

## STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the meeting room at The Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory.**

**Present** – Janice Pearce (Chair), Anne Merritt (Vice-Chair), John Hembrow (JHe), Ann Finn, John Hembrow, Peter House, John Hardy(JHa), David Cuthbertson, Lawrence Bostock, Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Councillor)

**In Attendance** – Kelly de Silva (Clerk) and Sally Taylor (Clerk Designate) and one member of the public

**Apologies** - Heather Venn

**112. Approve and sign the minutes of the September meeting** – The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

**Interests and dispensations** –None.

**Public Question Time** – None

### **113. Planning**

**36/23/0022 Laburnham Farmhouse, Woodhill Road, Stoke St Gregory** - Replacement of single storey extension to the rear and two storey extension to the side (E01/10/23)

No issues raised, PC concluded non contentious.

*Stoke St Gregory Parish Council agree to support this application.*

**36/23/0020 Meare Green Farm, Frog Lane, Meare Green, Stoke St Gregory** - Demolition of outbuilding and erection of machinery store (E01/10/23)

PH questioned how Highways decide what is their land as they have stated that the pond area at the location is theirs. It is suggested that the hedges either side of Frog Lane are Highways owned. A map is needed to check. DF will obtain a map and check.

A separate discussion took place around the porch of the Royal Oak being on Highways land, which goes up to the wall of the pub and includes the raised pavement/walkway.

It was concluded that this issue is too late to query regarding this planning application, but in future the PC should question any apparent discrepancies with land ownership/boundaries.

*Stoke St Gregory Parish Council agree to support this application.*

### **114 Cllr Cuthbertson to accept office and sign declaration.**

Cllr. David Cuthbertson accepted office and signed his Declaration of Office.

### **115. Appointment of a new Clerk**

Sally Taylor was appointed as Parish Clerk

### **116. Stoke St Gregory 2023 Community Plan**

**Update:** The Tracking Team (set up to monitor the progression of items in the CP) have stepped down and responsibility has been passed to the PC.

A group needs to be set up to monitor pollution in the village, external advice may need to be sought from professionals in order to measure pollution. Potential group members: PC, SEG, School, Child Representatives.

All Members are asked to bring their thoughts to the next PC Meeting

Monthly Completion of Tracker:

Facilities for young people

Village Fete

Craft Fair (Committee formed)

### **Noticeboard**

AM consulted the community via social media for input on possible locations and content for communications. Around 30-35 responses were received. A large percentage said they would be willing to get information on PC business via e mail. Most respondees suggested the notice board should be located at the Shop, but AM said not ideal as other boards are there. AF suggested the bus shelter, JP suggested wall by bus shelter. PH thought fine where it is. JHa suggested it may just need strengthening and revamping.

JP said an improvement in communications in general is needed. Possibly have a Cllr available in the Cafe for questions periodically.

AF suggested attendance at the Coffee Morning, everyone agreed this was a good idea. JP will ask if this would be welcomed.

### **117. Project Play**

AM reports there is currently just over £30k available for Phase 1 (new MUGA). Funding/grants are being sourced by DJ (using Sparks) and he is also looking at cheaper materials to lower cost. Target completion Summer 2024. The CP is a good tool in applying for funding.

AM informs plans are underway for a fundraising event for the project on November 25<sup>th</sup> 4pm - 6.30pm– Christmas Singalong. Julie Meikle is holding choir sessions for the three weeks on Thursdays prior to the event. The School are also involved.

AM will need volunteers to help on the day.

A TEN is needed for the bar. KdeS to apply for this.

AF asked if girls had been engaged with the proposals. AM replied that as the equipment is modular it is more inclusive as less intimidating and there's something for all. LB added that there is a shift to women and ball sports with the profile of ladies football.

AF wondered if ground level trampolines might be a good addition to the project, AM to raise with DJ.

### **118. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)**

Neil Sollis has secured funding for CCTV through the Valencia Grant. The CP was used in the funding bid.

### **119. Damage of the Coppice at the Village Hall**

National Grid contractor Hi Lines chopped down trees identified as encroaching on power lines.

They did not seek permission from GG and they provided falsified paperwork. They were discovered to be cutting down the trees without permission and were stopped part way through the task. SALC have advised to speak to insurers. GG currently progressing an application for compensation.

DF questioned whether police have informed, nobody sure.

JP to speak to GG and seek clarification.

### **120. Anti-social behaviour**

Nothing further to report.

### **121. Somerset Councillor Report**

Report from DF to follow.

### **122. Emergency and Incident Response Plan**

Currently being finalised prior to distribution.

Jenny Priddle to represent Polkes Field

Woodhill not allocated as yet: Tom Duxbury or HV suggested. JP to ask.

Dean and Emma Arthurs to replace Tony Yaskin on the Flood Group. This change was supported and it was agreed they should be added to the Plan

### **123. Broomfield Park**

Update on water works provided.

No information as yet re additional trees - Agent liaising with developers.

### **124. Highways**

Parking on Willey Road (E01/10/23)

A letter has been received from Alex Wyatt, resident on Willey Road, reporting continuation of issues re parking. Letter suggests requesting yellow lines, but this is not enforceable.

Discussion around legality and what can be done.

AM suggested signage on property.

We can ask people not to park there and to be considerate, however we cannot enforce.

Need to reply to AW to say what we have done to help resolve within limited powers

ST to check with Willowset and School what has been done as there has been discussion between RP and the Head.

JP will go to see AW.

Discussion about parking in Square, and potential traffic calming measures, however reduction of parking is the preferred option. HOTV are looking at designated parking space for disabled customers. They have an open meeting in November for suggestions re parking.

### **125. Footpaths**

AM provided update as SE unable to attend.

AM and volunteers have cleared the Polkes Field footpath as far as is possible. There remains an issue with overhanging trees.

The question of who the ditch belongs to was discussed - where the trees are and the fly tipping of garden waste. The footpath is not Somerset Council. Marion says not hers either. Unsure of who is responsible for communal areas.

AM to contact the relevant housing associations to seek clarification.

JHe says there should be maps to identify responsibility.

KdeS will look on Land Registry and report back.

### **126. Stoke Environment Group**

IU provided verbal update:

September meeting (and AGM) cancelled, rescheduled for 18-10-23 in HOTV Cafe

Tree planting in orchard and raised beds produced.

Trees to be put in along fence line in October, fruit bushes in new year.

Habitat building in hand.

Refurbishment of bus shelter imminent.

Telephone box is not suitable for the collection of used blister packs as these have been thrown on to the ground. Alternative location for collection being considered.

No remedial action as yet re Hi Lines damage as compensation claim ongoing, but they have admitted liability.

IU attended Resilience event, the importance of emergency plans was stressed. There will be peer review service for EPs.

### **127. Community Woodland**

Ongoing plans being developed by the SEG. To be put back on the Agenda in January.

### **128. Playing Fields**

Bin to be purchased.

Cricket ball netting has been requested by a resident of Huntham Close. After discussion concluded this is not a PC issue, but should be dealt with by Playing Fields committee as they will have insurance.

PC on PFMC representatives are currently:

AM (Replaced GG)

DJ (Replaced PH)

Glyn Banks

The Constitution requires 3, and DJ can still represent PC

LB agreed to represent. AM to feedback

### **129. HOTV**

Covered under item 124.

### **130. Consultations and Surveys**

Nothing to report.

### **131. Financial Matters**

#### **Standing Orders**

01-10-23 K de Silva – Clerks Salary for September	£395.85
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#### **Payments to be authorised**

02-10-23 J Williams - Grass Cutting September	£100.00
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01-10-23 N Sloan - Web administration (Sept)	£120.00
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20-09-23 G Wagen & James - Burial Ground (Sept)	£92.40
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02-10-23 K de Silva Expenses - paper and ink	£34.99
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25-9-23 SALC - Annual Subscription	£277.34
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30-9-23 SLCC - Annual Subscription	TBC
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09-10-23 Remembrance Wreath	TBC
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#### **Payments Received**

13-9-23 Crescent Funeral Services	£600.00
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#### **Other financial items**

JHe took half year accounts to check prior to handover to ST

### **132. Other items for discussion**

Following on from the recent defibrillator training, AF suggested that more units were needed to spread them out over the village. It was suggested there should be one on Curload and one at Meare Green, the postbox on Woodhill was also suggested. The Circuit online shows all locations to establish best additional sites. Units cost around £1k each, but there are plenty of grants available. ST to add to agenda of next meeting for further discussion.

KdeS advised that precept/budget needs to go in January so need to start discussions around this.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the meeting room at The Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory.