

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and two members of the public.

Public Question Time – Issues raised:

Lack of housing stock in SSG – It was suggested that the Parish Council could be more proactive in increasing the number of new builds in the village. Many houses are becoming bigger due to extensions, leaving fewer smaller properties. (For next agenda.)

Stiles in disrepair – Three stiles were highlighted as being particularly in need of attention on footpaths T25/11, T25/20A and T25/10.

To be referred to CB to inform TDBC.

(DF arrives, 1 member of the public leaves)

Apologies for Absence - Heather Venn (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks.

1198. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – None declared.

1199. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th December were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1200. Planning

Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes – We still await a response from Planning Enforcement.

Clerk to contact the Planning Officer for the area. (Following the meeting NS decided to continue to follow this up.)

1201. Updating village website – As putting content onto the new website (still in construction) is a slow process a different system has been suggested. There will be further information at the next PC meeting. The maintenance provider for the old website has requested that his name and all links to him be removed now that it is no longer being updated regularly. TF has agreed to do this.

1202. Actions associated with the Village Shop – It was agreed that there would be no advantage at this point of the shop being made a community asset and that it could deter potential buyers. A meeting has been arranged for the 23rd January at 7:30pm (Village Hall) to discuss the possibilities should the shop not be sold as a going concern. All welcome.

1203. Should the Playing Field Committee be a sub committee of the Parish Council? - The PFC has highlighted that there is a need for more people involvement to enable taking forward of the pavilion plans. The possibility of a separate pavilion project committee was discussed as this would reduce the workload of the PFC. The design of the new pavilion was discussed and whether there might be scope for accommodating the needs of the wider community (school, other groups, Burrowbridge which has no sports or play facilities) which could increase the field's use.

GG to consult the school on their needs.

1204. Proposed new district council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset (consultation closes 28th February) – To be discussed at the next meeting.

DH to attend the TDBC meeting about the proposal and report back at the next PC meeting.

1205. Footpaths:

Dog bin for Polkesfield footpath – Following discussion of the options it was agreed that the PC will request that the DLO install and empty a new dog bin at the Dark Lane end of this footpath.

Clerk to discuss with CB and submit request to the DLO.

Slough Court footpath access – It is unclear whether the lack of access to this footpath has been resolved.

NS to ask CB to give an update at the next meeting.

1206. Highways:

Community speed watch – AF hopes to attend a meeting with the North Curry speed watch group and the police.

Tractor driving – PS advised that three tractor drivers attended the last North Curry PC meeting and there also appears to have been some improvement in careful driving of tractors.

Flashing speed indicator in Curload – A member of the public asked for placement of a speed indicator to be considered.

DF to report previous speed readings from Stanmoor Road to NS, who will suggest a pole to be used for readings in Curload, if appropriate.

Protruding water pipe on Denmans Hill – AF has been advised that the protruding pipe on Denmans Hill would be best covered by a flexible bollard.

1207. Allotments:

Cost/reimbursement for solicitors fees paid – GG has reconsidered and advised that he will seek reimbursement for the solicitors fees from allotments grants instead of the Parish Council and would prefer that PC budgeted funds for the allotments be spent on the first year's rental / fencing etc. The Parish Council agreed.

GG advised that a contract has been produced for the land rental and that the allotments will be managed as a Limited Community Interest.

1208. Flood issues - None.

1209. Police issues – Report of a car stolen from West Lyng.

(1 member of the public leaves)

1210. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

929 The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd – Village clock maintenance	£144.00	
930 Reeves Feast – Donation	£25.00	931 Taunton a

Standing order

1 February 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for January 2017	£241.17
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It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments made.

Received – None.

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation to end of November 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.

BC to obtain a definitive ruling.

1211. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

A meeting to discuss wireless broadband provision by RBS (Rural Broadband Southwest Ltd) was held at the Willows and Wetlands Centre today. Four houses are currently connected and receiving a good service. The wireless signal is transmitted from a pole on Windmill Hill in Curload, and can be relayed between properties where there is no direct line of sight. More poles will be put up if numbers require it.

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

The next meeting will be held on February 13th 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 30th January if possible.