

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th June 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Graham Glead (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks, Bill Carpenter, David House, Peter House, Heather Venn, David Fothergill (County Councillor).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and two members of the public.

Public Question Time

Members of the public were present for item 4 (Maintenance of finger posts) and item 2 (Planning).

Apologies for Absence - John Hembrow, Ann Finn.

1288. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None received.

1289. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th May were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1290. Maintenance of finger posts - Four finger posts have been identified within the parish that are in need of maintenance: Meare Green, the top of Curload, bottom of Griggs Hill and the top of Slough Lane. DF confirmed that if a post is damaged or destroyed Highways would remove it and replace with a modern sign. The options for maintaining the posts were discussed. Those difficult or in an unsafe place for painting in situ would need to be lifted out (removed) and taken elsewhere to be worked on. DF advised that Skanska have quoted £150 to strip and repaint a post in another parish. Repairs would be extra. DF advised that there is no requirement for a temporary post to be erected while the original is removed. There are no grants available for the parish council to undertake maintenance.

DF to request a quote from Skanska for our posts.

HV to request quotes from two other local contractors.

1291. Work at the play area - A member of public advised that wood with nails sticking out of it had been left at the play area following work that took place on the weekend. GB confirmed that this had been removed.

(1 member of public leaves)

1292. Planning

36/17/0009 Green Gables, Curload - application for erection of extension to rear and new garage. The PC discussed the materials planned to be used. The PC agreed to support the application (a majority of 5/7) making the following statement to the planning department: We support the application because it will have no detrimental effects or impact on anyone else.

36/17/0005 The Gables, Meare Green – TDBC advises refusal.

36/17/0006 Little Orchard, Woodhill – TDBC approved 16-5-17

36/17/0004 Corner Cottage, Meare Green – TDBC approved 30-5-17

1293. Neighbourhood Watch - NS had circulated a letter he had written to the NW co-ordinator who attended the May PC meeting who had advised that the scheme in Stoke St Gregory is no longer cohesive. NS advised that there are 6 schemes in the village which cover less than 20% of the houses.

NS to put an invitation onto the village website asking interested people to join, along with a link to the relevant Avon and Somerset Constabulary web page.

NS to write to the NW co-ordinator again to update her with these plans.

1294. First aid training for village organisations - At the May PC meeting the PC was

asked by a member of the public to consider contributing to the cost of first aid training for village organisations. St John's offer various course options and the fire service offer training at the fire station. HV also advised of a course costing £600.

A piece to be put into the Newsletter asking people who are interested in attending first aid training to contact the PC.

NS to compile a list of course options for the next meeting.

1295. Village plan - Housing – NS advised that the first housing meeting had taken place with the group consisting of NS, GG, DH and Sue Hembrow. HV and Gill Slattery have also been invited to be part of the group which plans to meet monthly. At the first meeting the group agreed that a limited amount of new housing would be beneficial. It was agreed that notes will be taken at the meetings (rather than formal minutes) and these will be fed back to PC meetings.

1296. The Royal Oak - Listing as a Community Asset - Following last meeting's discussion of the option of nominating the Royal Oak as an asset of community value GG has approached the landlords of both the Royal Oak and the Rose and Crown. The Royal Oak landlords are potentially interested and we await a response from the Rose and Crown.

(1 member of public enters)

1297. Village website - adding more content and keeping up to date - Comments received so far about the new website have been positive. Pages need to be updated by those who have taken ownership for them on behalf of village organisations. It has been noted that when googling for 'Stoke St Gregory Parish Council' the search brings our website to the top of the list, but has a misleading title including 'Curry Rival PC'.

NS to ask Teapot what can be done to correct the listing.

NS suggested making a small charge for businesses who want to have a page or link on the website. This would contribute towards ongoing maintenance of the site. For next agenda.

Clerk to look into funding possibilities for ongoing maintenance of the website.

1298. Village Fête – organisation in future? - The annual village fete will be held on Saturday 16th September this year. However more people are needed to take on the organisation of future village fêtes. Only a handful of regulars take on the responsibility and some of these plan to stand down after this year's fête. While several village groups take part on the day and run stalls etc more help is needed in the planning of the event.

GG to produce a list of village groups to approach regarding their willingness to help with organisation of future fêtes.

1299. Footpaths:

CB (not present) had emailed NS to advise that there are no new issues and that strimming is in progress. GG advised that the path between Polkesfield and Woodhill is in need of strimming.

1300. Highways:

Community Speed watch - NS reported AF as advising that training is complete and we are waiting for approval of sites.

Polkesfield car parking - HV to send letter about the broken wall to TDBC as previously agreed.

Meare Green SID results -The latest readings demonstrate no speeding problem here. The SID was placed opposite Willows and Wetlands and PH pointed out that drivers tend to slow down by the entrance here.

Signs obscured BC advised that some speed limit signs are obscured by foliage. Trimming was being carried out today. NS asked that any similar trimming that is needed should be reported directly to Highways rather than the PC. Tel: 0300 123 2224, Email: countyroads-tdeane@somerset.gov.uk, or website: somerset.gov.uk (click on 'roads, parking and transport' then 'problems on the road').

Accident by the Royal Oak - HV advised of the the recent car accident where a car driver leaving the village hall was not aware of there being a junction by the Royal Oak. The white road markings are very worn.

DF to look into the road markings being repainted.

1301. Allotments - GG advised that the rabbit-proof fence has been installed and that all plots have now been allocated. Applications for grants have been made to Wessex Water and Tesco. £250 is to be donated from Western Housing. GG advised that public liability insurance will cost £160 and asked if the PC would consider making a contribution. For next agenda.

(2 members of the public leave)

1302. Playing Field - The tennis club have requested resurfacing and floodlights for the tennis courts. HV believes there was a long term fund for resurfacing

1303. Pavilion update - GG advised that the PF await a response from Sport England regarding a grant application.

1304. Broadband - NS advised that the Environment Agency Estates Department have confirmed that they are willing to put a relay on Currymoor Pumping Station to enable transmission to several houses along Athelney and Curload.

1305. Flood issues - None.

1306. Police issues - None.

1307. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

946 Information Commissioner – Data protection registration renewal	£35.00
947 Came and Company – Annual insurance renewal premium	£410.52
948 G Wagen James – Mowing of burial ground (13 Apr 2017)	£31.20
949 Stoke St Gregory Playing Field Management Committee – Transfer of funds for phase 2 of installation of playground equipment (Donated by Church House Fund)	£2000.00

Standing order

1 July 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for June 2017	£252.47
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NS advised that cheque 950 on the agenda (SSG Playing Field Management Committee) should actually be number 949. It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments made.

Received - None

Other financial items:

Clerk's contract - NS advised that the clerk, HV and NS would be meeting before the July meeting to discuss the clerk's contract and hours.

Bank reconciliation to end of April 2017 - Checked by BC.

Clerk's salary – Signing of letter to bank re amendment - A letter requesting a change in payment to the clerk (agreed at the May meeting) was signed at the end of the meeting.

Annual return

Internal auditor report - This had previously been circulated following audit of the accounts (year 2016/17). BC had also checked the accounts and noted two technical points which required clarification. One related to a misplaced header which has now been removed. The other related to the PC's operations of PAYE and lack of completion of a form 5 years ago. The clerk sought clarification from HMRC who confirmed that "all is in order". The PC is now registered as an employer with HMRC (only required as of the current financial year).

BC agreed that the accounting statements are acceptable for signing and offered to complete the PAYE return.

1308. Approval and signing of Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 - This was signed by the clerk and then the Chairman as presenting fairly the financial position of the council.

1309. Approval and signing of Accounting Statements 2016/17 - This was signed by the clerk and then the Chairman as presenting fairly the financial position of the council and it's receipts and payments.

1310. Contribution to allotments on behalf of the internal auditor - The clerk advised that the internal auditor would like to donate the £25 that would normally be spent on a gift voucher for her (in thanks for carrying out the internal audit) to purchasing of trees for the allotments.

1311. Pending / Feedback from meetings: None

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

The next meeting will be held on July 10th 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 27th June if possible.