

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th October 2018 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

In Attendance – Becky Goodchild, Tony McKenzie and 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence – Glynn Banks.

105. Declarations of Interest and dispensations – JH declared an interest in planning applications 36/18/0032 and 36/18/0034.

106. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th September were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

(PS arrives)

Public Question Time - Members of the public were present to observe.

107. Planning

36/18/0024 Dark Lane Farm, Dark Lane – TDBC: Conditional approval 20-09-2018

36/18/0032 Huntham Farm – Erection of a steel framed building to form roof over silage clamp, Stage 1.

The following response was agreed: We support this application since it should have environmental benefit in reducing polluted water run-off. Thought should be given to screening the high roof from the south.

36/18/0034 Huntham Farm – Erection of a steel framed roof over loafing yards.

The following response was agreed: We support this application since it should have environmental benefit in reducing polluted water run-off, and will have no visual impact on the surrounding area.

36/18/0037 Land adjacent to Leeswood, Meare Green – Erection of bungalow on land adjacent to Leeswood.

The following response was agreed: We support this application. The land in question is currently unused and within a residential area. The Parish Council is strongly in favour of sympathetic infill development in such circumstances.

36/18/0038 5 Church Close – Change of use of land from commercial to domestic to the side of 5 Church Close.

The following response was agreed: We support this application since the absorption of a small parcel of redundant land into the neighbouring garden will have no impact on the surrounding area.

108. Online banking – Presentation by TM – TM described the process and practical advantages of using online banking. It was agreed that the PC would move to online banking, either with its current bank or by moving to another if the charges or other conditions are unacceptable.

Clerk to determine whether agreement of payments at monthly meetings before online payment is made is necessary, particularly for payments that have been budgeted for.

109. SSG Parish Council's position re social media, and Nextdoor as a communication tool for the Parish Council – It was agreed that use of Facebook and Nextdoor would be effective ways of the PC communicating with parishioners. Councillors will be notified of messages prior to posting. A Nextdoor account has already been set up by GG.

SS to set up a Facebook account for the PC.

100. Proposed housing development - Following feedback from parishioners who completed the developer's questionnaire, and direct feedback to the PC, a list of additional facilities of communal benefit that people would like to see alongside the housing development (should it go ahead) has been compiled. Preference is for the following:

- A new pavilion.
- A MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on the playing field along with flood lighting which will also benefit the tennis courts.
- Improved accessibility to the playing field and its facilities.

GG to draft, and circulate to the PC, a note to the developer advising of the PC's support for the wishes of the community.

GG advised of 2 major changes to the developer's housing plan:

- The road entrance has been moved to a point opposite the small gate at the bottom of the playing field.
- The margin between Church Close and the development has been increased to 20 metres wide.

(HV leaves)

SS advised that residents had requested a path along Willey Road and that this had not been incorporated into the amended plan.

(HV returns)

101. Area for interment of ashes in the burial ground – As the original burial ground plan could not be located councillors visited the location to discuss an appropriate area to be reserved for interment of ashes. It was agreed that the triangle area near the car park gate would be used for this purpose, with rows being placed alongside the hedge line, with each row further from the hedge line becoming shorter.

102. Concerns about dangerous dogs – Following the recent death of a cat that was attacked by 2 dogs, the PC considered what could be done to avoid similar occurrences. Legally dogs must be kept on a lead while walking on a highway, but in a public space (such as the playing field) dogs must be kept under control although do not have to be kept on a lead. SS advised that the Playing Field Committee intend to place a new noticeboard along the wall at the bottom of the field to deter dogs from jumping over the wall onto the road. The PC agreed to put a piece on the village website advising that dogs must be kept under control for the safety of all.

NS to write a piece for the village website and circulate to the PC before displaying.

103. Forward Strategy Group – No further meetings have taken place. Remove from agenda.

104. Footpaths - No issues raised.

105. Highways

Fingerposts - NS advised that work to the Huntham fingerpost has not yet been completed but should be within the next fortnight.

Road markings on the corner of Willey Road have not been painted yet.

Potholes – Those on Willey Road have been filled.

106. Allotments – Nothing to report.

107. Playing Field – A village bonfire will take place on the playing field on 11th November to commemorate the armistice.

108. The Heart of the Village – GG advised that a meeting will take place at the end of the month. A Business Buyer's Survey is to be carried out later this month. The TDBC planning committee is due to make it's decision this week on the Rose and Crown's application for change of use.

109. Village website – No issues raised.

110. Broadband – NS advised that Gigaclear's schedules for extending their network to North Curry and Stoke St Gregory are slipping and we can no longer expect work to begin in early 2019 as previously planned. Wireless connection via RBS is still available and providing an effective service for those properties with very low speeds.

NS to put an update on the village website.

111. Flood – A Flood Group meeting will be taking place soon. A Community Resilience Day will take place on 25th October at Junction 24, 10:00 – 16:00.

112. Consultations and surveys – None at this time.

113. Police issues – Confidential item moved to end of agenda. No other police issues raised.

(DF, PS and 2 public leave)

114. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques

1018 St Johns Ambulance Supplies – 2 x pair electrodes (Signed 18 Sept. Replacement for lost cheque no.001016)	£115.60
1019 G Wagen James – Mow/strim burial ground (Aug '18)	£33.00
1020 Rockwell Printers – Printing of Autumn Newsletter	£61.75

Standing order

1-11-2018 R. Goodchild – Clerk's salary for October 2018	£317.63
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It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments be made.

Received

None received

Other financial items:

Bank reconciliation to end of August 2018 – Checked by DH.

Quote from TDBC for printing of Newsletter - Following discussion regarding TDBC's quote (specifically that such a low quote is 'bad' for other businesses, versus the duty of the PC to keep costs to our parishioners down), it was agreed that the TDBC quote would be accepted.

(TM leaves)

Donation to the Poppy Appeal – It was agreed that £50 would be donated to the Poppy Appeal.

115. Confidential item 1 and 2 – Discussed.

116. Precept planning and plans for future projects – For next agenda as red item.

117. Pending / Feedback from meetings – No meetings reported.

118. Other items for discussion –

Local police hub - GG advised that the police would like to use the Williams Hall on an ad hoc basis as a hub. At these times the police would carry out their administration while being available to the public. They would like it to be known that they can be consulted whenever a police car is parked outside the hall.

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

The next meeting will be held on November 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 1st November if possible.