

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2016 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Glynn Banks, Bill Carpenter, Ann Finn, Graham Glead, David House, Peter House, David Fothergill (County Councillor), Phil Stone (District Councillor).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild

Public Question Time - No members of the public present.

Apologies for Absence - Heather Venn (Vice Chairman), John Hembrow.

1178. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – None declared.

1179. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th November were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1180. Planning

TDBC decisions:

36/16/0012 Burton View, Dark Lane – TDBC advise conditional approval.

1181. Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes – NS has made contact with Planning Enforcement (phone and email) and we await their response.

Hen parties at Riverside – Frequent loud noise is continuing at this property. A complaint has been lodged by a neighbour to Planning Enforcement.

1182. Telephone boxes – Dismantle or a new use – GG advised that the Scouts are still interested in adopting the telephone box in Willey Road and have the contract.

GG to look into who can adopt a telephone box – does it have to be the Parish Council?

1183. Pilot voluntary transport scheme – GG advised that there has been little response with only 3 people volunteering to transport. 12 people showed interest in wanting transport to Langport. It was agreed that the level of interest from the community is not enough to take a scheme forward at this point.

1184. Updating village website – NS advised that he hopes for a fully operational site within the next 2 months. If this is not possible the PC will approach other local people who have the expertise and may be willing to help with the situation.

1185. Broadband – Wireless network is extending and is now available in Curload and Stathe.

1186. In The Mix Youth Project survey –

GB to complete and return.

1187. Engage survey re design of their new website – Agreed not to respond.

1188. NALC Dependent Carers' Allowance survey – The PC agreed answers.

Clerk to complete online.

1189. Somerset Village Agent Evaluation survey – The PC agreed that their answers would be the same as those given to the previous Village Agent survey.

NS to complete online.

1190. Actions associated with the Village Shop – It is hoped that a private buyer will come forward. Meanwhile a public meeting is planned for January (Monday 23rd is proposed) which will attempt to gauge the community's level of interest in finding a way to maintain a shop in the village should a private buyer not come forward.

GG to design a flyer advertising a public meeting.

Clerk to obtain information about the possibility and process of registering the shop as an asset of community value.

1191. Footpaths:

Dog bin for Polkesfield footpath – A member of the public requested that this be considered again following the bin by the Royal Oak bus shelter recently being full with several dog bags sitting on top. Having looked into this previously the PC is aware of the cost of emptying a dog bin (aprox. £200 per year). The alternative is for a volunteer to empty the dog bin. For next agenda.

1192. Highways:

Community speed watch – AF advised that progress has yet again ground to a halt as no suitable location has been approved for the volunteers to carry out speedwatch. The reason given is that there are no paths along Meare Green. Ongoing.

Tractor driving – PS advised of a meeting that took place in North Curry recently with land owners. If progress is not made North Curry is considering leafleting tractor drivers to explain the impact to people of their driving.

PS to forward the meeting notes.

Mud on the roads – Mud on the roads, particularly between Meare Green and North Curry has caused some concern that they could be slippery. The road was brushed but the wet and frosty weather conditions have not helped.

Proposed SID dates for Meare Green 2017 – The proposed SID dates were agreed by the PC to be acceptable.

1193. Allotments:

Cost/reimbursement for solicitor's fees paid – All agreed that GG should initially be reimbursed £1000 of the £1800 he has paid in solicitor's fees.

GG to give the invoice to the clerk.

1194. Flood issues – DF advised that the flood gates at the far end of New Road have been moved. Others are also planned to be moved including possibly the gate at the Athelney end of Cutts Road to the other side of the bridge (due to access problems).

1195. Police issues - No issues.

1196. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

923 SCJP (Somerset Community Justice Partnership) – Donation	£25.00	924 JW &
£48.00		
926 John Musgrove – Strimming of Dark Lane and signs (Oct and Nov £130), cutting of burial ground hedge (£96.00)	£226.00	
927 A. McKenzie – Reimbursement for website privacy fee	£11.18	
928 Rockwell Printers – Printing of Winter 2016 Newsletter	£57.00	

Standing order

1 January 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for December 2016

	£241.17	
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It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments made.

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Received

SSG Playing Field Management Committee – Contribution towards playground equipment cost

£1510.68

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation to end of October 2016 - checked by BC.

VAT claim for play equipment – The issue of whether the Parish Council is able to claim back the VAT for the cost of the play equipment was discussed. There is still uncertainty due to the contribution received from the Playing Field Committee which could invalidate a VAT claim. (The cheque will not be paid into the bank until we have clarification.) The possibility of the Playing Field Committee becoming a sub committee of the Parish Council and being VAT registered was considered as this could prevent future similar situations.

BC to contact HMRC for advice.

Clerk to speak to NC Clerk about their set up with the pavilion, sports ground etc and how they deal with similar purchasing and VAT issues.

Precept planning and agreement of precept amount for 2017-18 – The budget sheet was discussed and final amendments made. All agreed that £10,500 would be requested as precept for the coming financial year.

Clerk to submit the precept request.

1197. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

DH advised of the CPWG (planning) meeting that he attended in November. Minutes previously circulated.

GG advised that the SSG Scouts group have been asked to consider having a second group of beavers, cubs and scouts as there are long waiting lists in the area.

The viability of the Playing Field committee was discussed briefly. The possibility of it becoming a sub committee of the Parish Council will be on the next PC agenda.

NS to discuss this with the Chair of the PF Committee.

NS advised of the email received from an alternative energy company which has offered to give talks.

PS advised that a culvert has been put in on Huntham Lane. PS is hoping that something will also be done in Broad Lane to help prevent flooding to the three houses there that are at threat of flooding.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

The next meeting will be held on January 9th at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at the Williams Hall.

Please email any items for the agenda to the clerk and the Chairman by 27th December if possible.