

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

**In Attendance** - Becky Goodchild and 3 members of the public.

### Public Question Time

**Properties sprayed with slurry** - A member of the public complained that at least 2 properties in Willey Road were sprayed with slurry last week. Residents complained to the farmer who disinfected the affected areas.

**Apologies for absence** - Graham Gleed, Sara Sollis, David Fothergill.

### 1. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

JH declared an interest in the planning application from Huntham Farm. (Applicant.)

HV declared an interest in the planning application from Crossway Farm. (Rents from applicant.)

**2. Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Planning

**36/18/0002 9 Willey Road** – TDBC: Conditional approval 06-04-2018

**36/17/0033 Coates English Willow Heritage Centre** – TDBC: Conditional approval 12-04-2018

**36/18/0006 Leamoor, Meare Green** – Change of use and conversion of domestic store to holiday let. Councillors discussed the presence of a bat, a narrow entrance directly onto the road, and the need for a turning area which there is further onto the property.

Response agreed: We support this application because it would preserve an old agricultural building while creating a small holiday let that could be an asset to the village.

**36/18/0011 Little Orchard, Woodhill** – Erection of a replacement workshop.

Response agreed: We support this application because it will have no deleterious effect from outside the property.

**36/18/0008/CQ Crossway Farm, Slough Lane** – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to two dwelling houses (Use Class C3) and associated building operations.

Response agreed: We support this application because it would convert an existing building without architectural merit into two low-cost dwellings, which should be of value to the village.

**36/18/0007 Huntham Farm** – Erection of steel framed building for housing dairy heifers. JH was asked to remain in the room to answer questions. Councillors discussed the visibility of the proposed building, as it would be in a raised position on the landscape, and possible screening with trees. Frequency of tractor movements was also discussed. JH advised that these should be less frequent as the building would result in heifers being located on the farm instead of further away.

A majority of 4 agreed to support this application and the following response was agreed: We support this application provided that it is adequately screened by trees since the site is very visible from West Sedgemoor.

*(1 member of public leaves)*

**4. Charging local businesses to advertise on the village website** - NS had previously circulated a data sheet showing the frequency of visits to the site. It was agreed that charges would not be made until the website is being used more. It was noted that not all village events are being put onto the website.

**5. Somerset Village of the Year competition** – The PC decided not to submit an entry as the judges would probably be looking for a pretty village rather than a working village. Also entrance to this competition would be time consuming as a video would have to be submitted.

*(DF arrives)*

**6. Problem with eroded road edges** - NS had previously emailed DF with questions to which DF is researching the answers. SCC maintains the roads to their edges (including broken edges) but not the ditches outside of the edges. The possibility of land owners filling the ditches or the PC arranging for repair was discussed and the legal status of these should they be options. PH advised of broken edges of road along Meare Green.

*AF to report broken edge of road on Meare Green.*

**7. Whistle blowing policy**

*Clerk to find a model policy and requirements for its content.*

**8. Consultation: Unauthorised developments and encampments (Closes 25-05-2018)** - As there has not generally been a problem here it was agreed not to respond to this consultation.

**9. Consultation: Creech St Michael Neighbourhood Development Plan (Closes 22-06-2018)** - It was agreed not to comment on this plan.

**10. Forward Strategy Group** - GG had previously circulated a report from the last meeting. HV advised that a PC liaison is required on the community shop/pub steering group, which the FSG is hoping to launch at a public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June at the Village Hall. NS suggested that someone be provisionally chosen for the role at the public meeting, so that the appointment could be ratified at the next PC meeting.

**11. Footpaths** - No issues raised.

**12. Highways**

**White lines at the Willey Road / Griggs Hill bend** - It was suggested that white lines painted along the centre of the road on this bend could help to keep vehicles on the correct side of the road.

*DF to look into whether the road is wide enough for lines to be painted.*

**Parking near the school** - A request has been made by a resident to SCC for an H-bar to be painted at the entrance to their drive, or yellow zig-zags along the road edge, to prevent parents blocking the drive with their parked vehicles.

**Flooding** – Drains at both ends of Huntham Lane are blocked by silt from the ditches which washes into them when it rains.

*DF to email the clerk and NS with information as to whether this is an issue for Highways.*

**Tankers at school times** - A complaint was received by a member of the public that tankers are driving through the centre of the village at school drop off and pick up times when there are lots of children and parents on foot.

**13. Allotments** - No issues raised.

**14. Playing Field** - No issues raised.

**15. Village website** - NS has received requests for links to be put onto the website, but some are not always particularly relevant to the village. NS advised that the history section is now available via the website, thanks to Dave Evans.

*(GB leaves)*

**16. Broadband** - An update on the current broadband situation is available on the village website. In short Gigaclear intends to extend their network to North Curry and Stoke St Gregory with a proposed build date of early 2019. Gigaclear is contracted to Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) for phase 2 of the nationally subsidised broadband roll out in this area. TrueSpeed is a competitor who is also extending their network in the South West but are dependant on a 30% uptake to make their network build commercially viable. A meeting is to be arranged with Gigaclear to ensure that coverage of the parish is as comprehensive as possible.

NS to arrange a meeting with Gigaclear.

**17. Flood plan review** - The flood group meeting is still to be arranged.

**18. Police issues** - HV advised that there have been household burglaries in North Curry that have taken place in the day time.

NS to put information on the website to raise awareness. Article also to be placed in Parish Magazine and the Newsletter.

*(2 members of the public leave)*

## **19. Financial Matters**

### **Authorisation of cheques**

<b>988</b> Somerset Association of Local Councils – SALC/NALC affiliation fees 2018/19	£238.34
<b>989</b> Nicholas Sloan – Reimbursement of fee paid to HostPapa for village website annual backup	£43.06
<b>990</b> John Musgrove – Strimming of footpaths and signs. Cutting of burial ground hedge	£178.00
<b>991</b> Rockwell Printers – Printing of newsletter (March issue)	£61.75
<b>992</b> Simon Priestley – Cleaning of bus shelters	£60.00
<b>993</b> R. Goodchild – Reimbursement of expenses (APM refreshments £29.36, printer ink £41.20)	£70.56
<b>994</b> Came and Company – Parish Council insurance renewal 2018/19	£426.94
<b>995</b> Williams Hall Stoke St Gregory – Hall hire for APM, Meeting Rm hire for April PC meeting and FSG meeting	£46.00

### **Standing order**

1-06-2018 R. Goodchild – Clerk's salary for May 2018 £311.43

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

### **Received**

TDBC – Precept for year 2018/19 £15181.0

### **Other financial items**

**Bank reconciliation to end of March 2018** - Checked by GG.

An invoice for payment for fingerpost castings was omitted from the agenda and will be put onto the next agenda.

**Online banking** - The facility for online banking is not available with the Parish Council's bank account. Continuous access to the bank statements would be useful for the clerk and the ability to make online payments would reduce postage costs to the PC.

Clerk to speak to the bank about options and charges relating to online banking.

**National salary award for clerks** - The PC agreed that it would adopt the new national salary scale for clerks as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

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

**Community shop/pub** - HV raised concerns about the possibility of potential buyers of the shop and pubs being put off by the survey and publicising of a possible development of a community shop/pub.

**FSG report of last meeting** - HV questioned the clarity of the minutes of the last FSG meeting, particularly with regard to the allotment field and development of land for housing.

**Relationship of FSG to the PC** - HV was concerned that the FSG could be seen to be an auxiliary to the PC. The PC receives minutes of the FSG meetings but these are not made public. HV questioned the position of the FSG and whether it should be publishing all of its minutes. For next agenda.

**Matchams Farm – Cattle numbers** - It has been noted that Matchams Farm appears to have at least 30 cattle now. The number was limited as a condition of the approval of a previous planning application. It was felt that the complainant should report this to the planning department themselves.

**Matchams Farm – Mobile home** - Matchams Farm was granted approval of a previous planning application to place a mobile home within its curtilage. It now appears to be signed as if a separate property. For next agenda.

**Unstable wall between Jessamine House and the Garden of Remembrance** - NS had been advised that the wall is wobbly and cracked.

NS to refer the unstable wall to the PCC.

**Solis posts** - NS advised that the battery was due to be replaced the previous week and hopefully is working again.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

**The next meeting will be held on June 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 31st May if possible.**