

## Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013

The meeting started at 19:30

### Present

J. Spicer, Chairman                      K. Rew                      V Sellick                      M Moss                      C Bramall

J Leeming, Clerk

Advisors:              T Vesey                      R Sharpe

Item	Topic	Action
1.	<b>Apologies.</b> There were apologies from J Danson, M Moss, C Matravers, A Trollope-Bellow and advisors M Griffiths and D Ilman.	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interests.</b> CB declared a personal interest in Item 8, Miss May's Field. <b>Requests for Dispensation.</b> It has been recommended by WSC that because all councillors have a pecuniary financial interest in the setting of the precept, i.e. they all live in a property liable for council tax, that they all are granted a dispensation to enable SPC to discuss and set the precept. JL handed a completed dispensation form to the councillors present for their signatures. This dispensation will be effective until the end of March 2013.	
3.	<b>Public comments, questions or suggestions.</b> There were no public comments.	
4.	<b>Acceptance of minutes.</b> It was proposed and passed that the minutes of the meetings held on 14/11/12 were a reasonable record of the meeting. These were signed by the chairman.	
5.	<b>District and County Council reports.</b> ATB was unable to attend and had given his apologies. There was no District or County reports.	
6.	<b>PCSO Report.</b> There was no representative from the police to give a report.	
7.	<b>Stogumber Play Area.</b> MM was not present to give an update. Work on the cycle track cannot start until the weather is better and the heights and gradients for the track are established. The contractor, R Criddle is to look at the Bideford track to see the heights there. CB to liase with R Criddle and MM to sort out some dates to visit Bideford. JL to contact councillors once the date has been arranged to see if anyone wishes to accompany them.	CB MM JL
8.	<b>Miss May's Field.</b> <b>a) Temporary Car Park</b> It was agreed that a sketch was needed to show the contractor what work was required at the field entrance, to provide better access for agricultural vehicles. TV offered to draft this in consultation with CB and the contractor. JL to write to the contractor to confirm the costs once the daft had been produced and to explain that there was no contingency in the budget: if problems were met the contractor would have to stop and await further instructions. A further meeting would be required to pass a resolution authorising the expenditure. <b>b) Change of Name.</b> KR confirmed that the most popular name put forward for the field had been 'The Beacon Field'. A resolution was proposed and passed unanimously to adopt this as the new name. KR to put an article in the Standard. <b>c) Tree Planting</b> CB confirmed that the school had received 30 saplings from The Woodland Trust; they have requested more but have not heard if they will receive them. KR has the contact details for Monkton Elm Nurseries who are giving away tree saplings. CB to contact Monkton Elm Nurseries to register an interest in receiving some of the saplings. Donations towards trees stands at £400.00, a further £100.00 has been promised.	TV CB JL JS

There will also be a donation from the carol singing in the village of £58.00. This should be sufficient to purchase suitable fencing and protection for the trees from rabbits. The names of donors will be recorded, unless they have requested to remain anonymous but they will not be allocated specific trees. The Jubilee committee has given £125.00 towards a picnic bench. The planting to take place early March, JS to write to K Norcutt requesting he remove his bales, which are stored in the area allocated for the trees, by the end of February.

**d) Rubbish on field.**

It has been reported that rubbish is being dumped on the field, specifically takeaway food containers and drinks cans. It was agreed that a sign should be put on the new gate after the entrance has been widened.

9. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

**a) Strategic principles.**

R Price's email was read out suggesting that an additional principle should be included, one which encompasses the well-being and development of an inclusive and caring community. A resolution was passed to accept his proposal, JS to draft and re-issue the 6 Strategic principles.

JS

**b) Feedback re questions in briefing document.**

**Q1: is the village hall big enough for the current and/or future needs of the village?**

A discussion took place regarding the village hall, whether a larger one was required, what additional activities / functions could be held in a larger hall and whether extra meeting rooms would be needed. It was agreed in principle that in an ideal world there should be a larger hall, along the size of the Crowcombe village hall. It was agreed that additional rooms would not be required as a hall could be sub-divided into smaller meeting rooms although it was agreed that the snooker table would need to be accommodated either in its own room at a new hall or possibly elsewhere in the village. It was agreed that additional activities within a hall should not impact on the Pub's livelihood.

**Q2: Would we be happy for more houses to be built?**

JS explained that the draft Local Plan specified 10% increase over 20 years and that a Neighbourhood Plan could not specify less than that but could increase it. A Neighbourhood plan could also identify areas in the village where it felt development would be appropriate. There was a discussion about the types of houses that may be required. It was felt that there was a large proportion of social housing in the village, 48 out of 180 and that there was sufficient large houses. The large family houses built in recent years have not on the whole attracted families, but also it had been difficult to attract occupants for the shared equity houses. The need to attract families to keep the school viable was discussed as well as any possible impact the Hinkley Point development may have. It was agreed that small to medium sized houses that local people and first time buyers could afford would be the best type, some of which could possibly be shared equity housing and that the limit should be 15% over 20 years. It was agreed that the amount of social housing to rent does not need to increase in the plan period because there is already a good supply.

**c) Next steps.**

The discussion ended at 9pm to be continued at the next meeting.

10. **Planning.**

**a) Northam Wood Mill.**

JS read out in full a letter he had received from Mr N Emery dated 8/12/12 and summarised a letter from Mr N Emery addressed to Mr B Lang, West Somerset Council, copies of both letters were distributed to councillors. The contents of both letters were noted.

**b) The Almonry, Brook Street.**

JL

A resident has queried if the works being undertaken at The Almonry, Brook Street have had listed building consent. The building is Grade 2 listed and within the conservation area. JL to check WSC planning website and report to the next planning meeting.

**c) Re-ordering the Church.**

Tom Vesey, Churchwarden gave a presentation of the proposed changes within the Church. The Diocese is the authority that will make the decision rather than WSC planning authority but the church is looking for support from the village for its plans. It was agreed that the planning sub-committee would visit the Church to consider the plans in context.

**d) Orchard End, Vellow Road.**

A site meeting has been arranged for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January to consider planning application ref 3/31/12/22. Following this meeting the councillors present will visit the church.

**e) Togford, Vellow.**

The application to remove a condition from the original planning permission ref 3/31/12/008 was considered and it was agreed to support this application.

11.

**Precept.**

JS explained the changes in legislation that affect the setting of the precept. The predicted shortfall could be made up in part by a grant from WSC. A decision regarding the level of that grant has not been made by WSC. It was agreed until the full facts are known the precept cannot be set. An additional meeting will be arranged to finalise the precept once all the facts are known

JL

12.

**Finance.**

a) The assets on 7/1/13 are as follows:

Current account	<b>£4,915.09</b>
Reserve account	<b>£5,938.12</b>

The current account includes

£330.00 donations for tree planting and £125.00 donation towards a picnic bench, £256.76 reclaimed Vat and £544.66 DEFRA grant

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

Clerk's salary and PAYE December 2012	£272.95
Clerk's salary and PAYE January 2013	£272.95
Office expenses, printer ink and paper	£31.98
Data Protection Act registration	£35.00

13.

**Risk Assessment.**

JL and CB agreed 23/1/13 to undertake this. JL to inform CM.

JL CB,  
CM

14.

**Highways.**

**a) Mud on road**

A farmer had reported mud on the road between Hound Hill and Lower Vexford following a landslip, SCC Highways were contacted who said it is the landowner's responsibility to clear the road. JS reported that this has now happened.

**b) Any other matters**

VS reported flooding on Coombe Cross Lane, the outlets for drains are blocked and ditches have not been cleared. Water had been draining into Ashway Field but a dam has been laid to prevent this. SCC have previously said drains would only be cleared every 2 years unless there was a safety issue, it was felt that the depth of water pooling on the road would constitute a safety issue. JL to contact Highways to report the problem.

JL

A hedge on Vellow Road has been reported as overgrown and coming out over the road, CB has previously contacted the resident who was aware of the problem but has not resolved it. CB to contact the resident again to get a progress report.

CB

15.

**Meeting dates for 2013.**

JL to draw up a list of meeting dates and circulate these to councillors. It was agreed to have a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January and to include setting the precept in that meeting.

JL

16.

**Donation requests.**

This item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

17.

**Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman.**

JL informed the council that from April 2013 she will be taking over as Clerk to Bicknoller Parish Council, she will continue to be Clerk to Stogumber Parish Council. There were no objections to this.

The meeting closed at 10:15pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at Deane Close Common Room, this will be to set the precept and discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. The next full council meeting will be on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2013.