

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and two members of the public.

Public Question Time - No issues raised.

Apologies for Absence - Bill Carpenter, Ann Finn.

1248. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - HV declared an interest in the Frog Lane Barn planning application.

1249. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th March were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1250. Planning

36/17/0002 Normans, Griggs Hill - Formation of improved disabled access (retention of works already taken).

(GB enters)

36/17/0003/CQ Frog Lane Barn, Frog Lane, Meare Green - Prior approval for the proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use Class C3) and associated building operations.

(JH enters)

36/17/0005 The Gables, Meare Green - Replacement of porch with a conservatory to the front.

36/17/0006 Little Orchard, Woodhill - Replacement of single storey extension with a two storey extension and alterations to dormer windows.

The PC agreed to make the following response to all four of the above applications: We support the application because it will have no deleterious effects or impact on anyone else.

36/17/0001/LB Jessamine House - TDBC advise conditional approval.

Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes and non-payment of council tax - NS had previously circulated a drafted letter to be sent to farmers who are thought to have mobile homes being used as residences on their farms. All agreed to this revised draft.

Clerk to send letter to farmers.

1251. Polkesfield car parking - In response to a complaint about an unsightly fence from a resident of Polkesfield, several councillors visited the site but advised that there was not enough of a problem to take it further. In the course of their visit however, they encountered a problem with a wall by the recently extended parking area, and plan to report this to TDBC.

HV to draft a letter to TDBC reporting the wall.

1252. Updating village website - GG and NS demonstrated the new website to the PC. It is hoped it will be ready to go live soon after Easter and a tutorial will be provided for page editors. The newsletter will be put onto the website but a paper version will continue to be delivered to all households.

1253. 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. NS suggested the PC could research the facts on local demographics and the likely future scenario so that the relevant information is available to present to parishioners should a survey be agreed to be the way forward. It was also questioned whether the village has the capacity and structure to cope with a greater population (e.g. the school is full). DF suggested looking at TDBC banding of properties which would give an indication of the housing stock. PS advised that Burrowbridge has permission for 25 new houses and is hoping to raise this number to 40. This could have some implication for the school.

GG advised he has not received acknowledgement of his letter to Rebecca Pow MP following his attendance at the infrastructure round table discussion.

DF to find out who would be able to supply us with demographics information.

NS to make a list of information the PC could gather.

1254. Pavilion update - The Clerk had circulated information from the PC Governance Toolkit 09 about subcommittees. GG advised of discussion of the possibility of rotating the planned pavilion at an angle to face the main gates.

GG to contact the planning department for to find out if it would be possible to make this amendment to the planning application.

1255. Neighbourhood Watch - Defer to next meeting.

1256. Annual Parish Meeting - GG advised that the Chairman of the Playing Field Management Committee will give the pavilion update report at the APM. Topics that councillors want to be addressed by the police were discussed.

NS to email PCSO Escott with suggestions.

1257. Somerset Archives and Local Studies Service - Returned documents that cannot be archived – NS advised that some documents relate to current issues and could be kept. There are also some planning application documents.

Clerk to find out how long the planning department keeps planning application information, particularly from those that date back to pre-online storage.

1258. Voluntary sector forum for Taunton Deane - Questionnaire - It was agreed that the forum would probably not be of enough relevance to this parish to warrant councillors making time available to attend.

NS to respond to the email questionnaire request.

1259. Footpaths: No new issues.

1260. Highways:

SID readings for Meare Green - It is unclear whether the recently circulated SID readings are for the 30mph section of road on Meare Green (as requested by the PC) or the 40mph stretch.

Clerk to clarify which section of road the SID readings relate to.

1261. Allotments - GG advised that 17 plots have been allocated and families have been busy preparing the ground with a donated rotavator.

1262. Village public toilets - Councillors discussed the possibility of providing public toilets within the village following a request for its consideration. It was agreed that there is insufficient need to justify the high cost of providing and maintaining toilets as tourists can use those provided in the pubs and Willows and Wetlands Centre.

1263. Flood issues - The invitation to the flood forum in London was discussed. It was agreed that attendance was not essential and the fee too expensive.

1264. Police issues - Discussed under Annual Parish Meeting.

(DF and PS leave)

1265. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

937 The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd – Servicing of clock on 10 th March 2017	£198.00
938 Rockwell Printers – Printing of newsletter (Spring 2017 issue)	£57.00
939 Reeves Feast – Replacement of donation cheque 000890 (14 March 2016)	£25.00
940 Daniel L Taylor – Installation of fencing and gates for allotments 941	£1870.00
941 Phillip Broom – Rental of land for allotments (initial 6 months)	£225.00

Standing order

1 May 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for April 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 February 2017 - Checked by BC.

1266. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

Scattering of cremated remains in the burial ground - DH has been asked whether cremated remains could be scattered in the burial ground. Although this is not specifically addressed in the burial ground regulations the PC agreed that this should not be allowed (in line with the church's response).

Burial ground regulations to be amended to address the issue of scattering of cremated remains.

1267. Entrance to the village - Councillors are unaware of the current situation of the village gateway that was being made by Willows and Wetlands. For next meeting.

NS to contact Nicola Coate.

Parish clock - NS advised that the clock is now chiming properly.

Broadband - NS advised that he has asked the Environment Agency to consider agreeing to placement of a wireless relay on the Curry Moor pumping station. It is thought this would enable transmission to several houses along Curload and Athelney.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

The next meeting will be held on May 8th 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 24th April if possible.