

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Graham Glead (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks, Bill Carpenter, Ann Finn, David House, Peter House, Heather Venn, John Hembrow (arrives later).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and three members of the public.

Public Question Time

Dog bins - A request was made for more dog bins in the village. The litter bin by the bus stop by the Royal Oak frequently fills up with dog bags. The clerk advised that a dog bin for the nearby Polkesfield footpath is currently on order.

Broken wall in Polkesfield - A member of public advised that he had reported the broken wall in the new Polkesfield car park. This had also been reported by the Parish Council.

Dark Lane drainage - A request was made for ways to improve drainage at the bottom of Dark Lane to be considered. The single small drain by the village hall occasionally blocks up with sediment from the fields following heavy rain. For next agenda.

Inaccessible footpath - The edge of field footpath by Polkesfield has not been left wide enough for people to walk along. Nettles are also blocking the way.

Farmer to be contacted. CB to be asked if this path could be trimmed.

Trimming of Polkesfield tree - A tree in Polkesfield is overhanging roof tops and needs cutting back or lower branches pruned.

Surfacing of Willey Road - A member of public asked why the top half of Willey Road cannot be resurfaced like the bottom half has been, and suggested that this would be more cost effective than patching. The PC agreed but are aware of lack of funds for resurfacing.

Slurry odour - An email from a member of public had previously been circulated. The impact upon residents of the odour from slurry spreading and from slurry lagoons was discussed. The possibility of using other options (eg different ways of distributing the slurry onto fields that could result in less odour), and a need for a conversation with farmers to raise awareness of the problem were discussed. It was questioned whether good practice guidance from the NFU is followed, and the farmers on the PC felt that practice has improved. For next agenda.

Apologies for Absence - David Fothergill (County Councillor), Phil Stone (District Councillor)

(3 members of the public leave)

1312. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None received.

1313. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th June were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1314. Planning - No new applications.

1315. Maintenance of finger posts - NS had circulated a document on the Somerset Fingerpost Restoration Project. The PC agreed to undertake restoration of posts in the parish. Quotes are being obtained. It was agreed that the PC will precept for the cost in the next budget.

NS to obtain quotes for the replacement arms.

1316. First Aid training for village organisations - Quotes for provision of training have been obtained (St Johns: 3 hrs £30 per person, Red Cross: 4 hrs £360 for up to 15 people, Fire Service: held at the Fire Station for free and includes tour of the station).

Local groups to be asked how many people would be interested.

Put into the newsletter asking who would be interested.

1317. Village plan - Housing - NS advised that a meeting took place last week and the next meeting will be on 1st August. The PC will then be reported back to regarding progress.

1318. Village website

Adding more content and keeping up to date - Ongoing.

Links to local businesses - The possibility of a small charge made to local businesses who want to have a page on the website was discussed. HV proposed running the website for 6 months first so that we have information on the number of views. A charge can then be based upon this.

Application to Transparency Fund - The clerk advised that the electronic form was corrupted and a replacement form could not be opened on the PC laptop.

Clerk to pursue the claim only if not too time consuming as otherwise it will not be worthwhile the time spent for a small claim.

1319. Listing local pubs as Community Assets - GG advised that neither of the two pubs in the village are supportive of this, and that being listed as a community asset could be seen as negative to a potential buyer. This item will be removed from the agenda. Should one of the pubs close the subject will be revisited.

1320. Village Fête – organisation in future? - The annual village fête will be held on Saturday 16th September this year. Naomi Corp has agreed to take on planning of the fete, with help from Louise Grinter, and steered by Jane White.

1321. NHS Health Checks Programme - North Curry Health Centre raised no objection about independent health checks. The PC agreed that this would be a good thing to take place.

PC to ask ToHealth to set a date and organise the health checks event.

1322. Parish Clock repair - NS advised that the auto winder needs to be repaired and a cable is frayed. All agreed that the repairs should go ahead.

NS to arrange repairs to the clock.

1323. Vacancy on the parish Council - BC advised that he and Barbara will be moving away in September and therefore he will be resigning from the Parish Council. NS wished BC well and thanked him for his contributions to the PC. The PC hopes to fill the vacancy at the October meeting and BC is willing to remain as councillor until he leaves.

Clerk to contact the Electoral Officer to arrange a date for advertising the vacancy.

1324. Footpaths: No new issues.

1325. Highways:

Community Speed watch - AF advised that the approval of sites is still not complete.

Polkesfield car parking - TDBC has been informed of and repaired the broken wall.

Give way sign and painting of road markings by the Royal Oak - DF is following this up (not present tonight). For next agenda.

Overgrown hedges - It has been noted that there are several stretches of road that are effectively being narrowed by overgrown hedges. Land owners are responsible for their own hedges and keeping them cut back from the road edges.

A piece to be written for the next newsletter to raise awareness of the need to keep hedges cut back from the road edge.

Ambulance Sat Nav route to Stoke St Gregory - JH advised that ambulances are still being directed by their Sat Navs along Huntham Lane as this appears to be the most direct route to the village, although the fastest and safest route is via Meare Green. The PC has twice informed the ambulance service about this, so far to no effect.

1326. Allotments - GG had previously advised that public liability insurance will cost

£163.17 and asked if the PC would consider making a contribution. The PC agreed to pay the full amount. GG advised that obtaining grants in order to pay for water connection is proving to be a slow process. In the meantime PH and GB have been supplying frequent tanks of water for allotment users and GG thanked them for this.

GG advised that the lay-by next to the gate to the allotments in Slough Lane must not be parked on as it is needed to enable space for manoeuvre of farm vehicles.

1326. Playing Field - No issues raised.

1327. Pavilion - No issues raised.

1328. Broadband - NS advised that the date for redeeming vouchers for installation of broadband has been extended to September.

1329. Flood issues - Bottom of Dark Lane discussed earlier.

1330. Police issues - No issues raised.

1331. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

950 John Musgrove – Strimming of paths and signs	£156.00
951 G Wagen James – Mowing of burial ground (26 May 17)	£31.20
952 Rockwell Printers – Printing of newsletter (Summer 2017)	£59.00
953 Williams Hall Stoke St Gregory – Hire of hall for APM and hire of Meeting Room Apr/May/June	£54.00
954 Stoke St Gregory Allotments Association – Contribution by internal auditor (of payment for audit work) to purchase of trees for the allotments.	£25.00
955 Stoke St Gregory Allotments Association - Donation for cost of third party liability insurance	£163.17

Standing order

1 August 2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for July 2017 £252.47

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

Received - Withies Delicatessen – Sponsorship of Summer newsletter £57.00

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation to end of May 2017 - Checked by BC. BC suggested that a record of receipts be kept with the invoices so that these are made clearer to the person checking the monthly bank reconciliation. The clerk agreed to do this in future.

Clerk's contract - A contract for the clerk had been drawn up by HV, NS and the clerk. An adjustment to the working hours of the clerk had been made (an increase of 4 hours per month) and a change in salary point. All agreed to the new contract and alterations.

1332. Pending / Feedback from meetings: None

Red Ensign - A letter was received from Seafarers UK asking the PC to fly the Red Ensign Flag for the Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September.

NS to scan and circulate for consideration.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

The next meeting will be held on August 14th 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 1st August if possible.