

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

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

**Public Question Time:** The public were present to hear an update on the proposal for a community shop/pub, and for the fingerposts agenda item.

*(Meeting opens)*

**Apologies for absence** - Ann Finn, Heather Venn.

**1499. Declarations of Interest and dispensations** - None received.

**1500. Forward Strategy – Future of shop and pubs** – Minutes of the recent FSG meeting had been circulated. The village survey was delivered to households a week ago and GG had produced graphs to demonstrate how the data will be presented. Completed paper surveys will be collected from households shortly. Further copies can be found at the Village Stores. The survey can also be completed online via the village website (stokestgregory.org).

*(GB arrives)*

JH was aware that 1 member of the public in Woodhill had not received the survey.

GG to check with those making the deliveries that all of Woodhill was delivered to.

**1501. Maintenance of finger posts** – NS had circulated a summary of the quotes obtained. Following discussion it was agreed that the posts would be repaired in situ by a contractor. All agreed that the restoration work would be carried out by Brian Keal using arms cast in aluminium by Mill Farm Engineering. The sign post at Woodhill Terrace will be kept short (writing over 2 lines instead of one) as the post is close to the road.

Future touching up of the paintwork (possibly by volunteers) to be discussed at a later date.

NS to ask Mark Prior for new castings and Brian Keal to carry out the restoration work.

#### **1502. Planning**

**36/18/0002 9 Willey Road** – Erection of two storey extension to the side of 9 Willey Road. The Parish Council agreed to support the application because it will have no detrimental impact on surrounding properties.

**1503. Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

**1504. Forward Strategy – Housing** – GG advised that a local landowner might be interested in development dependant upon survey results.

**1505. Community Assets** – The Royal oak has been registered as a community asset. HV questioned (via GG) why only the Royal Oak was registered and not the Rose and Crown too. Whilst the Royal Oak is in the centre of the village and more amenable to the possibility of combining with a shop, it is unlikely that the PC would exercise a right to bid for the Rose and Crown. GG asked if any councillors would want an application to register the Rose and Crown to be submitted. None did.

The PC discussed business rates which apply to some local businesses but not others.

**1506. Assessment of farming practices** – GG had circulated a shortened version of the report originally written by PS. Councillors agreed that the report was improved but some felt that the PC was interfering in the running of private businesses. Comments were made that the PC must act on behalf of the community and its concerns, that the onus is on all road users to be courteous to other users, and that the report seeks to inform both sides of the argument. Further discussion is postponed until there is a North Curry response to the report.

*(3 members of public leave)*

**1507. APM – choice of speaker** – GG advised that we will have a speaker from the Plunkett Foundation to talk about community run shops and pubs.

**1508. Litter picking day** – GG has received a positive response from individuals and village groups willing to take part in this event which is planned to take place on either 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> April at 11:00. Hi-vis jackets will be available along with litter pickers, plastic bags and gloves. 'Runners in road' signs could be displayed to slow down the traffic. A free drink will be offered to all those taking part afterwards in the Royal Oak.

GG to check with the police if they need to be notified of the event.

GG to ask police if they supply litter pickers.

**1509. Village gateway** – The completed structures (photos previously circulated) will be arranged alongside the Stoke St Gregory sign on Meare Green, not impeding the sight line. It is hoped that as well as being an attractive feature it will help to slow down traffic by increasing awareness to drivers that they are entering a village.

NS to speak to the Coates about placement and arrangement of the structures.

**1510. Newsletter delivery** – Two new volunteers have taken on the role of organising the deliveries.

**1511. Contingency planning for bad weather and other crises** – A member of the public questioned whether there should be a plan that could be put into place when required (e.g. during snow/flood). During the recent snowy weather PC members considered the best plan of action. Salt bags were placed around the village and there were many offers of help from people with 4x4 vehicles. Manual clearance of snow from the roads was considered but it was agreed that this can make the road surface more slippery following further freezing temperatures. Information was also put on the village website with contacts details for people to provide information or to request help. It was agreed that the remit of the Flood Group could be extended to encompass civil contingencies.

NS advised that a new flood warden is needed to cover the village to West Sedgemoor area. (Please contact any councillor or the clerk if you are interested).

JH advised that Huntham Lane was flooded for 4-5 days recently close to where the lane joins Meare Green (possibly due to a blocked drain).

**1512. Somerset Strategic Housing Framework (Closes 30-04-18)** - It was suggested that the point needs to be made that some villages require more housing.

NS to draft a response for discussion at the next meeting.

*(PS and 1 member of public leave)*

**1513. Somerset Libraries Service Consultation (Closes 22-04-18)** – No changes are proposed for our nearest library (Langport).

NS to put a link to the consultation on the village website for individuals to respond to.

**1514. Footpaths** – No issues raised.

**1515. Highways**

**Revised Speed Indicator Device programme** – Following being advised by Highways that a single installation of a SID as part of the revised programme would cost £100 the PC agreed that it would join the scheme.

Clerk to inform SCC that the PC will join the revised SID scheme.

**Request for road markings to prevent cars from blocking driveway of Dunfield House** – Following cars continually being parked close to the school along Willey Road a resident is considering requesting H-bars to be painted at the entrance to her driveway to prevent it from being blocked. The PC has made many requests for parents to park in the 3 car parks in the village.

Clerk to advise the resident to contact SCC Highways.

**1516. Allotments** – GG advised that a poly-tunnel and shed provided by TDBC will be put up at the allotments. Planting of a community orchard will begin next Sunday.

#### **1517. Playing Field**

The AGM will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> March. SS advised that the chairman will be standing down.

**1518. Village website** - No issues raised.

**1519. Flood issues** – No issues raised.

**1520. Village Hall** – No issues raised.

**1521. Police issues** – No issues raised.

#### **1522. Financial Matters**

**Authorisation of cheques** – No cheque payments.

#### **Standing order**

1-4-2018 R. Goodchild - Clerk's salary for March 2018 £311.43

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

**Received** - No receipts.

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

**Bank reconciliation to end of January 2018** - Checked by GB.

#### **1523. Pending / Feedback from meetings:**

**New Council Warding Pattern** – An informal response was requested by Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council regarding the process to create a new district-level warding structure for the new council area should the decision to merge TDBC and WSC be taken. The PC was unsure how to respond and agreed to wait for the main consultation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:05pm.

**The next meeting will be held on April 9th 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 27<sup>th</sup> March if possible.**