

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Meeting Room, Williams Hall

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

**In Attendance** – Becky Goodchild and 2 members of the public.

**Apologies for absence** – David Fothergill (County Councillor), and Glynn Banks.

**186. Declarations of Interest and dispensations** – None received.

**187. Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **188. Planning**

**36/18/0042 The Cottage, Meare Green** - TDBC: Conditional approval 24-1-2019

**36/18/0043 Crossways Farm** - TDBC: Refusal 18-1-2019

**36/18/0050 Huntham Farm** - TDBC: Conditional approval 15-1-2019

**36/18/0044 Baileys Farm** – Erection of agricultural building for the storage of farm machinery.

Following discussion about the visibility of the large proposed building, the PC agreed to submit the following comment: We support this application provided that it is adequately screened by trees since the site is very visible from West Sedgemoor.

**36/18/0015 The Malt Barn** – An amendment has been made to this application regarding a proposed new driveway.

Clerk to ask TDBC Planning Dept. if there will be another consultation following the amendment.

**36/18/0053 Windmill** – TDBC: Conditional approval 5-2-2019

**189. Grit bins and gritting procedure** – The grit bins must be sited by Highways and AF has advised them of the desired locations. DF advised prior to the meeting that SCC will be reviewing their gritting decisions taken last September and this is likely to result in the restoration of the SSG gritting route for next winter. At this stage this will not cover grit bin refilling.

**190. The Somerset Wood (WW1 memorial) – Sponsorship and maintenance of trees** – GG advised that the number of soldiers from SSG who died during WW1 is 33. Information about the wood was put in the PC report and on social media but with no response. The PC agreed to postpone making a decision about making a financial contribution to the maintenance of the trees until after the APM.

NS to find out more information about the project to inform the decision to make a contribution.

**191. Citizenship awards** – It was agreed that no nomination would be made.

**192. Dog bins** – GG had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the amount of dog waste not being picked up. The clerk advised that she ordered a dog bin from TDBC in 2017 and has followed this up with several emails and phone calls with promises given by TDBC that the order would be fulfilled. It is known that dog waste can have a

detrimental effect to the health of cattle. Spray painting dog waste in order to highlight it was suggested. This could be combined with a litter pick in the Spring. For next agenda.

Clerk to contact TDBC again re dog bin order.

NS to put a request into PC reports that dog walkers pick up after their dog, explaining the dangers to the health of humans and cattle.

**193. 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.

#### **194. Footpaths**

**Off-roaders on droves** – A complaint was received about off-roading bikes on Stanmoor Meade Drove. It was acknowledged that technically droves are intended as agricultural access to farm land, but that they are often used by pedestrians and horse riders as a safe and useful route across farmland.

#### **195. Highways** –

Flooding outside Woodhill Terrace has become worse since a garage has been removed, which is where the water previously flowed into.

A drain in Huntham Lane is blocked. The gully is full resulting in water running across the road.

JH to report blocked drain.

Willey Road near the bottom of the field has recently been flooding.

NS to report Willey Road flooding.

**196. Allotments** – GG advised of thefts from the allotments, at night on 29<sup>th</sup> January, of a scythe and the parish strimmer. Several smaller tools were also stolen in a recent previous theft from the allotments.

**197. Playing Field** – Nothing to report.

**198. The Heart of the Village** – GG advised that the Village Stores are planned to be closed by 31<sup>st</sup> December of this year unless sold. An application for registration of HDTV as a Community Benefit Society will be sent off this week. Clarification of the proposed enterprise was discussed and agreed at the HDTV meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February: purchase of Royal Oak and splitting into 2 to provide a hospitality service (pub, coffee shop and skittle alley) and retail service (shop). The financial goal is to raise £500,000. GG advised that more interest and community involvement is needed.

#### **199. Village website**

**Website hosting and domain name** – NS had previously circulated information and recommended switching to Guru Cloud Hosting @ £15 per year. All agreed.

NS to arrange transfer of domain name with TM.

**Accessibility regulations** – The regulations come into force in September 2020. As it is unclear what needs to be done in order to conform with the regulations it was agreed that the PC will wait for further information to be released.

**200. Broadband** – NS advised that Gigaclear has stated that a delay of 1 year to their schedule can be expected, though this is an unreliable estimate.

**201. Flood** – See 'Highways'.

#### **202. Consultations and surveys**

**NALC consultation document on the Government's Clean Air Strategy (Closes 15-2-2019, circulated 31-1-2019)** – The PC agreed not to respond to this consultation.

*(1 member of public leaves)*

**203. Police issues** – GG advised that the police have been informed of the thefts from the allotments and a security light has been placed.

#### **204. Financial Matters**

##### **Authorisation of cheques**

J Musgrove (Cheque 1029) – Mow/strim around road signs	£259.50
TDBC (Bank transfer) – Printing of Stoke News, Winter issue	£27.25
Reece Safety Products Ltd (Bank transfer) – Grit bins X3	£317.50

##### **Standing order**

1-3-2019 R. Goodchild – Clerk's salary for February 2019	£317.63
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It was agreed that the above payments be made.

##### **Received**

None received

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

**Bank reconciliation, and income and expenditure to end of December 2018** – Checked by PH. PH questioned why a cheque written to the Playing Field Management Committee is still in the cheque book. The clerk advised that GG had requested that the payment be made by bank transfer once the signatories for online banking have been set up. The cheque will be destroyed.

**Clarification of donation amount to Reeves Feast** – It was agreed that the amount to be donated to Reeves Feast is £50. £25 was paid following the January PC meeting and a further £25 will be paid.

**Newsletter printing – consideration of quotes** – Following closure of the TDBC print room it was agreed that the Newsletter will in future be printed at Rockwell Printers @ £57 per issue.

**Online banking** – It was agreed that those councillors who plan to stand for election should become signatories to increase the likelihood of there being enough signatories remaining following the elections. It was also agreed that all current signatories who plan to stand for election should register for online banking.

*Clerk to send instructions to current signatories on how to register for online banking.*

*Non signatories to apply to become signatories.*

**Internal audit** – It was agreed that Liz Hembrow be asked to carry out the end of year internal audit of accounts as usual.

*Clerk to ask LH if she would be willing to carry out internal audit.*

#### **205. Other items for discussion**

**Litter pick** – GG suggested Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March for the litter pick to take place.

**APM** – GG to put the APM onto the village hall website calendar.

*(PS leaves)*

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th March 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 28th February if possible.**