

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th November 2016 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Glynn Banks (arrives later), Ann Finn, Graham Gleed, John Hembrow, David House, Peter House, David Fothergill (County Councillor).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild

Public Question Time - No members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence - Heather Venn (Vice Chairman), Bill Carpenter, Phil Stone (District Councillor).

1158. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – None declared.

1159. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th October were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1160. Planning

TDBC decisions:

36/16/0011 Pine House, Curload – TDBC advise conditional approval.

1161. Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes - No response has been received yet from Planning Enforcement.

NS to follow up.

1162. Telephone boxes – Dismantle or a new use – GG advised that the Scouts are interested in adopting the telephone box in Willey Road. DF advised that only Parish Councils can adopt.

GG to look into the process of adopting a telephone box.

1163. Pilot voluntary transport scheme – GG had previously circulated information about setting up a scheme. It is intended not to undermine the buses, and to offer transport on demand rather than scheduled trips.

GG to write a piece for the Newsletter asking for those interested to make contact.

1164. Updating village website – The revised site is being worked on and it is hoped that a viable skeleton site will be ready by the next PC meeting.

1165. Broadband – People with slow (2mbps or less) broadband can receive a voucher for free installation of an alternative to wired broadband, but the application must be made before the end of November. (www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk, click on Broadband Voucher Scheme.) A wireless network is now available in Curload. It should be available in Stathe soon, following to Meare Green and Huntham as soon as possible.

1166. Parish Council representation on the Playing Field Committee – PH advised that he must stand down as he is unable to attend the meetings. GG and GB will continue as representatives.

1167. Patient Participation Group – HV advised (prior to this meeting) of concern that this group does not provide a true representation of all parts of the community. A range of ages is desirable. The Parish Council would like to encourage anyone interested in being part of this group to go to the following website: www.northcurryhealthcentre.co.uk/ppg.aspx for more information.

1168. Newsletter sponsorship – procedure for reservation of a future issue – Following a flurry of interest in sponsoring the newsletter it was agreed that the Clerk will take payment in advance when a group or business wishes to reserve a future issue.

1169. Approval of Code of Conduct and Standing Orders – The Code of Conduct and Standing Orders had been revised by NS, HV and the Clerk. All agreed to adopt both documents.

1170. Appointment of a Staffing Committee – It was agreed that there is no need for a committee to be formed. The Clerk is in need of a finalised contract.

DF to forward a version based on the SALC model contract.

1171. Footpaths – No issues raised.

1172. Highways:

Community speed watch – AF advised that the suggested sites have been approved. Online training is to be completed by the volunteers and then the equipment will be provided. Speed watch will take place initially in Meare Green.

Tractor driving – It is felt that there has been some improvement since the police have been stopping drivers.

Damaged salt/grit bin on Curload Hill – This bin previously was bent and filled with rain water. The water has been drained and the bin bent back into shape.

JH to collect salt bags from TDBC.

Denman Hill pipe - AF advised that a pipe sticking up out of the road is causing punctures. Highways have been informed and will be investigating. There is currently a traffic cone over the pipe.

1173. Allotments – GG advised that solicitors are preparing the contract for the lease of the land. GG has paid the cost of the land owner's solicitor's fee. Reimbursement and precepting for this amount to be discussed at the next meeting.

1174. Flood issues – NS asked for anyone with ideas to alleviate future flooding (e.g. leaky ponds) to come forward. Grants may be available for this.

1175. Police issues - No issues.

1176. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

920 G Wagen James – Strimming of burial ground £30.00

921 The Royal British Legion – Donation to Poppy Appeal £50.00

922 R. Goochild – Clerk's expenses: Wheelie bin stickers (£31.98), printer ink (£33.00), stamps (£7.14), printer paper (£3.00) £75.12

Standing order

1 December 2016 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for November 2016 £241.17

Received

St Giles Animal Centre – Sponsorship for Winter Newsletter £56.40

It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments made.

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation and quarterly accounts to end of September 2016 - checked by GB.

Precept planning and plans for future projects - The Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 2017-18 which was discussed and further amounts were agreed for inclusion.

Clerk to amend the draft budget sheet for the next meeting at which the precept amount for 2017-18 will be agreed.

Somerset Community Justice Partnership – Following receipt of a letter appealing for donation it was agreed that the PC would donate £25.

1177. Pending / Feedback from meetings – Playing Field meeting tomorrow.

GG to enquire about the funds owed to the PC for the cost of the play equipment.

1178. Other items for discussion -

Surviving Winter – A piece to be written for the Newsletter about donating fuel payments. DH suggested donations could be made to Reeves Feast which would help people in the local area.

Planning training – To be held in Somerton on 7th December. If any member of the council would like to attend the fee will need to be agreed.

Tip permits – Somerset Waste Partnership have advised that people taking loads to the tip by pick-up, trailer or van etc will require a permit which is free if criteria are satisfied. Loads by car are free.

Polkesfield tree – GB advised of complaints about a tree near the garages and bungalows in Polkesfield which is overshadowing nearby properties as it grows bigger, and dropping it's leaves into their gardens.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The next meeting will be held on December 12th at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at the Williams Hall.

NS and the clerk will be putting the next agenda together on Tuesday 29th November. Please email any items for the agenda to the clerk and the Chairman by this date

