

STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th August 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Graham Glead (Vice Chairman), Glyn Banks, Bill Carpenter, David House, Peter House, Heather Venn, John Hembrow, David Fothergill (County Councillor), Phil Stone (District Councillor)

In Attendance - Tony McKenzie and 3 members of the public

Public Question Time

Footpaths/Stiles – A member of the public reported that no action had been taken on 4 broken stiles that he had reported last year. NS explained that this had been reported to SCC but nothing had happened. The member of the public suggested that the Parish Council should take on the responsibility for the repairs and payment of the cost. For next agenda.

DF to contact SCC

A member of the public spoke about the appalling slurry smells recently. NS advised that this item was on the agenda to be discussed later in the meeting.

Apologies for Absence – Ann Finn

1333. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - NS declared an interest in planning application 36/17/0018 as he was the nearest neighbour to the property and advised that he would not vote on the application.

1334 – Planning

36/17/0011 Erection of a steel framed roof covering over open cattle yard at Meare Green Court

Following discussion it was agreed to support this application with the following response. “We support this application because it will have minimal impact (provided that, as the applicant maintains the new roof is only 1.2 metres above the roof of the adjacent building). The Parish Council appreciates the amount this farm has already done to enhance the environment”.

(1 member of the public leaves)

36/17/0018 Erection of single storey extension to rear, alterations to roofs and erection of detached workshop building at The Stack, Curload Road, Curload.

Following discussion it was agreed to support this application with the following response. “The Parish Council supports the application for the changes to the house, having no detrimental impact to the area. The Parish Council does have a concern that the site of the workshop appears to require the removal of a number of trees which has not been identified on the application”. *(NS did not vote on this application)*

Decisions

36/17/0010/HHN 9 Woodhill Terrace – TDBC no objection 17-7-2017

Councillors raised questions as to why this application had not been referred to them for comment prior to approval. For next agenda

PS to contact TDBC

36/17/0009 Green Gables, Curload – TDBC conditional approval 18-7-2017

1335 – Slurry smells and farming practices

Following discussion it was agreed by all that a short article should be placed in the village newsletter and that a more extensive article be discussed at the next meeting. For next agenda.

JH to produce newsletter article

(1 member of the public leaves)

1336 – Maintenance of finger posts

NS advised that the approx cost would be £350 per arm. Following discussion it was agreed to wait for ongoing quotes not yet received and discuss at future meetings.

1337 – First Aid Training for village organisations

Following discussion on costs it was agreed by all that the Parish Council would organise and pay for 1 course for residents, while village organisations who send representatives would be asked for a contribution. Information will be published in the next newsletter and on the website, and people will be asked to express interest.

1338 – Village plan – Housing

Discussion took place on the paper circulated prior to the meeting by GG. Following the discussion 3 amendments were agreed and it was also agreed that the amended paper should be included in the next village newsletter.

1339 – Village website

Discussion took place on adding more content and how to keep the information up to date.

GG agreed to write article for newsletter and NS agreed to follow up on usage statistics.

1340 – NHS Health Checks Programme

Discussion took place on proposed dates and it was agreed that the 3rd or 10th October were the preferred dates dependent on the availability of the village hall and the provider Somerset Health Checks. It was also agreed that this should be included in the village newsletter and once confirmed full details would be posted on the website. NB. Subsequent to the meeting the date of 17th October was agreed with NHS Health Checks.

NS to write newsletter article and publish further info on website.

1341 - Parish Clock repairs

NS reported that he was still waiting for quotes.

1342 - Parish Council Vacancy

BC advised the he would be resigning with immediate effect and would formally submit his written resignation in the next few days. NS thanked BC for his excellent work over the past 5 years. It was then agreed that the formal notification should be set to TDBC and the necessary processes put in place to fill the vacancy at the October meeting.

1343 – Merchant Navy Day

Following discussion it was agreed to take no further action

1344 – Chairman’s awards for services to the community

Following discussion a nomination was agreed.

1345 – Footpaths

NS advised that the necessary branches had been removed from the tree reported at the last meeting. It was agreed to defer the remaining items to the next meeting.

1346 – Highways

NS reported on the closure notice of Stathe Road from 21st August for 3 days between 8.30am and 17.00pm. HV reported that Give way sign and painting of road markings had not yet been done. It was agreed that this would be followed with SCC Highways.

Community speedwatch was deferred to the next meeting

DF to follow up with SCC Highways

1347 – Allotments

GG reported that notification had been received that the Tesco charity “Bags of Help” have selected the Allotments for a potential grant award.

1348 – Playing Field, Pavilion and Broadband

Nothing to report

1 member of the public leaves

1349 – Flood

GG advised that there had been no further flooding in Dark Lane

1350 – Police

Nothing to report

PS leaves

1351 – Financial

Authorisation of cheques and standing order

Cheques

956 G Wagen James – Mowing of Burial Ground (13 June 2017)

957 R Goodchild - Reimbursement of purchases of printer ink, postage, stamps and envelopes

R 958 Goodchild – Salary difference unpaid following increase (April to June 2017)

NS proposed and HV seconded and agreed that the cheques be signed and the payment made

Other financial items

BC reported that he had checked the bank reconciliation and quarterly accounts to the end of June and that no problems were found. BC also suggested that in future this task should be undertaken by all Councillors on a rotation. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

1352 – Pending/feedback from meetings

DH/GG reported that the Village Hall Trustees had agreed at their last meeting to increase the hire charges for the hall from 1st September 2017 and that this would mean a small increase in the hire charges for Parish Council meetings.

1353 – Other items for discussion

NS agreed to write the reports for the Parish News and Village Newsletter

GG agreed to write the write reports for the village newsletter on the allotments, village plan and website.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th September 2017