

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Heather Venn (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks, Bill Carpenter, Ann Finn, Graham Gleed, John Hembrow, David House, Peter House, David Fothergill (County Councillor) arrives later, Phil Stone (District Councillor) arrives later.

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and 3 members of the public.

Public Question Time – Members of the public were present for the planning and allotments items.

Meeting opens

Apologies for Absence - None.

1116. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - HV declared an interest in the planning application for Frog Lane Barn.

1117. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th August were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

(DF arrives)

1118. Planning

36/16/0011 Pine House, Curload – Replacement of store with a single storey and two storey extensions. The following response was agreed:

We support this application in principle, since it will have no significant effect on the view from any angle except the SE, where the nearest neighbours are some way off.

(PS arrives, 2 members of the public leave)

36/16/0010 Frog Lane Barn, Meare Green - Replacement of extension with a single storey lean-to extension and the erection of a detached garage. The following response was agreed: We support the application because it will be virtually invisible from outside the property, and therefore have no detrimental effect. We are concerned however that moving back the north end of the lean-to-wall, presumably to indicate a historical discontinuity, will sacrifice the existing low wall beneath the barge boards, which is flush with the side wall which links to the adjacent little barn and probably contemporaneous with the original building. We suggest that in this instance, preserving the physical history of the building is preferable to indicating a change.

1119. Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes - Re-emailed as no response yet from Planning Enforcement.

Hen parties at Riverside - Planning Enforcement has clarified that planning permission is not required for short term lets and hen parties.

Parking around Walnut Arbour - Planning Enforcement has confirmed that there is a breach of planning control which will now be pursued in accordance with Planning Enforcement Policy.

1120. Allotments – A draft constitution document was previously circulated by GG. The document was discussed and amendments made. All agreed that the Parish Council endorse the constitution document.

(1 member of the public leaves)

1121. Village plan – Transport – GG has so far received 38 responses to the survey which closes on Friday 16th September. There is some requirement for transport including to Langport. It was acknowledged that more than one copy to each household would have been useful.

1122. Updating village website – NS advised that there is lots going on behind the scenes with Tom F rebuilding a skeleton site.

1123. Village fête – It is hoped that the defibrillator will be on show at the fête with some trained people on hand to demonstrate. However there appears to be little availability of trained members of the public. GG will support at the stand.

The clerk will inform SWAST of the location of the defibrillator during the fête.

1124. Broadband - NS reported that there is new hope for wireless broadband in this area which may be provided by a company in Taunton. We are hoping for further news on this within the next few weeks.

1125. Community Led Housing Survey – The questions were answered during the meeting. NS to email the responses to NALC.

1126. Burial Ground – Hedge encroaching on gravestones – It was agreed that this hedge needs to be cut back when there are fewer leaves, with the top of the hedge being cut first.

Clerk to obtain a quote from our current strimmer of footpaths (DH to liaise).

1127. Updating the dispensations procedure in the Standing Orders – It is recommended by SALC that dispensations be granted by the Parish Council rather than be delegated to the Clerk, so this is planned to be amended in the Standing Orders.

The Clerk will find out if there is a requirement for a dispensations form to be submitted a number of days prior to the meeting or whether it is acceptable for the form to be submitted at the meeting. Alternatively could the request and granting of a dispensation be verbal (and minuted).

1128. Date for the Annual Parish Meeting 2017 – Tuesday 25th April was agreed for the next APM. Chief Constable Andy Marsh has kindly agreed to be the speaker.

1129. Footpaths – It has been noted that there is a lot of Himalayan balsam along some footpaths and riverbanks. The EA are aware.

1130. Highways:

Community speed watch - AF has informed PC Dan Cox (road safety and compliance lead) of the delay. He hopes to get things moving.

30 mph stickers on wheelie bins – It was agreed that some stickers will be purchased and given to residents every 100metres along the main routes of the parish, to be put onto black bins which are put out fortnightly. The possibility of 'Slow down' stickers for Meare Green was discussed.

Clerk to purchase 30mph stickers (approx 24)

Overgrown hedge in Meare Green – The owners of the hedge are dealing with this.

Independent reporting of issues – Where minor/simple issues arise individuals are urged to report these to the relevant authority themselves.

Route 60+ - Several people have shown interest in attending this session for over 60's drivers. As North Curry have recently arranged for a session to be held at North Curry Village Hall it was agreed that there is not a need to arrange a separate one in Stoke St Gregory. It will take place on 17th October at 2pm, at North Curry Village Hall. All welcome to attend. (See poster on noticeboard)

Meare Green roadworks – JH advised that roadworks will be taking place shortly at the junction of Huntham Lane with Meare Green. There will be three way traffic lights.

1131. Flood issues – Discussion took place about drainage of water from North Curry. The application for new housing includes plans for a new drain and PS discussed the possibility of diverting some of the water away from Huntham.

1132. Police issues – NS advised of a meeting that took place recently with PC Dan Cox about tractor driving. There are few police resources to enable the placing of speed traps, but reporting of vehicles/drivers was recommended as vehicles will then be checked by the police. PC Cox is lobbying for a change in law regarding training and the issue of licences and has requested support from Parish Councils.

(1 member of public arrives)

It was suggested that a reminder letter to farmers that contractors are their responsibility could be sent by the Parish Council. To be discussed at the next meeting.

1133. The new pavilion – Update on progress – The Chairman of the Playing Field Committee gave an update on the situation. Due to the work gone into the replacement of the playground equipment efforts have slowed towards the fund raising and progression of the pavilion replacement. Costs are needed so that grants can be applied for. DF suggested contact with Creech St Michael who have recently acquired a new pavilion.

(1 member of public leaves)

1134. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

911 Williams Hall Stoke St Gregory – Hire charges for PC meetings June and July 2016	£24.00
912 Grant Thornton UK LLP – Fee in respect of the 2016 annual return	£120.00
913 Somerset Association of Local Councils – Clerk training fee (Finance)	£30.00
914 G Wagen James – Strimming and mowing of burial ground (18 July 2016)	£30.00
915 R. Goodchild – Clerk's salary difference owed for May to July 2016 following increase by one increment and adoption of new salary scale as of April 2016 (Due to delayed bank amendment)	£24.40
916 The Society of Local Council Clerks – Annual subscription	£77.00
917 Rockwell Printers – Printing of autumn Newsletter	£57.00

Standing Order:

1 October 2016 R.Goodchild , Clerk's salary for September 2016 £241.17

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

Received:

TDBC – Grant towards playground equipment	£7098.00
SALC – Payment from the Transparency Fund for cost of Parish Council laptop	£149.98

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation to end of July 2016 – checked by BC.

Receipt of external auditor's certificate and opinions for year ending 31st March 2016 – Previously circulated to the PC.

New battery and pads for the defibrillator – The battery guarantee is due to expire shortly and the electrodes are also due to expire.

It was agreed that the Clerk will order a new battery and 2 pairs of electrodes.

Updating the Financial Regulations – BC, PH and the Clerk will meet to review the regulations.

(PS leaves)

1135. Pending / Feedback from meetings - None

1136. Other items for discussion:

It has been noted that there is a broken bench in the burial ground.

JH and DH to see if it can be mended.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

The next meeting will be held on October 10th at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at the Williams Hall.

NS and the clerk will be putting the next agenda together on Tuesday 27th September. Please email any items for the agenda to the clerk and the Chairman by this date.