SALC training course for preparing for the financial year end and audits at a cost of £20, this was agreed.

f) JL's contract of employment allows for a yearly increment payable from 1 April and subject to satisfactory performance. JS had undertaken a performance review and recommended the increment, which was agreed.

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### **ATB joined the meeting**

#### **County Report.**

The Boundary Commission has recommended that Bicknoller as well as Stogumber and Crowcombe should be moved to the Dunster Division. This move would break up the Quantock Ward. Stogumber Parish Council had previously objected to the move and ATB would continue to put these views forward. There is to be no increase in the County's share of the council tax but there may have to be more savings. There are already economies in County Hall with 4 corporate directors leaving and not being replaced. The 500 service bus, which serves Stogumber is to be run as a commercial venture by Quantock Motors until the end of July. If it is not used then it may not be continued. There are capital schemes totalling £85m planned, mainly on roads and primary schools.

ATB

KR asked why libraries have extended their opening hours, ATB said this was because of the court ruling against SCC and the costs of this would have to be found in savings elsewhere.

#### **District Report.**

There is to be no increase in the District portion of the council tax. Next year it is anticipated that there will be a £800,00 - £1,400,000 deficit on a £5,000,000 budget and there would be a need for a 30-50% increase in the District's portion of the council tax. This size of increase would be subject to a referendum. Discretionary service will cease if a referendum goes against such an increase. WSC share of the council tax is approximately 9% of the total tax, currently £132.90 per year for a Band D property.

WSC is speaking to central government to see if WSC can be classed as a special case, because it is the smallest council by population but one of the largest in area with additional costs incurred because of the distances that have to be covered in supplying services.

There has been no progress regarding the developer raising the kerb in Station Road to release it from its planning obligations. JL to write to the developer.

JL

The proposed supermarket in Williton is likely to come before a planning committee in April.

There is still no visitor centre in Minehead as there has been no agreement as to where it should be located.

JS raised the question of how to transfer part of the car park to SCC highways and the remainder to SPC. ATB to find out the procedure and how best to progress this

ATB

KR left the meeting

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#### **Local Plan**

JS and CB attended a Neighbourhood planning workshop, they felt the expert made the process more complicated than necessary.

ATB

They felt that a Neighbourhood plan should mirror the Local plan with specific requirements for the parish stated. The first priority should be to ensure that the local plan met SPC's requirements and for SPC to lobby for changes

during the consultation period. The draft Local plan has not yet been published and consultation period has not yet opened, ATB to find out from WSC when this will be published.

- 8 **Miss May's Field.**  
 a) P Haines has drawn up proposals for a car park in the field. JS and CB have had consultations with a neighbour regarding these plans. It was agreed that a broad outline plan for the field could now be drawn up for general consultation with the village. Once a consensus on the layout and entrance to a car park has been reached, P Haines has agreed to draw up plans to take to WSC and SCC for advice prior to lodging a planning application. It was agreed that quotes be obtained from subcontractors for the cost of moving the volume of soil likely to be required for a car park.  
 ATB left the meeting. JS CB
- b) The beacon has been registered as part of the official Jubilee celebrations, CM and MS to organise its move to the field before the Jubilee weekend. CM MS
- 9 **Parish Survey results.**  
 a) JS has spoken to SCC transport manager John Perrett, regarding the possibility of using the school's minibus to transport children to Minehead Eye on a regular basis. JP felt that SCC would help by providing training and arranging insurance. The School governors were against the idea in case it jeopardised the use of the bus for the school. JL to contact JP to ask him to speak to the school to see if their issues can be addressed. JL
- 10 **Stogumber Play Area**  
 a) TT not at the meeting to report on this  
 b) The £2000.00 funding secured by the police need to be spent before the end of the financial year. Because the BMX track will need planning permission and this may not be obtained in time it was suggested that the money be spent on other equipment in the play area. CM and CB to liase with TT and the Play Area Committee to move this forward as a matter of urgency because of the cut off date for the funding. CM  
 CB  
 TT
- 12 **Planning.**  
 a) The plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> storey extension for 23 Oldway have been approved  
 b) The plans for tree felling at Wynes, 1 Hill Street have been approved  
 c) There has been no decision made by WSC on the extension at Manor Mill  
 d) It was agreed that there was no comment to make regarding the application for a felling licence at Theed Forestry Estate
- 13 **Highways.**  
 a) SCC Highways department have agreed to maintain part of the car park as the highway, SPC have informed WSC that they will take ownership of the remainder. ATB has agreed to find out the procedures to enable this to happen. ATB  
 b) There has been no progress regarding Summerfields raising the kerb to remove their obligation to build a bus shelter. JL to write to Summerfields. JL  
 c) JL reported a temporary road closure notice for the A358 at Sampford Brett for 2 nights from 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012. JL to display the notice on the noticeboard. JL  
 d) MS reported that the edge of Vellow Road to the south of the Escott turning appears to be subsiding into the field on the west. MS to report this to Highways MS
- 14 **Dog Control Orders.**  
 The School has been approached and does not want a Dog Control Order on the field behind the school as they do not allow dogs on it and there isn't a problem. The Churchwarden is concerned about the amount of dog mess in the churchyard and has written about it in the Standard. There have been complaints from members of the public regarding dog mess in the village. It was agreed that a reminder of the responsibilities of dog owners be placed in the Standard. KR
- 15 **Jubilee Celebrations Update.**  
 JL is the council representative on the Jubilee Committee. She outlined what

has been proposed for the weekend, a possible event in The White Horse on Saturday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> June, a celebratory service in the church on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, a family fun afternoon on the field beside the village hall and the beacon lighting in Miss May's Field on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The beacon has been registered and an official time will be given to SPC for lighting it, some time between 10 and 10:30 pm. It is hoped to have an exhibition of old photos of the village and memorabilia of the Queens reign in the church during the weekend.

Stogumber School have been offered a free Jubilee Oak and have requested that they plant this in Miss May's Field, this was agreed. The Oak will not arrive until October. JL to contact the school. JL

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### **Meetings**

For the following year it was agreed to hold meetings on the second Thursday of May, July and September and the second Wednesday of November, January and March. JL to circulate the dates to councillors. JL

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

It was reported that there had been 2 responses to the grass let offer and the higher offer has been accepted. CB to forward a copy of the grass let agreement to JL so she issue it and get the relevant signatures. CB JL

The meeting closed at 21:25. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th May at Deane Close Common Room. This Meeting will start at 7pm with the Annual Parish meeting.