

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th January 2019 in the Williams Hall

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

In Attendance – Becky Goodchild.

Apologies for absence – None received.

162. Declarations of Interest and dispensations

GG declared an interest in agenda item 15 (HOTV) and advised that he would abstain from any vote.

(GB arrives)

163. Minutes of previous meeting - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th December 2018 were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

164. Planning

36/18/0040 Dark Lane Farm - TDBC: Refusal 13-12-2018

36/18/0041 Dark Lane Farm - TDBC: Conditional approval 13-12-2018

36/18/0045 Huntham Farm - TDBC: Conditional approval 19-12-2018

36/18/0053 Windmill – Change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage for the barn. PC comment agreed: We support this application because it will repurpose an unused building of no architectural merit with a two bedroom house, and there is a shortage of smaller houses in the parish.

36/18/0051/CQ Windmill – Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations.

PC comment agreed: We support this application since it complements application 36/18/0053.

36/18/0052 Meare Green Farm – Construction of 2 open silage clamps.

PC comment agreed: We support this application because it represents an environmental improvement in containing run-off from silage stored on the farm.

36/18/0043 Crossways Farm – The PC considered whether to make a further comment on this application before the upcoming TDBC Planning Committee meeting at which this application will be discussed. The PC agreed at the December PC meeting to support the application but the Planning Officer recommends refusal. It was agreed that no further comment would be made by the PC although individuals can should they wish to.

Settlement boundary (Village envelope) - Inconsistency in granting and refusal of planning applications by TDBC has been noted by the PC. Discussion took place about the settlement boundary which was set in 2004. When Parish Councils were asked in 2014 to consider their village envelope SSG PC agreed that they did not wish to change Stoke St Gregory's envelope. The value of having a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed but the high financial cost and uncertainty of its long term implications go against it.

165. Online banking – Application forms for 3 signatories (NS, AF and HV) were brought to the meeting and signed by other signatories.

Clerk to post applications.

166. Speed Indicator Device / flashing signs – consideration of purchase – AF had researched SID costs, and types of flashing signs available. It was agreed that no speed signs or SID would be purchased at this point but that starting up of the Speed Watch Scheme would be looked into again.

Speed Watch - AF advised that she would look into starting up Speed Watch in March when the daylight hours are longer.

AF to check availability of Speed Watch volunteers.

167. Road gritting – consideration of purchase of grit bins and gritting procedure – AF had researched grit bin sizes and costs. It was agreed that 3x 115 litre yellow bins would be ordered for placement on Griggs Hill (near the Baptist Chapel), Denman Hill, and Dark Lane. Specific location of placement to be arranged with Highways. DF advised that gritting will continue to take place this year when snow is on the ground. Precautionary gritting will not take place.

AF to order 3 grit bins and arrange their placement with Highways.

168. Ring-fencing for specific projects – Defer to next agenda.

(DF leaves)

169. Review of PC online communications policy – The village website is the main information source provided by the Parish Council. Other social media sites are used by the PC mainly to sign-post to the website about specific local issues. A written online communications policy will not be produced at this time.

(DF returns)

170. Annual Parish Meeting speaker – With elections taking place in May it was agreed that the candidates for District Councillor will be invited to speak at the APM.

NS to write a piece for the website encouraging parishioners to apply to be a Parish Councillor.

171. The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and mobile applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018 – Remove from agenda, revisit at a later date.

172. The Somerset Wood (WW1 memorial) – Sponsorship and maintenance of trees – DF advised that a memorial woodland is to be created near the Hestercombe estate, with a tree being planted for each soldier who died during WW1. Donations are being asked of parishes for future maintenance of the trees. For next agenda.

GG to determine how many soldiers from Stoke St Gregory died during WW1.

173. Footpaths

Proposed diversion of footpaths T25/22 T25/15 T25/34 and T17/6 (Circulated 17-12-2018. Closes 18-1-2019) – This application proposes to divert these footpaths so that they no longer run through a resident's garden. The PC agreed to support the application.

AF to send a supporting response to SCC on behalf of the PC.

174. SCC Rights of Way Team – Parish Paths Consultation (Closes 31-1-18. Circulated 19-11-18) – NS suggested amendments to the path categories and vegetation clearance schedule. These were discussed and agreed.

NS to send response to SCC.

175. Highways – GG advised of a complaint that flooding on Huntham Lane is preventing children from walking to their school bus pick up point. GG has contacted Highways asking for the cause of the flooding and we await a reply.

176. Allotments – No issues.

177. Playing Field

Stoke Stampede – The event was a great success with 396 runners completing the route.

African Somerset – The Playing Field Committee is considering a request for permission for this event to be held again.

178. The Heart of the Village – GG had circulated the minutes of the January HOTV meeting and requested that the PC consider ring-fencing £3000 to enable HOTV to initiate early stages information gathering e.g. structural surveys. Match funding will be applied for. It was questioned if this was appropriate when there are still 2 pubs trading in the village, however the situation has changed now that the Rose and Crown has planning permission for change of use. The PC agreed that £3000 would be ring-fenced for use by HOTV. GG advised that HOTV meetings, which are open to the public, will be held on the first Monday of each month. Details will be given on the website.

179. Village website – Website hosting and domain name renewals – Renewal of the domain name has been cancelled, and NS is researching website hosting providers.

180. Broadband – NS is to contact Gigaclear for an update on their schedule.

181. Flood – AF advised that the pipes placed in a drainage ditch behind Reneath without consent have been removed.

182. Consultations and surveys

Sedgemoor District Council – Sedgemoor's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (Closes 1-2-2019. Circulated 17-12-2018) – The PC agreed not to respond to this consultation.

183. Police issues – An incident between neighbours in Church Close resulted in a stabbing last week.

184. Financial Matters

Authorisation of cheques

1026 Taunton and District Citizens Advice Bureau – Donation £100.00

1027 Reeves Feast – Donation £25.00

1028 Stoke St Gregory Playing Field Management Committee –
Donation toward insurance premium £212.80

Standing order

1-2-2019 R. Goodchild – Clerk's salary for January 2019 £317.63

It was agreed that the above cheques be signed and payments be made. GG requested that the payment to the Playing Field (**cheque 1028**) be made by bank transfer once the signatories have been set up to authorise payments.

Received

None received

Other financial items

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

185. Other items for discussion

Buckingham Palace Garden Party - Nominations for long serving Chairmen – No nomination to be made.

Road closure – New Road is currently closed.

(PS leaves)

Fostering - The PC recently received information from SCC requesting that leaflets be included in Newsletters to advertise the need for more foster parents.

NS to ask the deliverers of the Newsletter if they would be happy to include this with their deliveries.

Citizenship awards – For next agenda.

SCC underspend – DF advised that due to an underspend by SCC this past year 2 decisions have been reversed – the decision to go to consultation on removal of bus subsidies, and the proposal to abandon all school crossing patrols.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th February 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 29th January if possible.