

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

In Attendance Becky Goodchild and 1 member of the public.

Public Question Time:

Request for bollards at Leamoore, Meare Green – A member of the public suggested at the January meeting that concrete bollards be placed outside her house following a car accident there last year. The PC had visited the property and support the request. DF advised that the 'half moon' type bollards would be placed rather than concrete ones. DF suggested that placement of bollards might also prevent mud being pushed by traffic towards the drain.
DF to follow up with Highways.

(Meeting opens)

Apologies for absence - Heather Venn.

1475. Declarations of Interest and dispensations - None received.

1476. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th January were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

1477. Planning

36/17/0030/LB Crossway Farm, Griggs Hill – TDBC: Conditional approval 18-01-2018

36/17/0033 Coates Willow and Wetland Centre – Change of use of redundant stripping shed and boiler, to include restoration of boiler, for use as Coates English Willow Heritage Centre. The Parish Council agreed to strongly support the application because it will help to preserve aspects of the history of the willow industry, which is of great significance to Stoke St Gregory.

36/18/0001 The Well House, Woodhill Road – Erection of conservatory to front of The Well House. The Parish Council agreed to support the application because it will have no detrimental effects on other residents.

Planning Enforcement issues

Currymoor wall – Response from Planning Enforcement: No further action – Following the decision by Planning Enforcement to take no action, all agreed not to take the issue any further. There is concern still that vehicles are being parked on the road here causing vehicles to drive on the wrong side of the road around the bend.

1478. Forward Strategy – Future of shop and pubs – A draft of the proposed village survey had been circulated and all agreed that it would be delivered to all households in the parish within the next couple of weeks (separately from the Newsletter). GG advised that costs incurred could be claimed back at a later date from the Plunkett Foundation. The PC would like as many adults as possible to complete the survey which will also be available online via the village website (stokestgregory.org)

1479. Forward Strategy – Housing – GG advised that a meeting is taking place tomorrow with a local landowner about possible development.

1480. Community Assets – Following the removal of all SSG businesses from the community asset register by TDBC, there has been no response as yet from TDBC regarding the process for registration (which is being reviewed).

1481. Assessment of farming practices – Councillors discussed whether or not the report should now be put into the public domain. Some took the view that the report was still too negative towards farmers and their practices while others thought it to be a fair reflection.

GG to write a shortened version.

Slough Court Farm and Huntham Farm intend to apply for a grant to purchase a sand separator which would remove the sand from slurry, reducing the total volume of slurry mixture and the number of vehicle movements in its transport. The PC agreed to provide a supporting letter.

Clerk to produce a letter for each farm.

1482. Dog walkers

-Not picking up waste – NS advised that there is still a problem with walkers not picking up after their dogs around the Hook Bridge area. SS advised of the practice of some parishes to highlight the amount of dog waste not being picked up by marking it with fluorescent biodegradable spray paint. DF advised of nearby parishes doing this.

-Dogs being walked off the lead – SS advised that a number of dogs are being walked locally without a lead. Walking a dog off the lead along a highway is an offence.

1483. Maintenance of finger posts – NS advised that we are waiting for one more quote.

1484. Forwarding of Parish Council emails by the Clerk to Councillors – To reduce the volume of emails to councillors it was agreed that the clerk will not forward commercial emails, those from Public Sector Executive, newsletters (unless of special relevance), or repeats. Clerk to mark anything requiring a response as high priority.

1485. APM – choice of speaker – GG advised that it was not possible for a speaker from Musgrove Park Hospital to attend.

GG to approach the Plunkett Foundation to invite a speaker.

1486. TDBC Citizenship Awards 2018 (Closing date for nominations 23-2-18) –

Following discussion the PC agreed on a nomination.

GG to check that the individuals are willing to be nominated.

(PS leaves)

1487. Somerset Libraries Service Consultation (Closes 22-04-18) – Defer to next meeting.

1488. Somerset Strategic Housing Framework – For next agenda.

1489. Footpaths – A complaint was received by a member of public about slurry on a footpath behind Meare Green Farm.

1490. Highways:

Termination of the Speed Indicator Device programme – Following termination of the current programme the options are to no longer operate a SID, to purchase one for use within the parish (possibly shared with nearby parishes), or to join a possible revised scheme operated by SCC but funded by participating parishes. The PC agreed that due to costs and the number of volunteers required to operate its own SID it would express interest to SCC in the revised scheme.

Clerk to inform SCC that the PC are interested in the revised SID scheme.

Potholes - These have appeared on Willey Road and on Meare Green.

AF to report to Highways.

Cleaning of bus shelters – A quote has been received for the cleaning of 2 bus shelters. It was agreed that this would be accepted but that a request for the third to be cleaned would be made.

1491. Allotments - GG advised that the hedge has now been planted by the allotment holders and that fruit trees will be planted in a few weeks time.

1492. Playing Field

SS advised that the chairman of the playing field committee will resign at the next AGM. A South African themed BBQ is planned for May on the playing field.

1493. Village website -

NS advised that the servicing of the website is now complete.

1494. Flood issues – Flood group meeting to be arranged.

1495. Village Hall

GG advised that the flagpole will be arriving this week and will be installed shortly. Quotes are being obtained for raising the footpath and illuminating the way into the hall.

1496. Police issues – An oil tank has been emptied recently, and a chainsaw stolen.

(DF and member of public leave)

1497. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques:

979 Williams Hall Stoke St Gregory – Hire of Meeting Room for CCS meeting	£13.00
980 Somerset Association of Local Councils – Affiliation fee 2017/18	£232.21
981 Rockwell Printers Ltd – Printing of Dec 2018 newsletter	£59.00
982 Somerset Association of Local Councils – New councillor training (Nov 2017)	£25.00
983 R Goodchild – Clerk briefing session (SALC) 3 hrs plus mileage	£42.11
984 R Goodchild – Reimbursement for printer ink (£45.00), postage stamps (£10.08), and minute book (£8.50)	£63.58
985 Community Council for Somerset – Annual subscription 2018/19	£40.00

Standing order

1-3-2018 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for February 2018	£311.43
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It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments be made.

Received

E Hembrow – Contribution towards cost of first aid training session	£30.00
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Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation and quarterly accounts to end of December 2017 - Checked by GB.

Stoke St Gregory Meals – Offer to repay Parish Council grant (£700) – All agreed that there was no need to repay the money as it had been a grant rather than a loan.

NS to suggest to SSG Meals that the money be donated to another local cause such as Reeves Feast.

Contributions towards first aid training – Some attendees have asked about making a contribution towards the cost of providing the training.

Clerk to email attendees with information should they wish to contribute.

1498. Pending / Feedback from meetings:

Data Protection Regulations – To be put on agenda when we have received further information from SALC regarding the change in regulations and what the PC will need to do in order to meet the requirements.

Sollis post – NS advised that the battery in one of the sollis posts lighting the path towards the village hall will be replaced by the supplier.

Newsletter delivery – The organiser of the newsletter deliveries is standing down from her role. More volunteers are also needed for deliveries.

Burial ground hedge – JH suggested that the inside of the burial ground hedge should be cut again.

DH to arrange for the hedge to be cut.

Litter picking – A day will be arranged shortly.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:35pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 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 27th February if possible.