

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th December 2017 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

Present Nick Sloan (Chairman), Graham Glead (Vice Chairman), Glynn Banks, Ann Finn, John Hembrow (arrives later), David House, Peter House, Sara Sollis, Heather Venn, David Fothergill (County Councillor) and Phil Stone (District Councillor)

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and 4 members of the public.

Public Question Time:

Rose and Crown Inn planning application - The planning consultant for this application for change of use presented the case for conversion of the public house into a residential dwelling.

Parking by the school – HV requested that this be an item on the next agenda.

(Meeting opens)

Apologies for absence - None received.

1434. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None received.

1435. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th November were agreed by all to be accurate, and signed by the Chairman.

1436. Planning

36/17/0030/LB Crossway Farmhouse, Griggs Hill – Conversion of barn to dwelling. This is a listed building application. The PC made their response at the November meeting for the conversion of the barn to a residential dwelling.

(JH arrives)

36/17/0028 Rose and Crown Inn, Woodhill Road – Change of use of public house and curtilage to 1 residential dwelling. Following discussion of concerns that the planning statement is flawed in accuracy, that the property has not been marketed for a continuous significant length of time, and that the Rose and Crown has in recent times been a busy and viable business, the PC agreed to make the following response: We are unable to support the application on grounds that the planning statement is significantly flawed and there are factual inaccuracies.

New wall in Curload – This item to be removed from agenda.

1437. Community Assets – NS invited Ian Upshall to speak concerning the Village Shop.

(Meeting closes)

IU made a statement criticising the PC in their handling of the registration of the shop, including nomination of the shop without his authorization/acceptance (although this is not a requirement), and lack of communication and feedback from the PC. IU also highlighted problems outside of the control of the PC: TDBC advising the PC that it could halt the registration at any point, but subsequently saying that suspension or cancellation is not a possibility; lack of understanding by TDBC of the criteria for making an appeal and lack of a robust procedure; that CCS should be aware of the full facts before advising Parish Councils to register community assets. NS explained that the PC had tried to create options on behalf of the community within a fast-changing situation. The PC acknowledged that TDBC should not have registered the shop as an asset as procedure was not followed by them. NS proposed that the PC write to TDBC expressing dismay at their handling of the asset-registering process and requesting that the shop be de-registered.

GG to write to TDBC.

Clerk to send SALC a draft of the letter for advice before sending to TDBC.

(2 public leave)

1438. Marking the anniversary of the end of the First World War – Ideas are being discussed by the 2 churches regarding how to mark the 100th anniversary next year. It is planned to hold a service at the village hall with clergy in attendance followed by refreshments in the hall. The PC agreed their support for this in principle and look forward to further updates.

(2 public leave)

1439. Village plan – Future sustainability - Notes from the recent Forward Strategy Group had been circulated. It was felt there is the need to establish how much volunteer support there would be before the PC can decide whether to pursue the prospect of purchasing the Royal Oak. NS proposed that the PC canvas public opinion and this was agreed.

FSG to discuss how to carry out a public consultation to determine the level of volunteer support, and make preparations. (Consultation to be carried out between the January and February PC meetings if possible.)

Proprietors of the shop and the Royal Oak to be invited to discuss issues involved.

The PC discussed whether and how to make landowners aware of the PC's desire to encourage limited housing development within the village. It was agreed that this would be put onto the website rather than write to individual landowners.

NS to put a notice to this effect on the website.

1440. Assessment of farming practices – NS and PS recently met with some local farmers and the idea of putting a farming forecast onto the website was put forward. This would inform locals of what is coming up e.g. an increase in the number of tractors on the roads for a specific reason. The PC agreed that this would be useful to the community.

1441. Maintenance of finger posts – NS advised that we are still waiting for some quotes. It is hoped that a decision can be made at the next meeting.

1442. Protocol for complaints received from people who wish to remain anonymous – The PC cannot make a complaint on behalf of an individual but can do so as a Parish Council if a problem is brought to its attention. NS had devised and circulated a flow diagram which can be used as a reference rather than be adopted formally.

1443. Reeves Feast – Trustee required – HV proposed that Gill Yaskin become a new trustee for Reeves Feast. All agreed.

1444. APM – choice of speaker – For next agenda.

1445. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (2018-2022) consultation – It was agreed that a PC response is not necessary.

1446. NALC survey on business rates and public conveniences – Survey questions were answered.

NS to send the PC's responses.

1447. Footpaths – A complaint was received regarding dog waste not being picked up by dog walkers in Curload.

NS to write a piece for the website encouraging dog owners to pick up after their dogs.

1448. Highways:

Road edge drop - AF advised of a drop at the edge of the road at Denmans Lane.

North Curry road closure - NS advised that Stoke Road (North Curry centre to White Street) will be closed for 3 weeks from 8th January in order to replace drains. The road will remain open between 15:00 hrs and 09:00 hrs. Further roadworks in North Curry at the same time will have traffic lights.

Clerk to circulate a village email with the details. Clerk to contact SCC for information about how bus route No 51 will be affected during the road closures.

Termination of the SID programme - Councillors had not received this email.

Clerk to forward email re the SID programme termination.

1449. Allotments - GG advised the AGM has taken place.

1450. Playing Field – SS advised that the Stoke Stampede will take place on Sunday 7th January and the road through the centre of the village will be closed between 10:00 and 12:30. 450 runners have signed up.

1451. Village website -

NS advised that website traffic is gradually increasing.

The possibility of charging businesses a nominal sum to advertise will be discussed at the next meeting.

NS informed GG that some event dates are missing from the website.

SS to have a photo taken for the councillors page.

NS to mention the 'Nextdoor' local networking site on the village website.

1452. Flood issues – A flood group meeting will take place in January. HV advised that some spillways are running.

1453. Police issues – None raised.

(DF leaves)

1454. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

970 Teapot Creative Ltd - 1 hr support/maintenance	£84.00
971 R Goodchild - Reimbursement for printer ink	£38.25

Standing order

1-1-2018 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for December 2018	£311.43
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It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments be made.

Received

PCC - donation	£100.00
TDBC - Burial ground grant	£130.00
TDBC - Footpaths grant	£1310.00
Manning and Knight - Memorial inscription fee	£36.00

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation and quarterly accounts to end of October 2017 - Checked by AF.

Precept planning and plans for future projects – The PC agreed some amendments to the draft budget sheet.

Clerk to update budget sheet and circulate to the PC before the next meeting.

Donation request from St Margaret's Hospice Care – No donation to be made.

Donation request from Taunton Citizens Advice Bureau – The PC agreed to donate £50.

The Pensions Regulator – Parish Council duties as of February 2018 – A letter was received from the Pensions Regulator outlining PC duties.

PH and the clerk to complete necessary tasks and the online Declaration of Compliance.

Burial Ground hedge cutting – JH advised that the hedge needs to be trimmed yearly.

1455. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

Adoption of Willey Road telephone box – The Scouts would like to make use of the box. PC to pay the £1 adoption fee.

Circulation of Parish Council emails – For January agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:05pm.

The next meeting will be held on January 8th 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 22nd December if possible.