

Minutes of the Stogumber Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

held on Thursday 9th January 2020

at Deane Close Common Room, commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Cllrs M Symes (Vice-chair), T Vesey, T Brick, V Sellick, A White, C Matravers
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
SW&T Cllrs P Pilkington & M Kravis
Cllr C Lawrence

In the absence of Cllr C Bramall, Cllr M Symes (Vice-Chair) took the Chair for this meeting

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Cllrs C Bramall, R Foster, G Tuckfield

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

AW- Beacon Field

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

4) District and County Councillor reports

Cllr C Lawrence

- Over the last couple of years districts have considered unity or similar ideas. Districts are not so keen. Becoming a unitary is a long process and has to be authorised by Central Government. CL thinks that probably over the next 20 years all counties will become Unitaries as it is a better use of funds. 'We can do more together than we can do in parts.' Somerset already works together with Adult Social Care, Schools, Somerset Rivers Authority and Somerset Waste Partnership so already part way there
- The Cleeve Hill landslip over Christmas. The alarm went off and the road was checked and closed with no injuries or people hurt. The cliffs are not in a good state and a way forward needs to be found. Hopefully there will be government funding for a new road. The landslip has brought this matter higher up the agenda now
- Tourism sign-posts. Kate Brown (Highways) is awaiting signage info. (The PC explained that the parishioner liaising with local businesses has had a bereavement over Christmas so this has taken a back seat at present.) The clerk was requested to cc CL when exact locations and wording have been decided and sent to Kate Brown.
- Funding for path from car park. No money available to CL for this year but would hope that a grant would be possible next year. Please keep her up to speed with progress

SW&T Cllr M Kravis

- Planning Policy has changed since the merger. Under WS if the PC opposed the planning officers view it would be pushed to committee, this is no longer the case under SW&T. MK will get back to clerk on the new policy under SW&T
- Local plan is coming forward for consultation-please engage with your input
- Local economic strategy is going to the executive by the end of the month

- His view is that the proposed unitary won't work – he doubts the projected savings and it will make the new authority too big to be workable

SW&T Cllr P Pilkington

Apologies for not attending last SPC meeting

- Planning at Higher Preston Farm. In principle was supported but is a building in open countryside and the policy is very specific, and the applicant currently lives less than a mile away
- PP will get back to clerk with what the PC needs to do to best assist this application

Cllrs MK & CL left meeting at this point

5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 14.11.19 and planning meetings held on 9.11.19 (x2), 7.12.19 (x2) and 14.12.19

The minutes for the above meetings were approved by councillors and signed by the Chair as a true record

6) Matters arising from the minutes

a) VE Day 75

AW noted that a street party outside the White Horse / in the churchyard has been suggested (Village Hall if raining). AW offered to continue liaising with the Village Hall

b) Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

9) The Beacon Field

a) Signage

Nothing further to discuss at present

b) Grass Let 2020

P Tapp has agreed to re-take the grass let for 2020.

c) Hedge trimming

This has now been carried out.

d) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field or Car Park

None

10) Highways / Footpaths

a) Updates on previously reported issues

Highways have confirmed that the grit bins are scheduled to be refilled and that the grips at Ashbeer will be inspected (have now been marked with an arrow). The clerk was requested to follow up about the grit bins being refilled as they still have not been refilled.

b) Tourist information signage

No progress so far – as per CL report

c) Grit Bin, Ashway

Upon examination the grit bin was beyond salvage. Following consultation amongst councillors between meetings a red, slim line bin has been purchased from Glasdon and is awaiting installation.

d) Temporary Road Closures

i) Hill Street to Kingswood from the junction with The Knoll to the junction with Nevy's Lane for a distance of 380 metres from the 28 January 2020 and the works are expected to last for 4 days (09:30-15:30).

This order will enable Utility Services Ltd to carry out poing works on behalf of BT Openreach.

ii) Combe Sydenham to Elworthy from the junction with Maunsborough Lane to the junction with Combe Sydenham Lane for a distance of 2100 metres from the 13 January 2020 and the works are expected to last for 3 days (09:30-15:30).

This order will enable Utility Services Ltd to carry out poing works on behalf of BT Openreach
iii) Stogumber to Beech Tree Cross from the junction with Escott Lane, south-eastwards for a distance of 400 metres from 16 January 2020 and the works are expected to last for 3 days (09:30-15:30)

This order will enable Utility Services Ltd to carry out poing works on behalf of BT Openreach

e) Any issues to report

- Preston Lane on the intersection of the road from Upper Vexford to Lower Vexford are flooded as below the surrounding field level. Grips /drains need to be installed / reinstated.
- Coombe Cross Lane - the new tarmac has broken up badly. Drains are blocked causing flooding
- Pot hole Top of Ashbeer by the stone Stogumber villager sign
- Wood Farm bungalow to Wood Lane junction - several pot holes forming

12) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 29.11.19, of £22,446.27. £1,866.04 of this balance is held in reserved funds

b) Payments to approve

Clerks Salary	(Dec 2019 & Jan 2020)	£550.90	
HMRC	PAYE	£56.20	
Clerk's expenses		£44.47	
Glasdon UK,	Grit bin	£177.83	Including VAT of £29.64
ICO	data protection registration	£40.00	
P Sawatzki	hedge trimming Beacon Field	£153.60	Including VAT of £25.60

c) Amounts received

None

d) Budget and precept setting 2020/21

The clerk had previously prepared budget calculations and circulated them to councillors for consideration.

It was noted that significant amounts had been spent in 2019/20, particularly on the Beacon Field surfacing and the Wig-Wag lights, which had depleted the PC reserves.

Significant expenses for the 2020/21 financial year were noted to be the repayment of the loan from CRASH, the continued loan repayments to the PWLB and the renewal of the defibrillator contract with SWAS.

If the precept is to remain at a similar level to 2019/20, then the PC will need to look towards fundraising / grant applications to fund any new projects in 2020/21 in order to allow the PC to consolidate its financial position

Councillors resolved to set the precept for 2020/21 at £20,000, which is the same as for 2019/20. Due to the slight change in the tax base for the parish in 2020/21, this will result in a slight rise in the annual charge for a band D property; from £61.04 to £61.94

e) Any other financial matters

None

13) Planning:

a) Previously considered applications

i) CA/31/19/001 (SW&T Planning Authority)

Notification to fell one maple tree and one cypress tree, and to carry out management works to three maple trees within Stogumber Conservation Area at Zinch Cottage, Stogumber

NO OBJECTION RAISED

ii) 3/31/19/009 (SWT Planning authority).

Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling

Higher Preston Farm, Preston Lane, Stogumber, TA4 3QQ.

REFUSED “The proposed development for an agricultural worker's dwelling is not considered to meet the test for a proven need for a new dwelling at the application site, as the applicant has an existing dwelling located approximately 1 mile from the application site. This considered to be 'nearby' to the site so the proposal is not in conformity with the requirements for exceptions as set out in the adopted West Somerset Council Local Plan to 2032 policy OC1, and the NPPF paragraph 79a). The application therefore represents an unjustified new dwelling in an unsustainable location in Open Countryside which is contrary to policies SD1, SC1 and OC1”

b) Any other planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

None

14) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

The clerk circulated a letter from Cllr David Fothergill (Leader of Somerset County Council) in regard to Future of Local Government in Somerset – the Next Steps.

It's content was covered in the earlier discussions with Cllrs MK/PP & CL earlier in the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00

Minutes of the Stogumber Playground Association Meeting

Held on 9th January 2020, commencing at 21.00

Deane Close Common Room

PRESENT

Cllrs M Symes (Vice-chair), T Vesey, T Brick, V Sellick, A White, C Matravers
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

In the absence of Cllr C Bramall, Cllr M Symes (Vice-Chair) took the Chair for this meeting

- 1) **To receive any apologies of absence**
Cllrs C Bramall, R Foster, G Tuckfield
- 2) **Public comments, questions or suggestions**
None
- 3) **To approve the minutes of Playground Association meeting held on 14.11.19**
The minutes for the above meeting were approved by councillors and signed by the Chair as a true record
- 4) **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - a) **Fencing**
MS has asked C Moss to repair the fence and also to fix the bench (near rocking horse) to the ground to stop it being moved
 - b) **Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered below**
Weedkilling: The clerk reported that Woodland SouthWest had quoted £25 + vat for the weedkilling work in the Play Area. Spraying to be carried out by a trained and competent operator, using Roundup Provantage. Following out of meeting

Councillors are reminded that the council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights

consultation, the clerk confirmed that Woodland SouthWest have been requested to proceed. Councillors requested that they are asked to carry out a repeat spray in late spring / early summer 2020.

5) Playground upkeep

a) Any issues raised in the routine inspections

TV doing the inspections this month. Litter an ongoing problem

Can a litter picker on a stick be bought to make clearing up more hygienic? The clerk was requested to investigate cost.

b) Update regarding repairs /maintenance

Routine repairs continuing on the castle

A skateboard ramp would be a useful addition to consider in the future

6) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

The clerk reported that she had not received a bank statement since the November meeting

b) Payments to approve

None

c) Amounts received

19.12.19	SPC	grant	£500.00
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d) Charity Commission Annual Return

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return (for the financial year ending March 2019) had been lodged with the Charity Commission on 22nd December, recording no income and spending of £681

e) Any other financial matters

None

7) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

New woodchip for under the play equipment will be needed in the spring

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.15