

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th February 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Glynn Banks, Bill Carpenter, Graham Gleed, John Hembrow, David House, Peter House, David Fothergill (County Councillor).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild, Cecil Boobyer and one member of the public.

Public Question Time - Issues raised:

A dog that has been running around loose in the village is causing concern as it has shown some aggression.

The PC will inform the police.

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

1212. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None declared.

1213. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th January were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1214. Footpaths:

Handrail at end of path beside the school - This handrail is felt to not be long enough however there is no known ownership of the path and therefore responsibility for the handrail. PC to have a site visit here when next planning visits are arranged.

Lower Huntham Farm - Walkers leaving the footpath and walking across gardens - Walkers have been heading off the footpath that runs parallel to the Sedgemoor Old Rhyne and heading up Arch Lane track which leads to the farmhouse and over residents gardens. CB advised that the footpath is clearly signed.

CB to put up a 'No Access' sign if TDBC will provide one. (CB has requested)

Broken steps by Holly Cottage - These were reported in October but they have not been mended. CB has reported them again.

Problems on footpaths can be reported via the following interactive site:
www.somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway

1215. Allotments - The contract for use of the land has been signed. A public meeting will be arranged shortly and will be advertised in the Newsletter.

1216. Planning

36/17/0001/LB Jessamine House - Installation of a boiler flue (retention of works already taken). The following response was agreed: We support the application because it has virtually no impact on the appearance of the house and no effect on anyone else.

Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes - NS has received a response from Planning Enforcement stating that if mobile homes are sited on farms for non-seasonal work (occupied for more than 28 days in anyone year), and are self-contained dwellings, they require planning permission. However if they have been in use as dwellings for 10 years or more (in some cases 4) they will have acquired immunity from planning enforcement. Councillors considered whether they would oppose planning applications should they be made. The parish council agreed that in the absence of complaints it would not pursue this matter.

Payment of council tax by residents of mobile homes was seen to be a separate issue. The current list of dwellings that council tax is being paid for appears to contain some anomalies. It was agreed that NS will draft a letter to mobile home owners advising them of their obligation to pay council tax. DH will check the accuracy of the council tax list of dwellings in relation to non-payment of council tax.

1217. Updating village website - Teapot Creative has kindly been working on the new village website at no charge. Councillors looked at the site in progress and discussed use of colours.

NS to thank Tom Fyfe for his work on the site.

Responsibility for future payments of website domain name registration and privacy fee

- These payments are still being made by the previous clerk.

Clerk to supply NS with information on who the payments are made to, and when they are due.

1218. Actions associated with the Village Shop - A public meeting took place on the 23rd January to discuss the possibilities should the shop not be sold as a going concern. The meeting was well attended and there was clear support for the shop as a vital part of village life.

1219. PFT and Pavilion Project – Possible future developments - GG advised that a committee/team of four has been formed to lead the pavilion project. A grant application has been made to Sport England.

The team to decide whether to affiliate to the PC or to the Playing Field Trustees.

1220. Proposed new district council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset (consultation closes 28th February) - The consultation questions were discussed and answers agreed.

NS to submit the PC's responses online after circulating to members.

1221. Proposed Submission Local Plan (consultation closes 17th March) - This relates to Sedgemoor but adjoining parishes have been asked for their comments. For next agenda.

Councillors to look at the plan ready for the next PC meeting.

1222. Village plan – Housing - There was a general agreement that if the village is to thrive and to maintain the existing facilities (school, shop, pubs, playing field etc.) it needs a limited amount of new building to provide smaller homes for young families and older residents looking to downsize. A tentative proposal has been suggested by a local developer. Councillors felt that other possible locations might be considered, and that several small developments could be an alternative. The village envelope would have to be changed by TDBC in order for the planning to be approved for a new development.

GG to research this with TDBC planning.

(DF leaves)

1223. TDBC Citizenship Award - Request for nominees (closes 24th February) – No suggestions were put forward.

1224. Disposal of PCC wheelie bin - The PCC requested that their wheelie bin be removed as it is no longer needed.

NS to remove the bin.

1225. Highways:

Community speed watch - Update next meeting when AF is present.

Tractor driving - No issues.

Flashing speed indicator in Curload - A member of the public previously asked for placement of a speed indicator to be considered. 'Black box' speed readings have been taken. We await the results.

Meare Green drop at road edge - The PC previously asked Highways if they could raise the drop at the edge of the road up to that of the road surface but Highways do not take responsibility for the verges. It is now apparent that the edge of the road itself is dropping away.

DF to look into the possibility of repair.

1226. Flood issues - None.

1227. Police issues - Two houses have been broken into in the past week and small hand tools and electricals have been taken from sheds.

Clerk to put a notice on the board for awareness, and send a village email.

1228. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

933 Community Council for Somerset – Annual membership fee	£40.00	934 A. M
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Standing order

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

Received

Whyman House Dental Practice – Newsletter sponsorship for Summer 2014 issue	£59.00
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Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation and quarterly accounts to end of December 2016 - Checked by BC.

VAT claim for play equipment - We await a response from HMRC.

Request for donation to Stoke St Gregory Playing Field Management Committee towards the cost of Public Liability Insurance for 2017/18 - The PC agreed to pay the total of the insurance cost - £209

1229. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

Reeves Feast - DH advised that the donation from the PC to Reeves Feast has not been presented to the bank yet as the new Reeves Feast bank account has not yet been set up. This should be done soon.

Pruning of trees - Hi-Line will be pruning trees in the playing field. NS to sign the consent form on behalf of the PF Chairman.

Infrastructure round table discussion with Rebecca Pow MP - GG to attend this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 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 28th February if possible.