

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

**In Attendance** Becky Goodchild and 5 members of the public.

#### **Public Question Time:**

**Request for concrete bollards on Meare Green** – A member of the public suggested concrete bollards be placed outside her house following a car accident there last year. SCC had advised to obtain support from the Parish Council.

*Clerk to arrange site visit for the PC to the property.*

*(PS arrives)*

**Assessment of farming practices** – Matt Uren (Somerset County Advisor from the NFU) was present to discuss the report by PS ('Farming around Stoke St Gregory and North Curry'). MU and local farmers present felt that the report takes a negative slant against farmers and that progress that has been made could be stated more clearly. MU advised that meetings between farmers and the public might be more productive than a written report. It was suggested that a farming 'diary' be put onto the village website which could inform of farming activities and forewarn when there could impact upon the public e.g. an increase in tractor traffic on the roads.

*MU, GG and PS to discuss possible amendments to the report to ensure accuracy and balance.*

*(MU and PS leave)*

*(Meeting opens)*

**Apologies for absence** - Sara Sollis.

**1456. Declarations of Interest and dispensations** - None received.

**1457. Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **1458. Planning**

**36/17/0027 Crossway Farm, Griggs Hill** – TDBC: Conditional approval 27-11-2017

**36/17/0029 Beechcroft** – TDBC: Conditional approval 29-11-2017

**36/17/0024 Williams Hall** – TDBC: Conditional approval 11-12-2017

*(PS returns and DF arrives)*

**36/17/0028 Rose and Crown Inn, Woodhill Road** – Following a response by the agent to the comments made by the PC to this application regarding inaccuracies, the PC agreed to stand by their previous comments and make no new comments.

**1459. Village Plan: Future sustainability** – GG advised that there is support from the Plunkett Foundation for the possibility of setting up a community shop should the situation arise. The PC is to continue to gather information.

NS advised that there has been no response to the housing statement on the village website.

**1460. Community Assets** – Following all SSG businesses being unilaterally removed from the community asset register by TDBC, the PC is to seek further clarification about the criteria for registering assets and the process.

*GG to contact TDBC for information.*

**1461. Maintenance of finger posts** – NS advised that we are still waiting for some quotes.

**1462. Forwarding of Parish Council emails by the Clerk to Councillors** – Defer to next meeting.

**1463. APM – choice of speaker** – A suggestion was made for a speaker from Musgrove Park Hospital.

*GG to contact and invite.*

**1464. Adoption of telephone kiosk on Willey Road** – GG advised that the Scouts have plans to refurbish the kiosk but would want help with ongoing maintenance.

*PC to sign the contract to adopt the kiosk and pay the £1 adoption fee. (Contract signed at end of meeting by GG)*

**1465. Proposed new council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset (consultation closes 19-1-2018)** – The PC responded previously supporting the merger and has been asked to reconfirm its position to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The PC agreed to this.

*NS to submit.*

*(1 member of public leaves)*

**1466. Footpaths** – HV advised of a stile issue which has been passed onto CB.

**1467. Highways:**

**Termination of the Speed Indicator Device programme** – For next agenda.

**North Curry road closure** – The road closure has begun. GG is operating a volunteer drivers scheme to transport those who have no other means to and from North Curry Health Centre during the times that the buses are not running (09:00 – 15:00).

**Parking by the school** – There is concern that parents are still parking along Willey Road near to the school (in the morning and at pick up time), particularly close to the playing field entrance. This is causing concern for the safety of drivers and pedestrians as the narrowing in the road is resulting in drivers having to drive on the 'wrong' side of the road near and on the bend. Parents are also parking too close to the Huntham Lane junction.

*Clerk to ask school and pre-school to remind parents that there are safer places to park nearby (car parks at the church, Royal Oak, and Village Hall).*

**Woodhill Terrace bus shelter** – DH suggested that this shelter needs to be cleaned. For next agenda.

**Verges damaged by school buses** – DH advised that school buses are damaging road side verges. The PC agreed there is probably no solution to this as the length of the buses dictate their positioning.

**1468. Allotments** - GG advised that TDBC has agreed to purchase a shed and poly-tunnel through the housing association.

**1469. Playing Field** – SS advised of the recent successful Stoke Stampede.

**1470. Village website -**

**Servicing** - NS advised that the website has been partially serviced by Teapot and will be completed shortly.

**Charging local businesses to advertise on the website** – Decision deferred until May PC meeting when the website will have been running for a full year.

**Fibre network** – Gigaclear have announced plans to extend their fibre network in Stoke St Gregory (details on the CDS website).

**1471. Flood issues** – Flood group meeting to be arranged.

**1472. Police issues** – GG advised that the recent power cuts were caused by insulators being shot out to break the electricity connection. It is thought that this might have been done to place properties in darkness for robberies to be committed.

### **1473. Financial Matters**

#### **Authorisation of cheques:**

<b>972</b> G Wagon James – Mowing of burial ground	£31.20
<b>973</b> BT Payphones – adoption of telephone kiosk (Willey Road)	£1.00
<b>974</b> Taunton and District Citizens Advice Bureau – Donation	£50.00
<b>975</b> Williams Hall Stoke St Gregory – Meeting Room hire for PC meetings (Jul-Dec 2017)	£76.00
<b>976</b> Stoke St Gregory Playing Field Management Committee – Transfer of grant mistakenly paid to PC by TDBC	£1210.00
<b>977</b> Stoke St Gregory Playing Field Management Committee – Donation towards insurance premium	£292.60
<b>978</b> St John Ambulance – Payment for training session for 13 members of the public	£390.00

#### **Standing order**

1-2-2018 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for January 2018	£311.43
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It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments be made.

#### **Received**

Stoke St Gregory Meals – Donation towards cost of first aid training	£100.00
Dignity Funerals Ltd – Burial fee	£548.00

#### **Other financial items:**

**Bank reconciliation to end of November 2017** - Checked by GB.

**Agreement of precept amount for 2018/19** – The PC agreed some amendments to the draft budget sheet and a precept amount of £15181 for the financial year 2018/19 was agreed.

**Clerk to submit the precept request form to TDBC.**

*(PS leaves)*

#### **1474. Pending / Feedback from meetings:**

Information received via email, to be put on the village website:

St Margaret's Hospice – Requesting volunteers.

St Margaret's Hospice – Re open gardens event.

Somerset Scientific Services – Raising awareness of asbestos hazards.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

**The next meeting will be held on February 12th 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 1<sup>st</sup> February if possible.**