

Stogumber Parish Council, SPC.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on September 8th 2011

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman	C. Bramall	J.Danson
C. Matravers	K. Rew	V. Sellick
M. Symes	T. Thomas	T. Simpson
J Leeming, Clerk	A Trollope-Bellow (District and Council Councillor)	
Two members of the public		

Item	Topic	Action
1	<p>Apologies: Dave Rowe PCSO.</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interests. CB declared a personal interest in item 5, Miss May's field as a neighbour. CM and MS declared a personal interest in item 12d as members of the Cricket Club. VS declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 12b as applicant.</p>	
3	<p>Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were two members of the public present. There was no public comment.</p> <p>County Report ATB reported that the Boundary Commission have recommended 55 instead of 58 County Councillors but there would be no change in the number of Councillors serving the WSC Wards. Because the Watchet and Williton district is the second largest in the county it has to reduce by 1000 electors. It has been recommended that Stogumber and Crowcombe parishes be moved to the Dunster district to accommodate this reduction. There will be consultation on this change. It was requested that a map be produced showing the parish and district boundaries so SPC could properly evaluate the changes. ATB to request a map.</p> <p>SCC are to set up a Local Enterprise Partnership which will be driven by business and supported by central government. Devon and Somerset have been given £31m to improve broadband provision in the counties and are now looking for a strategic partner to drive this forward.</p> <p>District Report WSC have to make savings of £891,000 from a budget of £5m The suggestion of car park charging in Stogumber has been dropped. The main contentious issue from the Devolution and Delegation meetings have been charges for public toilets in Minehead, Watchet and Williton (Current costs of maintaining these is £150,000 / annum) The repatriation of business rates from central government should go some way to helping with the budget, as Hinkley Point and Butlins business rates must be considerable. ATB to find out when this is likely to happen. A subsidiary of EDF have submitted plans for preliminary infrastructure works, ATB was the only councillor who voted against them, as it did not take into account Cannington which, although not in WSC would be affected by increased traffic. Sort-it Plus will roll out during October, this should hopefully reduce landfill. One effect in other areas is that food waste normally reduces by 1/3 when people have to separate it and realise how much is thrown out. STB commented on the fact that certain plastics and tetra-paks are not being collected, ATB said this was not the final solution for recycling.</p>	ATB

- 4 **Minutes of Meeting held 14/7/11, 17/7/11, 12/8/11, and 25/8/11.**
It was proposed and passed that the minutes of the meetings on 14th July 2011, 17th July 2011 12th August 2011 and 25th August 2011 were reasonable records of the meeting. They were signed by the chairman.

5 **Miss May's Field**

- a) The position and layout of the track and car park were discussed at the meeting held in the field, it was agreed that these were preliminary and the proper picture would become clearer when properly mapped out.
- b) After the meeting in the field it was suggested that a possible entrance to the field could be made opposite the school next to Quantock View. This would possibly be a cheaper option because the costs of moving the telegraph pole and walls could be avoided, it would also make the crossing to the school and village hall more convenient. It was suggested that it may be possible to have an entrance opposite the school and exit at the other end of the field. An engineer at West of England University has offered to give advice on highways issues. JS to arrange for the engineer to visit the site and report back. JS and CB to approach the resident of Quantock View to discuss the possibility of a shared access. JS CB
- c) CB has had an estimate of £200 plus materials for moving the water supply. It was suggested that the work could possibly be left until other groundworks were undertaken to save expense. It was agreed that it should be done now before the Morrison's begin planting on their land and that CB could authorise works up to £300. CB
- d) It was agreed that the hedges needed trimming and that C Hawkins should be asked to trim them. The hedges could all be trimmed from inside the field. MS to request C Hawkins to carry out the work. MS
- e) No progress has been made on reviewing the loan provider, this will be carried forward to a future meeting.
- f) The information from the Woodland Trust regarding grants for tree planting would be filed for future reference.

6 **Parish Survey Results**

- a) An article appeared in the Standard to get feedback on public transport requirements. There has been no response to date from this article. This item will be carried forward to a future meeting.
- b) There has been no progress on gaining feedback from the residents of Vellow for extending the conservation area. This item will be carried forward to a future meeting.

7 **Stogumber Play Area**

- a) Magna have agreed to cover the cost of removing soil and concrete from the play area. TT to agree a start date with the contractor. Magna have also agreed to complete the tarmac area and put in fence posts once the groundworks are complete. TT
- b) JS has written to WSC regarding lifting the planning condition to erect a bus shelter in Station Road from Summerfield's but as yet has had no response. JS to contact ATB to see if he can follow this up. JS ATB

8 **Finance**

The assets on 8/9/11 are as follows:

Current account	£6,206.51
Reserve account	£7.95
AMC account	£5925.35

The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:

- a) Clerk's salary and PAYE 18th August – 13th September £163.04
- Clerk's salary and PAYE 14th September – 11th October £163.04
- b) Office expenses, stationery, stamps, computer supplies £55.61
- Clerk's travel expenses for training (Edington 7th July) £24.30
- c) WSC, contribution to election costs £80.00

d) It was agreed that CB and JS would become additional bank account signatories for the Nat West accounts. JL would be added as a signatory to enable her to obtain information from the bank as required. She would not sign cheques.

JS CB

CB and JS took relevant forms to complete and have authorised at Nat West. All current and intended signatories signed the mandate to lodge with Nat West when the forms are completed and returned to JL.

f) JL reported that she had now received a completion statement from Clarke Wilmott Clarke on headed paper, which would enable her to reclaim the vat on legal expenses. The completion statement showed that the purchase price for the field was £82,275.32 and the legal expenses totalled £2,536.28. These figures correspond with those, which the council had agreed at the time of purchase.

9 Grant Requests

- a) Somerset West Care and Repair Ltd

KR

The council questioned whether a donation would benefit local residents and if any residents knew or used the service. It was agreed that KR would find out more about the service before a decision about a grant was made.

- b) A grant, if given would only be used to transport nominated children. It was felt that all the children in the village would benefit from transport to and from Minehead Eye. TT reported that there was free collection from Watchet and Williton for youth groups on club nights. It was agreed that JS should investigate whether the school minibus could be used to transport children either to pick up points in Williton and Watchet or to Minehead Eye. TT said there was money given to the youth club from the PCC, which could possibly be used to help fund transport.

JS TT

10 Proposal to empower local councils

Leiston-cum-Sizewell town council had requested a letter of support for a proposal that major developers should, if requested, attend town and parish council meetings to answer questions about their application and provide resources to enable those councils to assess their applications. It was agreed that a letter of support would not be sent as it was felt that the county and district councils would provide SPC with sufficient information on which to judge applications.

11 Path to Cricket Club.

- a) C Hawkins has cut the hedges, SPC to receive an invoice for this. G Montague has trimmed the undergrowth, it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to him.

JL

- b) It was agreed that JL would register the land with the Land Registry. There would be a £50 Land registry fee and a conveyancer's fee to verify the documents. JL to investigate the conveyancer's fee and report to the council.

JL

12 Planning.

- a) The plans for Hill Farm have been approved by WSC.
- b) The plans for Escott have been approved by WSC.

- c) The plans for Wood farm have been approved by WSC.
- d) There has been no decision made by WSC on the nets at the cricket club.
- e) There has been no decision made by WSC on Keepers Cottage.

13

Highways.

- a) MS reported that SCC had inspected Brook Stream but felt no maintenance was required at present. It was agreed that C Hawkins would be asked to flail the foliage in Brook Stream to disperse some of it. Future growth could then be kept under control by occasional hooking up the plants to disperse. MS
- b) SCC has reported that they would not adopt the parking area in the square as part of the highways. WSC had previously offered to transfer the land to SPC. It was agreed that SPC would take up this offer, MS voted against this proposal. JL to write to WSC to take up the offer and investigate the effects on the SPC insurance liability. JL
- c) MS reported that a post had been hit at Catford and that he would report this to SCC highway. MS
- d) The notice for the temporary road closure at Neveys Lane has been circulated and displayed on the Parish noticeboard.

14

Williton Master Plan.

CB had read the document and reported that there was nothing within it that affected Stogumber or that Stogumber Parish Council would have any influence over.

15

Somerset Care at Home Survey.

It was agreed that JL would complete and return the survey.

JL

16

Electoral Review of Somerset consultation.

This was covered by ATB in his County report. SPC will consider the changes and their impact when further details are published and a county map showing the parishes and divisions is obtained from SCC. ATB to request a map.

ATB

17

Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Pam and Graham Williams for their work in clearing vegetation along Station Road.

JL

TS requested that Highways be asked to erect a road sign at the entrance to Wood Lane, there is currently no Wood Lane sign. MS to contact Highways

MS

J Moorhouse has reported that walkers are not staying on public footpaths and are trespassing on farm tracks. TS to discuss this with JM, KR to write an article for the Standard reminding walkers to follow marked paths.

TS KR

S Conrad has written to SPC regarding the lay-by in Coombe Cross Lane. It was felt there was nothing further SPC could do at this moment as vehicles are legally parked in the lay-by.

WSC have agreed to swap the waste bins at Slade Close and opposite the shop and have requested that SPC identify where these bins should be located. It was agreed that the large bin should be placed outside the church gates and the small bin be mounted on the boundary wall with Archers Grove, where the bus shelter was proposed. JL to contact WSC .

JL

The meeting closed at 21:25. The next meeting will be on 10th November 2011 at Deane Close Common Room.