

Stogumber Parish Council.

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 9th
March 2017

The meeting started at 7:45pm

(in the format to be submitted to the next meeting for approval as a correct record)

Present

C Bramall (vice-chair), M Symes, T Vesey, C Matravers, J Hull, T Brick, V Sellick, G Tuckfield

C Morrison-Jones, Clerk

C Lawrence (County Councillor), A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor)

2 members of the public

C Bramall (Vice-chairman) took the chair for the meeting in the absence of J Spicer

Item	Topic	Action
1.	Apologies J Spicer	
2.	Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations. C Bramall (Beacon Field, neighbour, item 8) M Symes and T Vesey (Village Signs, financial contribution, item 14)	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fracking : A member of the public stated that he would like to see the PC be more pro-active in gauging opinion within the parish regarding the licence granted for exploratory drilling. CB explained that this was discussed at the previous meeting and it was concluded that it was not something that the parish council held any influence over, hence the decision to do no more. However, he encouraged the idea of holding of a public meeting, independent of the PC, if villagers wished to find out more. It should be ensured that any such meeting were balanced and should include speakers both for and against. Any meeting could be used to gauge numbers attending, but would not be truly representative of the whole village. <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1 member of the public left the meeting at this point</i></p>	
4.	Minutes It was resolved that the draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12/1/17 and the planning meeting held on 11/2/17 were a true and correct record of the meetings. The minutes for the planning meeting held on 14/1/17 were amended to remove CB from the list of attending councillors and to add TB and JH. They were then signed as a true and correct record	
5.	Matters Arising from the minutes None	
6.	County Councillor Report Williton and Minehead hospitals: Cllr Christine Lawrence reported that the Minehead hospital is still not being fully utilised which is concerning.	

Staff recruitment and housing is still a major issue and the provision of staff flats/housing needs serious consideration.

Blue Anchor path/ Steam Coast trail: Christine asked if that anyone who had used this path in the past (50 / 60 yrs ago) to contact her. Current use of the path by cyclists is causing problems for chalet owners that border it

Archers Grove: Christine had been in touch with Highways on behalf of the PC in regard to any update on the adoption of Arches Grove but his reply did not contain any new information or indication of a timescale to adoption

1 member of the public left the meeting at this point

District Council Report

Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew reported that the consultation regarding the formation of a new council has been extended to allow all parish councils the opportunity to comment, but hopefully the proposals should be ready to go to the Secretary of State at the end of March. He will give his decision by the end of October.

The 2017/18 budget has been set but a considerable amount of the Council's reserves have had to be used. £800,000 of savings will have to be made for 18/19. Hinkley Point has been re-evaluated for rates and EDF appear to have come to an agreement with the valuation office of £20million. Hopefully there will be no appeal against this valuation.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Update

The chairman reported that the inspector has raised some point with the plan that will probably require an extra-ordinary PC meeting to be held to discuss the agreed responses. The expected date for this meeting will be 30th March, but no formal decision has been made yet.

JS

8. The Beacon Field

a) Update on works

TV reported that he hadn't spoken with R Criddle recently but the work was anticipated to start as soon as ground conditions dried up.

b) Finance / Fundraising update

The clerk reported that current funds raised totalled £8,750:

- £3,500 set aside from 16/17 precept
- £1,750 set aside from first half of 17/18 precept (April 17)
- £1,000 s106 money
- £500 Norman Family Trust
- £500 Sto-Go donation
- £500 Stogumber Festival
- £1,000 Stogumber Village Hall

a) Consider seeking approval from DCLG to take up the offer of a £5,000 loan from CRASH

If the offer of a £5,000 interest free loan from CRASH were taken up by the PC, then phase one of the car park (quoted cost £13,900 excluding VAT) would be secure with a small additional contribution of £150 from PC reserves. Whilst it was noted the PC would be able to claim the VAT element back, the total amount of funds would initially have to be available to pay the contractor. Currently there are outstanding grant applications that have been submitted by the PC which, if granted, could enable phase 2 to be completed at the same time

It was unanimously resolved to apply to the DCLG for permission to take up the offer of a £5,000 loan from CRASH CMJ

9. Playground

Matters regarding the playground had been discussed at the Playground Association Meeting held immediately prior to the PC meeting. MS asked that the clerk's hours be reviewed in light of the additional workload being generated by the PC, particularly as she was now providing administration to the Playground Association in addition to the PC. It was resolved to add this as an agenda item for the May PC meeting.

10. Finance

a) Payments to approve / amounts received

1.Clerk's salary*	£897.86
*gross pay £449.06, tax refund £448.80 (to be claimed back by PC from HMRC)	
2.Clerk's expenses for Jan & Feb	£35.54
3. C Moss, fuel for mower reimbursement (inc £9.99 VAT) **	£60.00
**Chq authorised at Jan meeting lost- reissue of a new chq)	

Bank Balances

Current account balance as at 31/1/17 is £12,472.54.
Reserve account balance as at 30/11/16 is £3,373.49
Total balance is £15,846.03, including earmarked funds

b) Review Asset Register

The clerk had circulated the asset register prior to the meeting. Resolved that it was a correct records of assets held by the PC

c) Review Internal Controls Document

The clerk had circulated the document prior to the meeting. Resolved that it correct for purpose

d) Review Risk Management Document

The clerk had circulated the document prior to the meeting. Resolved that it correct for purpose

e) Consider Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was resolved to appoint K Smith as internal auditor, as for 16/17

f) Any other financial matter

The defibrillator purchased by the PC last summer had been relocated by the Church as it was considered that the original installation in the porch was unsightly. An invoice for £840.60 had been presented and the PC asked for a contribution. The original installation cost was £138.96 (+VAT) so this was considered expensive. TV agreed to go back to the contractor to query the amount TV

Cllr C Lawrence left the meeting at this point

11. Planning

a) application 3/31/17/004 on 3 Lower Preston Farm Cottages, Preston Lane

planning meeting held 11/02/17

b) application 3/31/17/003 Whitmoor Farm, Willett Hill Cross to Thornbush Cross

response sent to WS as discussed at planning meeting held on 17/12/16

c) application 3/31/16/018 on Wynes, 1 Hill Street, Stogumber
planning meeting held 14/01/17

d) application 3/31/16/012/Cond.12 Capton Quarry consultation

it was agreed not to pass comment on this application

12. Highways – any issues to report

- i) Between Lower Preston Farm Cottages and Higher Preston Farm two gullies are blocked and there is water over the road CMJ
- ii) Pickpurse Lane – the road sign, where it diverges from Slade Close, has fallen on the floor and has been destroyed by mowing. The signage/ supports are not strong enough as children sit on it CMJ
- iii) Hedge by Village Hall – has finally been cut by Highways
- iv) School sign by Village Hall – post is rotting and sign has spun round CMJ

13. Poor lighting at Woolston Moor

As requested at the January meeting, the clerk reported that she had contacted the street lighting team. If a light were to be installed then the team would take over any future maintenance costs but the cost of installation would have to be met by the PC. This could cost many thousands of pounds as it was some distance from an electricity supply. It was resolved that this would be too expensive for the PC to pursue any further.

14. Village Signs – update

MS reported that the stones are now in place and the name plaques are in the process of being attached to the stones.

15. Annual Parish Meeting – set date

It was agreed that this should be held immediately prior to the Annual Parish Council meeting on 11th May

16. Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman

CB reported that the application by the Village Hall to the lottery fund had been turned down as it would appear that the school would gain financially from the gifting of the old village hall.

The Village Hall and the School still have not agreed a price for hiring the hall for the pre-school. This is still ongoing

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

The next meetings will be on Thursday 11th May 2017 at Deane Close Common Room:
The Playground Association Meeting will commence at 7.30pm,
immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting,
followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting