

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Graham Glead (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks, Ann Finn, David House, Peter House, Phil Stone (District Councillor), David Fothergill (County Councillor – arrives later).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and three members of the public.

Public Question Time

1) First aid training - The Parish Council was asked to consider contributing to the cost of first aid training for village organisations. Information about providers and cost of training sessions will be gathered for the discussion at the next meeting.

2) Maintenance of finger posts – As there is no longer funding available for maintenance of finger posts Parish Councils can choose whether or not to take this on themselves. A member of the public offered to paint the sign posts but would need somewhere to do this. For next agenda.

3) Member of public present for the Neighbourhood Watch item.

Apologies for Absence - Bill Carpenter, Heather Venn.

1267. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None received.

1268. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th April were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1269. Neighbourhood Watch - A neighbourhood watch co-ordinator advised that the neighbourhood watch scheme in Stoke St Gregory is not cohesive, with some co-ordinators no longer in place. Dissemination of newsletter information provided by the police to co-ordinators and how to revive the scheme was discussed.

(DF arrives)

1270. Village plan – Housing (I) - GG circulated graphs demonstrating the current situation of housing stock within the village. Discussion took place about how to present the situation to parishioners and enable informed decisions.

NS proposed that a working group be set up. All agreed.

NS, DH, and GG will represent the PC on this group and some members of the public would be welcome to be involved.

(3 members of the public leave)

1271. Planning

36/17/0004 Corner Cottage, Meare Green - Erection of two storey extension to side and alterations to access driveway. The Parish Council agreed to make the following response: We support this application because we feel that it would be a sympathetic improvement, replacing the existing lean-to garage.

36/17/0002 Normans, Griggs Hill - TDBC advise conditional approval.

Planning enforcement issues:

Proliferation of mobile homes and non-payment of council tax – A letter has been sent to farmers who are thought to have mobile homes being used as residences on their farms. No responses have been received.

1272. Village plan – Housing (II) - The representation of different types of property on GG's housing graphs was discussed.

GG to amend graphs so that property data is split out further. To be re-circulated.

1273. Updating village website - NS advised that the new website will be available to the public this week. There is minimal content at present with further information to be added. Committees and groups will be invited to update and maintain their own pages. A written tutorial is available from NS. It is intended that the village email list will be replaced with news notifications. Discussion pages and classified advertisements were also mooted. NS proposed writing a letter of thanks from the PC to Teapot Creative. All agreed.

NS to write letter of thanks.

1274. Pavilion update - GG advised that the planning application for the new pavilion will have to be resubmitted as there is a need to change the positioning of the pavilion. A fee will be charged for resubmission.

1275. Village gateway in Meare Green – NS advised that the gateway is to be worked on shortly by the Coates.

1276. Burial ground regulations - Amendment re burial of cremated remains and scattering of ashes - NS had previously circulated draft additional wording to be inserted into item 12 of the regulations. It was agreed that 'The scattering of ashes is not permitted' would be inserted.

Burial ground regulations to be amended.

1277. Wireless Broadband - Letter to Environment Agency about using Currymoor Pumping Station – NS proposed sending a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to the Environment Agency requesting their permission for 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. All agreed.

NS to write letter to the EA.

1278. The Royal Oak - Listing as a Community Asset - The option of nominating the Royal Oak as an asset of community value was discussed. Many local pubs and village shops are listed. This gives the local community more room for manoeuvre if they come up for sale.

GG to consult the landlords.

(PS leaves)

1279. Clause 2k of Standing Orders - Clause 2k of the Standing Orders consists of an order of business for the Annual Parish Council Meeting taken from the SALC template. Some items are thought to be redundant while others are (or could be) covered elsewhere in the Standing Orders. (List previously circulated.) The lack of a complaints procedure was discussed and DF advised that having one in place is good practice.

(PS enters)

It was agreed that the items in clause 2k that are deemed unnecessary would be removed from the Standing Orders until they are next due to be reviewed. A complaints procedure will be considered at the next review of Standing Orders.

1280. TDBC Playing Pitch Strategy consultation - It was agreed that this is more relevant to the Playing Field Management Committee than the PC and the email has been forwarded to the Chairman.

1281. Footpaths:

Access to the allotments - GG advised that a gate has been placed between the Village Hall grass area and the allotments field. CB is going to ask Rights of Way to change the 'V' gate to a normal gate.

1282. Highways:

Community Speed watch - AF advised that the speed watch training has been arranged for 23rd May at the Baptist Chapel. The PC will discuss a donation to the Baptist Chapel at the next meeting in appreciation for use of a room.

Tractor driving - NS advised that PC Dan Cox has asked that any tractor driving problems be flagged up to him. Dan has advised that now that he has completed his talks with tractor drivers in this area any further problems will be dealt with by prosecution.

Meare Green ditch - AF advised that the ditch along the road on Meare Green (opposite Huntham Lane entrance) has been renewed and flexible bollards placed.

Clarification of SID readings for Meare Green - It is been confirmed that the recent SID readings are for the 40mph section of road on Meare Green, not the 30mph stretch as requested by the PC. Readings will be repeated in the correct location in July.

Polkesfield car parking - HV to send letter to TDBC as previously agreed.

30mph signs at Huntham Close - A member of the public had questioned the positioning of the 30mph sign. This was moved recently in an attempt to slow traffic down before reaching the junction at the entrance to the close.

1283. Allotments - GG advised that there are now only 2 plots available.

1284. Flood issues - None.

1285. Police issues - None.

1286. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

942 G Wagen James – Mowing of the burial ground (March 2017)	£31.20
943 R Goodchild – Reimbursement for APM refreshments (£50.20), printer ink and paper (£61.50), stamps (£2.24)	£113.94
944 N Sloan – Reimbursement for AAM Access manager plugin (£24.28) and HostPapa website backup for 1 year (£43.06)	£67.34
945 Williams Hall Stoke St Gregory – Hire charges for meetings Jan-Mar 2017	£48.00

Standing order

1 June 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for May 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 March 2017 - Checked by BC.

Clerk's annual salary increment - It was agreed that the clerk would move to the next increment as of 1st April 2017.

1287. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

Grants emails received - The PC has recently received emails about grants, one from the Tenants Forum Youth Initiative Fund (for TDBC tenants), and one from the Youth Social Action Fund.

NS to put details of the above grants onto the website.

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

The next meeting will be held on June 12th 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 23rd May if possible.