

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

**Public question time** – The following issues were raised:

**Litter** – Who is responsible for the resulting plastic litter left to the sides of rhynes after dredging?

**NS to ask EA who is responsible for clearing up litter from rhynes.**

**Spray painting dog waste** – Spray painting of dog waste, to highlight when it is not being picked up, is planned to be done in Stoke St Gregory at the same time as the litter pick on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. There is evidence from other parishes that this can be successful in reducing the amount of dog waste not picked up. It was questioned whether the practice is a good idea considering the potential presence of micro-plastics in spray paint.

**Broken stiles** – Several stiles are in a poor state of repair, some having been reported more than once. AF advised that some of the SCC funds intended for repair of potholes have been devolved to Rights of Way, and questioned whether some could be used to repair stiles. DF advised that this money could be used on assets but not services. DF suggested that a report from the footpaths officer identifying the problem stiles would be helpful.

**TW and AF to mark stiles in need of repair on a map.**

**Litter** – It has been noted that there is an increase in litter on the roads following recycling collections. The open top boxes and the recent windy weather are partly responsible but it is also thought that there could be a lack of care by the recycling collectors.

**NS to write to Managing Director of SWP.**

**Future of the Village Stores** – The closing of the shop by 31<sup>st</sup> December has been written about in the Newsletter. Ian and Karen are working with HOTV to ensure a smooth transition to community shop/pub.

**Housing development** – Misinformation has been posted on social media with inappropriate and disrespectful comments being made.

*(GB arrives)*

GG advised that a planning decision on the housing development is unlikely to be made in the next few weeks as a meeting with the developer and planners will be taking place first in April.

**Apologies for absence** – John Hembrow and Heather Venn.

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

**207. Minutes of previous meeting** - The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were agreed by all to be accurate, and were signed by the Chairman.

#### **208. Planning**

**36/18/0051/CQ Windmill** - TDBC: Prior approval approved (Conditional) 5-2-2019

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

**36/18/0052 Meare Green Farm** - TDBC: Conditional approval 20-2-2019

**36/18/0044 Baileys Farm** - TDBC: Conditional approval 26-2-2019

**Housing application** – It is understood that the planning officer is currently minded to recommend refusal due to insufficient evidence of demand for affordable housing, and the field being outside the settlement boundary. NS read out a drafted letter from the PC to TDBC explaining the need for housing and the need to extend the settlement boundary. Text to be amended and circulated to the PC. It was agreed that the letter should be sent on behalf of the PC.

**209. Dog bins** – The clerk advised that she had followed this up again with TDBC and was waiting for a response from the relevant person.

**210. Litter pick** – This will be combined with spray painting of dog waste and will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Types of spray paint were considered. GG advised that equipment will be borrowed from the police. Free refreshments will be provided for helpers afterwards in the Royal Oak. Event to be advertised on the village website, Nextdoor and Facebook. It was suggested that a sign be placed in the pub car park encouraging campers there to pick up after their dogs.

**211. Annual Parish Meeting** – This is to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. SALC has advised that the PC should not provide a platform to candidates for District Councillor, though the principle appears to be to avoid bias.

*(2 members of the public leave)*

It was agreed that candidates would be invited to speak but only if all were able to attend, as this would then be fair to all candidates. The statement of nominations will be made on 4<sup>th</sup> April and invitations will be circulated then.

*(2 members of public leave)*

**212. Clerk resignation** – The process of short-listing and interviewing was discussed.

*(1 member of public leaves)*

If not enough applications are received there might be a need to extend the closing date (18<sup>th</sup> March). The interview panel was agreed as NS, SS, DH and the Clerk.

*NS to circulate advice on the process of selection.*

*Clerk to contact North Curry PC and ask if they could inform the applicants for the recently advertised NC Clerk post of our vacancy.*

### **213. Footpaths**

**Lack of maintenance of stiles** – DF advised that faults must be reported online in order for them to be fixed. There are also broken stiles on permissive byways.

### **214. Highways**

**Grit bins and gritting procedure** – AF advised that the grit bins have been sited, but queried the position of the bin in Dark Lane.

*AF to inform Highways of the desired location for the Dark Lane grit bin.*

**215. Allotments** – Nothing to report.

**216. Playing Field** – The AGM will take place next Thursday in the Church Rooms at 7.30pm.

**217. The Heart of the Village** – GG advised that Stockland has a community pub and their management committee has offered to mentor HDTV in setting up of a community pub in SSG. A public meeting will be held at the Williams Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm to propose the community purchase of the Royal Oak, and house the village shop. This event will be sponsored by Fine Tuned Brewery who will be providing free beer tasting.

*(1 member of the public leaves)*

### **218. Village website**

**Domain name transfer** – The website is running under a new host as of today. Payment for the first year of hosting with Guru has been made as it was due before this meeting. All agreed that annual payment should be set up.

*Clerk to set up annual payment for website hosting.*

**219. Broadband** – Nothing to report.

**220. Flood** – Nothing to report.

### **221. Consultations and surveys**

**Newquay Town Council and NALC survey on parking enforcement powers** (Closes 15-3-2019, circulated 19-2-2019) – It was agreed that the PC would not respond to this survey.

**222. Police issues** – A new PCSO, Jake Edwards has taken over from Claire Escot. Jake is the only PCSO covering SSG now. GG advised that the PCSO is not available for the litter pick.

*(DF leaves)*

### **223. Financial Matters**

#### **Authorisation of payments**

R.Goodchild (Bank transfer) – Reimbursement for purchase of printer paper £4.99

#### **Standing order**

1-4-2019 R. Goodchild – Clerk's salary for March 2019 £317.63

It was agreed that the above payments be made.

#### **Received**

HMRC – VAT reclaim for year 2017/18 £331.93

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

**Bank reconciliation to end of January 2019** – Checked by PH.

**Online banking** – NS had previously circulated a slightly amended version of the Financial Regulations to accommodate the use of online banking. All agreed to adopt the new version.

**Request for donation from The Willow Set Pre-School** – Following discussion it was agreed that insufficient information was supplied about costings in order to consider such a large donation request, and that the PC do not have funds to enable such a donation. It was also felt that the PC is likely to have larger than usual outgoings in the near future with the possibility of set up of a community pub/shop. All agreed that donation would not be made.

*NS and the clerk to write to manager of The Willow Set advising of this decision.*

**Request for donation from SSG Friends of School** – The request for purchase of roofed buddy bench shelters for the school was discussed. GG advised that as the school is suffering from financial constraints there might be other educational items that could be prioritised.

*Clerk to invite Chairman of FOS to attend a PC meeting to give some background to the reasoning for their choice of roofed benches and discuss further.*

**Internal audit** – The clerk advised that Liz Hembrow has agreed to carry out the internal audit of the annual accounts ending 31-03-2019.

**New NALC pay scale for clerks** – It was agreed that the new pay scale would be adopted as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### **224. Other items for discussion**

**Donation from the PCC towards parish clock maintenance** – For next agenda.

*(PS leaves)*

**Website** – NS advised that he is intending to set up a new noticeboard section on the village website, to show public information of general interest from outside the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55pm.

**The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th April 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 25th March if possible.**