

Stogumber Parish Council

Draft minutes of a meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 9th July 2015.
The meeting started at 19.30 p.m.

Present:

J. Spicer – Chairman	County Councillor - Christine Lawrence
C. Bramall	Avon and Somerset Police - Peter Bolton
C. Matravers	Standing for co-option – Tom Vesey
V. Sellick	Stand-in Clerk – Judith Bryant
M. Symes	
T. Brick from Item 2	
G. Tuckfield	
T. Brick	

Item Topic

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from J. Hull and A. Trollope-Bellew. Jan Leeming had been involved in a car accident and the minutes for this meeting were being taken by Judith Bryant. T. Brick joined the meeting.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair. C. Bramall. nominated as Vice Chair. This appointment was proposed by V.S., seconded by M.S. and carried.

3. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations. C.B. declared interest in items 10 and 18.

4. Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were no comments, questions or suggestions from the member of the public present.

5. Acceptance of Minutes of Meetings held on 14/5/15, 18/05/15, 01/06/15. C.M. proposed, M.S. seconded and all councillors were in favour that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th May and two planning meetings (Higher Barn, Capton, Vellow Cottage) represented a true record of the relevant meetings.

6. Co-option of Councillor. The vacancy had been advertised prior to the election. Although no-one had come forward, there were now three candidates for co-option: Radhi Doraiswamy, Paul Haines, Tom Vesey. A secret ballot was held and Tom Vesey was elected. T.V. would complete the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the end of the meeting.

7. Police report. P.B. reported that the way statistics were being recorded had changed. They were no longer being recorded under each parish. Stogumber now came under the Williton and Watchet beat, which now includes Carhampton. A beat manager and PCSO had been lost. There used to be 6-8 neighbourhood officers operating out of Williton, now there were 3. Crime was down by 20%. Incidents down by just under 2%, which equates to 33 less calls this year so far. Officers do patrol

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village. There is more activity leading up to the badger cull, but beat officers are not given much information in advance. There had been activity in Stogumber in the last two nights. 3 males, 2 resident in the village, had been apprehended following a report of an alleged crime at West Somerset Railway, involving an upturned churn containing charity money and damage to property. One arrest was made of a male who was of age, but later withdrawn. All will be banned from all railway premises on WSR. P.B. hopeful that incidents in Stogumber over last 12 months will now cease. T.V. commented on notices being ripped down and J.S. said the noticeboard at the top gate in Beacon Field had been broken. P.B. replied that evidence would be needed, but now the Police are aware of situation, it would be easier to follow up such crimes. P.B. left the meeting.

8. **District and County Councillor reports.**

County Councillor. Christine Lawrence had changed her role and become Chair of Somerset County Council in May. She found it an interesting role had been travelling around the county and representing the Council in many ways.

Progress had been made on the Archers Grove/Wood Lane situation, but it was slow. A small area of road had not been adopted as a highway and the developers had ceased trading before it was resolved. Highways had inspected the road and providing there had been no problems within a year, it would have been adopted by the Council. A problem had been identified would need to be rectified and this could take some time. The sale of a house in Archers Grove could be affected. C.L. suggested meeting with the inspectors. J.S. had been made aware of a bond taken out by the developer under a Section 278 Agreement. The developers' parent company had indicated it may be available for any work needed. An amount of £20k, under Section 108 should have been in place, but West Somerset Council had failed to collect this from the developer in time. This was now being pursued with the parent company, with ATB's assistance. C.L. would assist and try and get inspection moved forward. She asked for nominations for S.C.C. Chairman's Award for Services to Community. V.S. congratulated C.L. on her position and thanked for her input.

9. **Neighbourhood Plan update.** J.S. reported that responsibility for the Stogumber Neighbourhood Plan had now passed to an officer based at Taunton Deane and a productive initial meeting had been held. The Plan was moving forward to another consultation.

10. **The Beacon Field**

- a) Update. J.S. had been contacted by a resident regarding her dogs accessing the field at the top of Beacon field under the gate and eating sheep manure. A further email and conversation with the resident suggested that the top gate enabled dogs to go underneath it with a risk of sheep-worrying. It was agreed that the owners should be responsible for their dogs and keep them under closer control.
- b) Splay. Planning permission for a splay would be needed as the road was a classified 'C' road. J.S. suggested including the car park surface in the application. There was an uplift clause on the lease of field, which would result in the beneficiaries receiving 25% of any increase in value. It was thought that a parking surface and splay would not increase the value dramatically, but this needed to be confirmed. The beneficiaries would be able to monitor planning applications. C.B. would speak to the initial valuer to ask for his informal opinion, without attracting a cost, and J.S. would speak to beneficiaries' solicitor to see if this issue could be progressed sensibly without going through lengthy uplift clause process. C.B. asked if the uplift clause applied to all future applications and J.S. confirmed this. J.S. suggested assessing size and placement of car park in meantime and deciding on which part needed hard surface. C.B. and T.V. would assess and report back to the next meeting with a proposal for Parish Council to look at.

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T.V.

11. **Play Area**

J.S. and J.L had met with Lorraine Tribe and Gemma Rexworthy to look at the options. Gemma Rexworthy had a contact at Magna, but had not yet been able to make contact. The area was becoming covered in weeds and the equipment was not in a good state. J.L. had spoken to 'Fields in Trust' (new name for National Playing Fields Association) regarding the management of the Play Area. They could send an inspector and there was a risk of closure. T.B. would contact Neil Bliss at Magna directly, while keeping G.R. involved and report back at the next meeting. J.S. added that if Magna decide to terminate the lease, they could reclaim the area for housing. J.S. gave history of Play Area Committee and relationship with Magna. A working party was needed to clear the area for the summer holidays, but this could only proceed with the agreement of the remaining members of the Play Area Committee. Funds were known to be available. T.B. would speak to Magna about this issue also. The Cricket Club had been approached to remove the earth and spoil, which was estimated to cost £600.00 to move. The Play Area Committee had agreed to pay £150 to create a ditch on part of the Zinch House boundary. M.S. said there was

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T.B.

not much earth and mostly spoil, which needed dumping. C.M. would speak to the Cricket Club Chairman and would report back.

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C.M.

12. Finance

- a) Clerk's report and bank balances. There was a balance of £6,898.99 in the current account and £3,371.06 in the Reserve account as at 30/06/15.
 - b) Clerk's salary for June and July. The June payment of £319.91 included a tax refund of £61.60 to J.L., payable by the Parish Council and reclaimable at a later date. July payment - £258.31.
 - c) Office expenses of £39.11.
 - d) Magna invoice for hire of hall - £30.00
 - e) WSC invoice for election expenses - £100.00
- G.T. proposed and C.M. seconded the payment of these funds. All agreed.
- f) Printing costs for Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Document. Most would be sent electronically, but approximately 20 copies would have to be printed. The costs, which were being investigated, would come out of the grant.
 - g) Grants. No grants had been awarded so far this year and none the previous year. £100 had been granted to the Church for grass cutting in previous years. £50 had been granted to CLOWNS in the past, but they no longer came to the village. T.V. commented that grass cutting costs approx. £100 each time. C.B. proposed donating £150 to the Church for grass cutting. M.S. reminded councillors of previous donations to the Air Ambulance. G.T. proposed donating £150 to the Church and £50 to the Air Ambulance as no grants had been made for some time. This proposal was seconded by T.B. and all agreed. Cheques were issued accordingly.

13. Planning

- a) 3/31/15/005 Extension to Higher Barn, Capton Lane, Stogumber – granted.
- b) 3/31/15/004 + 007 Replacement shed, 1 Vellow Road – granted.
- c) 3/31/15/006 Retrospective change of use, Higher Kingswood.
- d) 3/31/15/008 Erection of domestic use horse arena, Higher Vexford House.
- e) 2/31/15/101B Listed Building Consent to works to roof at Combe Sydenham House.
- f) Aller Farm solar farm planning application gone to appeal.

14. **Exmoor Local Plan**

The draft Plan and C.D.s for each councillor were made available for circulation. The plan impacted on a small area of parish. J.S. had made landowners in the ENPA area of Stogumber aware of the summary.

15. **Highways**

a) Parking increase at Slade Close. No response had been received from Magna.

b) Fingerpost at Preston Lane and Hartrow Lane. The County Council has no money this financial year to repair the signs. The Preston Lane sign was estimated to cost £700.

16. **Defibrillator.** It had been suggested to P.C. that the village should have a defibrillator. J.S. asked for a volunteer to find out what is involved with regard to management, price and management. A location of the Church Porch was suggested. T.B. explained how the defibrillator worked. C.M. would discuss with Joe Hull, who would report to the next meeting.

17. **Top 5 Priorities.** W.S.C. ask parish councils for top 5 priorities in the event of receiving Section 108 money. The following list and order of priority was agreed: Improvements to Village Hall, toilet and facilities for catering in the Church, sporting facilities, facilities for children and teenagers, community car parking in Beacon field.

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

a) Village Hall Parking. The Village Hall committee was considering extending the path surrounding the hall to include steps/slope leading down into Station Road and removing the grass area in front of the hall for an area of hard standing parking. The School were in support of the path extension. Highways were against side-on parking on visibility at night reasons. A discussion followed on safety. M.S. said that Village Hall should be seen to spending money within the community. Following a proposal by C.M., seconded by M.S. it was agreed that the Parish Council would support this project.

b) G.T. spoke of the state of the stream in the Hill Farm area. M.S. had sprayed the weeds. Nothing had been done about the hole. G.T. would follow up but it was uncertain who was liable for the repair. Landowners may take their own action. The clearing of vegetation upstream from Brook Cottage was then discussed and the Environment Agency would be prepared to carry out the work to remove the flood risk, but would need to come and inspect and assess. It was agreed that as the P.C.'s flood representative, G.T. would make contact with the West Somerset Flood Group to progress this.

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G.T.

- c) Leylandii at Lower Vellow. Complaints had been received from a resident regarding a neighbours' trees affecting the light in her property. There is a formal complaints scheme at WSC, but an adjudication fee of £450 would be payable. J.S. would speak the residents to see how they wish to proceed. The P.C. could hold site meeting and take forward with a letter to the tree owners. The trees are still growing and more than one neighbour was affected. Some work had been done, but was considered insufficient.
- d) Gully tagging. Highways had suggested parishioners identify and tag gullies in the parish. M.S. said that the gully emptying vehicles had SatNavs to identify the gullies. It was agreed that G.T. would appeal for volunteers in the Stogumber Standard.
- e) Rubble dumping. No action had been taken from a previous meeting when rubble was reported at the stream side between Mrs Lewes' field and the Bennett's. C.B. would assess and a decision on any action would be taken at the next meeting.
- f) Weeds in pavements in village centre. A resident had complained about lack of weed spraying in the village centre. The County Council no longer have the budget to do this. It was agreed that it was the householders' duty and an article would be carried in the Standard.
- g) The P.C. had been invited to nominate for people for Somerset County Council Chairman's Award for Service for the Community. It was agreed to nominate two residents and T.V. agreed to complete the relevant application form.

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The meeting closed at 21.30 p.m.