

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

**In Attendance** Becky Goodchild and Cecil Boobyer.

**Public Question Time** - No issues raised.

**Apologies for Absence** - John Hembrow.

**1230. Declarations of Interest and dispensations** - None declared.

**1231. Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

#### **1232. Planning**

##### **Planning enforcement issues:**

**Proliferation of mobile homes and non-payment of council tax** - DH reported that the apparent anomalies on the list of properties that council tax is being paid for have been explained and are not a concern. NS previously drafted a letter to mobile home owners advising them of their obligation to pay council tax. This was circulated to the PC.

**NS to circulate a revised version of the letter.**

**1233. Updating village website** - NS and GG have attended a training session and hope to demonstrate the new website at the next PC meeting. The new website is planned to replace the old website in 4 to 6 weeks time.

NS proposed that the hosting remain with Host Papa until the next payment is due at which time hosting will switch to Teapot. All agreed.

Maintenance of the website was discussed (e.g. updating of software) and NS suggested that this be done by Teapot initially @ £70 per hour. Uploading of documents and updating of information on the website will be done by individuals responsible for their page.

NS proposed that a calendar plug-in be purchased. All agreed.

**1234. Village plan – Housing** - Discussion took place about the level of concern for the long term thriving of Stoke St Gregory and whether there is a need for more small housing. GG previously circulated a response from TDBC Planning which made clear that planning policy does not support development in Stoke St Gregory that is not within the planning envelope. Councillors considered currently undeveloped locations within the planning envelope. The possibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. This would be a lengthy and costly undertaking, but could clarify what the village wants and its long term aims. A survey and village meeting were also considered.

GG had drafted a letter to Rebecca Pow MP following his attendance at the infrastructure round table discussion (previously circulated).

**GG to send letter to Rebecca Pow MP.**

**1235. Pavilion update** - GG reported that the pavilion planning permission lapses in July but that the groundwork is now up for tender.

GG proposed that the new pavilion project team be a subcommittee of the Parish Council (as requested by the committee). All agreed.

**The Clerk to find out the process of setting up a subcommittee of the Parish Council.**

**1236. Neighbourhood Watch** - For next agenda.

**1237. Annual Parish Meeting** - Verbal reports from the Pavilion Project Team and the Allotments Association will be added to the APM agenda.

BC to put details of the APM onto Facebook.

The Clerk to put a notice in the village shop and on the noticeboard.

**1238. Proposed Submission Local Plan (consultation closes 17<sup>th</sup> March)** - This relates to Sedgemoor but adjoining parishes have been asked for their comments. It was agreed that the PC would not respond but responses can be made individually.

**1239. Somerset Star Volunteer nominations (closes 21<sup>st</sup> April)** - No nominations were suggested.

**1240. Growing a rural community survey** - It was agreed that the PC would not respond to this survey.

**1241. Nexus 25 – Strategic Employment Site, Taunton (consultation closes 31<sup>st</sup> March)** - AF advised that she had attended a meeting about this development. Some councillors felt there would be a need for infrastructure to be developed first. All agreed that individual responses would be made if desired.

#### **1242. Footpaths:**

CB advised that there are no new footpath issues but that there is a delay of a couple of months for current outstanding repairs due to the small amount of time allocated to this by TDBC.

**Purchase of dog bin for Dark Lane (at end of footpath leading to Polkesfield)** - It was agreed that the bin will be purchased (£345 +VAT including installation), and frequency of emptying will be once per month (£5.25 +VAT per emptying). Frequency of emptying can be amended if necessary.

Clerk to arrange purchase of dog bin.

**Handrail at end of path beside the school** - Although the handrail is felt to not be long enough the rail is unable to be moved and it can not be extended any further due to its proximity to the road. As it is impractical to make an improvement it was agreed that the rail will be left as it is.

**Allotments** - GG advised that the precepted amount (for this and the next financial year) for the development of the allotments will be spent on rent, fencing and gates. The cheques will be raised at the next meeting. All future funding is expected to be from funds raised from elsewhere (grants, fund raising etc.). Ten people currently want plots including the school.

*(CB leaves)*

#### **1243. Highways:**

**Community speed watch** - AF advised that there has been little progress but she has been attempting to arrange a date to meet with the police.

**Tractor driving** - The tragic accident of a trailer coming away from a tractor in Taunton was acknowledged. There have been no issues in the village recently. PS advised that the NFU has produced guidance for tractor drivers which lists daily checks that should be made.

PS to forward tractor check list to NS.

**Flashing speed indicator in Curload** - Although the perception is often that vehicles are speeding along Curload, the average speed reading was below the limit.

**Meare Green drop at road edge** - AF has reported the drop and placed a cone in it. The pothole further along the road has been filled.

**1244. Flood issues** – None.

**1245. Police issues** - Since the last PC meeting one more property has had locks forced on sheds. The PC is not aware of any other incidents.

#### **1246. Financial Matters**

##### **Authorisation of cheques:**

**935** Stoke St Gregory Playing Field Management Committee – Grant for the cost of Public Liability Insurance 2017/18 £209.00

**936** R. Goodchild – Reimbursement for printer ink (£32.00) and stamps (£6.60) £38.60

##### **Standing order**

1 April 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for March 2017 £241.17

The Clerk advised of an error on the agenda which stated the incorrect date of Standing Order and month for which salary is to be paid for.

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

##### **Received**

HM Revenue and Customs – VAT repayment £142.35

Stoke St Gregory Meals – Newsletter sponsorship for Spring 2017 issue £56.40

Parochial Church Council – Contribution to cost of parish clock maintenance £49.50

##### **Other financial items:**

**Bank reconciliation to end of January 2017** - Checked by BC.

**VAT claim for play equipment** - BC reported that when contacted HMRC would not give advice regarding whether the PC are able to make a claim for the VAT paid when purchasing the play equipment. Taking all information collated into consideration the PC agreed to make a claim for VAT repayment and to not accept the contribution from the Playing Field Management Committee. If accepted the PC would not be in a position to make the claim.

**The Clerk and BC to discuss when the VAT claim will be made.**

#### **1247. Pending / Feedback from meetings:**

**Broadband** - NS advised that CDS are likely to honour vouchers for installations that take place after the deadline at the end of March, although they have not been explicit about this.

**Polkesfield car park** - The new car parking area has been completed. There was discussion about a high fence that has been put up, which blocks the view of some residents. PC to view the fence when they make their next planning site visits before the next PC meeting.

**Parish clock** - NS advised that the clock had stopped chiming but this has been fixed.

**Reeves Feast** - HV advised that the new Reeves Feast bank account is now operational and DH will be transferring the funds from the old account to the new one. HV gave the clerk an old cheque written from the PC to Reeves Feast. This will be replaced with a new one at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> March if possible.**