

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 9th May 2013

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

M Moss

C Bramall

C Matravers

M Symes

J Danson

K Rew

J Leeming, Clerk

County Councillor Christine Lawrence, District Councillor A Trollope-Bellew

Advisors: T Vesey

D Ilman

R Sharpe

M Griffiths

Item	Topic	Action
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1.	Apologies.	
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There were apologies from V Sellick and T Simpson.

2.	Declaration of Interests.	
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CB declared a personal interest in Item 9, The Beacon Field.

Requests for Dispensation.

There were no requests for dispensations.

3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions.	
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There were no public comments.

4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings.	
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The draft minutes from the meeting held on 13/3/13 have not been published, acceptance carried forward to the next meeting.

5.	Election of Officers.	
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It was unanimously agreed that J Spicer be elected as chairman, JS to sign acceptance form.

It was unanimously agreed that C Bramall be elected as vice-chairman.

6.	PCSO Report.	
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No PCSO present to give a report.

7.	County and District Councillors reports.	
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County Council report.

Christine Lawrence introduced herself as the re-elected councillor for the Dunster Division. Stogumber is now part of that division following boundary changes. Conservatives still control the County Council. She previously was cabinet member for adult social care, learning disabilities and community safety, but this may change with the new council. Finances will be a struggle for the next 4 years with uncertain income from central government.

District Council report.

WSC are working with TDBC to see if a joint officer team can be formed. ATB is on a member panel to oversee this. WSC are introducing a charge if individuals want planning advice, before submitting an application. There was going to be differential charging for rural areas and Minehead, Watchet and Williton but this has been withdrawn, everyone will pay the same. The draft LDP had different levels for affordable housing for different areas, ATB is lobbying to have same level for all areas. The proposed Williton supermarket has been turned down unanimously, the applicant is taking it to appeal. EDF and the Treasury are still discussing the strike price for electricity. EDF will not make a decision about going ahead with the development until agreement on the price has been agreed. EDF are looking for an investor for 20% of the costs of the development.

8.	Stogumber Play Area.	
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The S106 money has been received, an order for the play equipment has been placed with a delivery date of June. MM to get a price for the play bark.

MM, JD & JL had a meeting with Minehead Eye and Revd. Val regarding funding for youth club and bike track. Awaiting feedback from Minehead Eye and Val. JD is looking to get like for like quotes for the bike track for grant applications.

9.	The Beacon Field	
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The ground works for the revised entrance are complete. It was agreed that the fencing to secure the field needs to be done soon to allow the grass let to continue. A provisional date of 21st May has been agreed for the fencing subject to

satisfactory quotes. CB to get a quote for fencing, a new gate and grass seeds for the banks. It was agreed that the gate should be a wooden one. JL to arrange a meeting to sign off the expenditure once CB has the quotes. There has been damage to one bench, probably by a sheep, this has been repaired. There has been no further damage to trees.

JL CB

10. **Neighbourhood Plan.**

a) Strategic principles

JS to draft new additional principles for approval.

b) Feedback re questions in briefing document

Q11 is the current School building, playground and field sufficient to secure its long term viability and its ability to provide the best education.

MG, school representative reported that there are 66 children in both schools and it is projected that the schools will be oversubscribed in September. The lower age group is particularly vibrant but the upper age group is affected by the 3 school system in West Somerset with some parents sending their children to Williton Middle School after Year 4. Stogumber is a Voluntary Controlled School and so is intending to extend its catchment area in response to marketing in the neighbourhood from Minehead and Williton schools. Priority will still be given to local children. It is also aiming to improve its rating from satisfactory to excellent to compete with private schools which some parents send their children too. There have been enquiries at the school from potential EDF workers looking to move into the area. Long term the size of the school could be an issue and the neighbourhood plan should allow for potential expansion of the school and the need for another classroom.

Q13 Do we need to identify open spaces within or close to the village that will either be protected from development or development would have to be designed with particular sensitivity.

JS circulated photos of views around the village and from the approaches to the village. There was a discussion about the merits of each view. One opinion was that sensitive sites would need special care and attention. Another was that it be difficult to prioritise particular aspects as there were picturesque views from all approaches to the village. It was suggested that viewing the village from the Church Tower would help identify those areas where infill development could be a possibility. It was agreed that the green field sites on the periphery of the village should be given greater consideration, if someone wanted to develop there at some point in the future. It was agreed that infill development would be preferable and that each possible site should be considered in its own merit.

Q14 What is required for nature conservation

It was suggested that there is a protected rare flower in Northam Wood, if so this ought to be included in the plan.

Q15 What is needed to reduce the risk of flooding of homes and other buildings.

A flood risk from Donniford Brook from Togford towards Vellow was identified.

Q16 Should the use of particular materials be considered

It was agreed that roof materials on any development should be restricted to slate, clay tile or thatch. It was agreed that wall finishes should be sympathetic to neighbouring properties and that consideration be given to the types of wall finishes predominant in the village, i.e. rendered or stone finish. It was felt that a mixture of finishes would be more attractive than monotonous regimented finishes.

c) Next Steps

All the initial questions on the briefing document have been covered. JS and JL to produce a draft statement for consideration at the next meeting in July. After the council has reviewed the statement a public meeting will be organised to get feedback from residents of the village. It was agreed not to have a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on the 13th June. Several councillors thanked JS for his work in getting this far with the plan.

11. Village Agent presentation.

The Community Council for Somerset has started a Village Agent scheme, paid for by lottery funding, following a successful scheme in Gloucestershire. Nick Evelyn has been appointed village agent for Stogumber and gave a short presentation. His aim is to reach people of all ages, with needs, who may be overlooked and help them to get the proper advice and help and follow that up to ensure what has been agreed has been acted on.. He explained that he collaborates with other agencies and can approach them on behalf of clients. He wants to introduce himself to as many people and organisations possible to let them know of the service he can offer. It was suggested that leaflets be given to the school and shop, leaflets have already been given to the Church. KR to publicise it in the Standard. It was suggested he talk to Roger in the village shop.

KR

12. Planning.

- a) Ref 3/31/13/005 Rexton Farm, Lydeard St Lawrence – Approved
- b) Aller Farm proposed PV development.

JS attended the exhibition at Sampford Brett, the site has boundaries with the parishes of Stogumber, Monksilver and Nettlecombe and is close to Williton but is in Sampford Brett Parish. There will be 2 fields of PV panels, designed so the fields could still be grazed, a small building but no new pylons or poles. The land is grade 4 agricultural land. There were plans showing theoretical visibility but this didn't take into account vegetation. If the plans are approved there will be a community payment to Sampford Brett Parish Council of £8,000 / year for 10 years but this will be paid in one lump sum. Further developments will be sent to Sampford Brett clerk who will liaise with the other parish councils.

13. Finance.

- a) The Bank balances as at 8/5/13 were
 - Current Account £22,214.47, Reserve Account 5,939.59
 - The 1st instalment of the precept, £5000.00 has been received
 - The S106 money for the play area, £9,000.00 has been received
 - The loan payment of £3,223.02 will be taken on 10/5/13
- b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:

Clerk's salary and tax for April	£281.87
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M Perry invoice for fencing the copse	£230.00
- c) It was agreed not to add the metal railing on Station Road to the insurance policy, they would only be covered for impact damage which given their position is unlikely. It was agreed not to sign up to the same insurance company for 3 years at a 5% discount, but renew this year and get comparative quotes for next year. Expenditure for renewal premium of £414.56 agreed.
- d) It was agreed to call an extra meeting, to sign off the expenditure for the field when quotes received and to transfer money from the reserve account for the ground works.

14. Any Other Business by permission of the Chairman.

There was no other business to report.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 11th July 2013 at Deane Close Common Room.