

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Graham Glead (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks, Ann Finn, David House, Peter House (arrives later), Heather Venn, John Hembrow, and Sara Sollis (following co-option).

In Attendance Becky Goodchild, 3 applicants for co-option and 4 members of the public.

Public Question Time - No issues raised.

Apologies for Absence - David Fothergill (County Councillor)

1379. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None

1380. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th September were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

(PH enters)

1381. Co-option of a new member of council, and declaration of acceptance of office - NS proposed the 3 candidates for consideration for co-option to the parish council. The applicants gave a statement of their suitability for the role of parish councillor and councillors asked some questions. Voting took place and Sara Sollis joined the council after receiving a majority of votes. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by SS and the clerk. NS thanked all applicants and encouraged the 2 unsuccessful applicants to apply when a future co-option occurs.

Clerk to give SS a Register of Members' Interests form to complete for return to Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Clerk to email SS with SALC 'Councillor Essentials' training session information.

(2 members of the public leave)

1382. Planning

36/17/0011 Meare Green Court – TDBC: Conditional approval 14-9-2017

36/17/0018 The Stack – TDBC: Conditional approval 12-9-2017

36/17/0020 Normans – TDBC: Conditional approval 29-9-2017

36/17/0025/CQ The Wagon House, Meare Green – Prior approval for the proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Use class C3) and associated building operations.

The PC agreed to make the following response: We support this application, which appears to be a sensible and sympathetic repurposing of a traditional building.

36/17/0015 17 Woodhill Terrace, Dark Lane - Conversion and extension of outbuilding to additional accommodation to side and erection of porch to front.

The PC agreed to make the following response: We support this application because it will have no detrimental impact on surrounding properties.

36/17/0021 Barn C and Lower Huntham Farmhouse, Huntham Lane - Erection of shared garage with erection of fencing and pedestrian gate to rear garden and alterations to parking (retention to works already undertaken).

The PC agreed to make the following response: We support this application because the garage has been well-designed and built, and the provision of parking appears to meet the needs of residents.

36/17/0023 Walnut Arbour, Curload - Erection of pagoda (retention of works already undertaken).

The PC agreed to make the following response: We support this application because the 236

applicant has taken steps to minimise both the previous parking issue and any noise nuisance to neighbours, and the new structure has no detrimental visual impact on the surroundings.

New wall in Curload - Councillors visited the site following concerns that the new wall (which breaches height restrictions) reduces visibility for drivers pulling out onto the road from neighbouring properties. The PC questioned visibility for drivers pulling out onto the road from the property itself and subsequent danger to themselves and other road users. Possible solutions were discussed. It was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

The property owners to be invited to discuss solutions with the PC.

1383. Assessment of farming practices - PS had previously circulated his report which aims to improve the situation locally by obtaining agreement on some issues. The PC gave comments to some specific suggestions made by the report.

1384. Maintenance of finger posts (I) - PS advised that Burrowbridge PC is carrying out similar work to their signposts.

NS to contact Burrowbridge clerk for information on costings and who is carrying out the work.

1385. First Aid training: consider and approve date - NS advised that 16th January from 6-9.30pm is available. GG advised that hire of the hall would cost £18, less for the Meeting Room.

Clerk to check that the time is suitable with the list of attendees.

1386. NHS Health Checks Programme - The health checks session will be taking place at the Village Hall (Meeting Room) on 17th October. NS advised that the session is fully booked.

1387. Village plan - Housing - GG advised that the housing group met with Jane Birch from Community Council for Somerset who explained how CCS helps parishes, and outlined some options and funding possibilities for community housing and community shops. GG advised of government backed finance available for communities wanting to buy their local shop/pub.

1388. Community assets - Registering the shop and the pubs would give a time buffer of 6 months to allow the community to act should a change of use be applied for. NS proposed, seconded by HV that the Village Stores and the 2 village pubs be registered as community assets. All agreed.

GG and the clerk to complete the necessary forms with advice from PS.

1389. Parish Clock repair - NS advised that the clock is now working.

1390. Reeves Feast – Trustee required - A replacement trustee for Reeves Feast is required and would need to be someone with an awareness of the needs of local individuals. For next agenda.

1391. Agreement on collective Parish Council responses - HV requested that comments/questions by members of the public should be shared with all of the PC if it is being communicated to the person as a parish councillor. Responses can then be made by the PC as a whole.

1392. Family Support Service and Children's Centres consultation (closes 1-12-17) - It was agreed that this consultation could be more appropriately responded to by the school and pre-school.

Clerk to forward to school and pre-school.

1393. Countryside Alliance Awards (closes 13-11-17) - It was agreed that this could be responded to by individuals.

NS to place details on the website.

1394. Parish Council meeting dates for next year - The usual second Monday of each month was agreed for the Parish Council meetings next year.

Clerk to book Meeting Room.

1395. Footpaths

New gate to allotments - GG advised that a gate is planned to replace the stile from the Church Close footpath to the allotments.

1396. Highways:

Community Speed watch - AF advised that the volunteers have had some trial sessions although the location has still not been approved.

Give way sign and painting of road markings by the Royal Oak - DF not present.

Overgrown hedge – SS advised that an overgrown hedge is obscuring the speed limit sign on Willey Road.

Clerk to report to highways.

SID on Meare Green - The latest SID readings report appears to refer to the wrong part of Meare Green again.

1397. Allotments - No issues raised.

1398. Playing Field - GG advised that there is the potential for selling the top part of the playing field to raise funds for replacing the pavilion.

1399. Bonfire night - SS advised that a bonfire will take place on the Playing Field on 5th November at 4pm, organised by the Playing Field Committee and the Friends of School. There will be a Guy Fawkes competition, hot dogs and other festive activities taking place as well as a bar.

1400. Pavilion - No issues raised.

1401. Village website - NS advised of frequency of use of the website.

1402. Broadband - No issues raised.

1403. Flood issues - None raised.

1404. Police issues - GG advised that nitrous oxide cannisters were left strewn around the Village Hall car park after a Saturday night recently.

1405. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

964 The Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal donation £50.00

Standing order

1-11-2017 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for October 2017 £311.43

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

Received - None

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation to end of August 2017 - Checked by GB.

Completion of external audit - The clerk advised that the external audit is complete with no notes made by the auditor.

Precept planning and plans for future projects - To be discussed at the next meeting.

Clerk to produce draft budget sheet.

1406. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

Light posts by village hall - NS advised that one of the solar light posts is not working and is probably due to a faulty battery. It is still under guarantee and the supplier has agreed to replace/repair.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

The next meeting will be held on November 13th 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 2nd November if possible.