

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th December 2023 in the meeting room at The Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory.

Present – Janice Pearce (Chair), Heather Venn, Peter House, Lawrence Bostock, John Hardy, John Hembrow, Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Councillor)

In Attendance – Sally Taylor (Clerk) and one member of the public

Apologies – David Cuthbertson, Ann Finn

154. Approve and sign the minutes of the October meeting – The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

155. Interests and dispensations – John Hembrow – planning application 36/23/0026 and 36/23/0027

156. Public Question Time – See minute no re HOTV CIL application

157. Planning

36/23/0026 and 36/23/0027 Erection of an agricultural umbrella building to cover an open cow feeding yard at **Huntham Farm, Stoke St Gregory**

Site visit had taken place, those attending were impressed by the environmental benefits the build would realise, including a reduction of 80% of tractor movements. All aspects of the application were met favourably.

‘Stoke St Gregory Parish Council voted unanimously to support the application’

36/23/0028 Dark Lane Farm, Stoke St Gregory

Stoke St Gregory Parish Council agreed the following response:

“Stoke St Gregory Parish Council agree to support this planning application.”

36/23/0029 3 Willey Road, Stoke St Gregory

Stoke St Gregory Parish Council agreed the following response:

The plans are for an increase of double the building footprint. Frontage is an issue as the road vantage is significant. The proposal is not subservient to the main house and therefore is not in line with planning policy. The Application would be more favourably viewed if plans were re drawn to place to the rear of the property rather than the side.

‘Stoke St Gregory Parish Council do not support this planning application in its current form’

The discussions around this particular application concluded that the PC needs to develop a Housing Plan as was discussed at the previous meeting. To be added as an agenda item in future. DF advised that North Curry will be publishing a Neighbourhood Plan in the New Year and this will be relevant to SSG and should be reviewed.

158. Stoke St Gregory 2023 Community Plan

The drop in surgery for the public to meet with a Councillor for updates/questions is set for Saturday 16th December from 10am – 12pm. The date in Stoke News is incorrect. It was agreed that this should be on a trial basis, and initially quarterly. Focus for the next month:

Health and Wellbeing – purchase of additional defibrillators.

New noticeboard – to display the CP

Drop in Surgery for questions.

Following the last PC meeting HV had been contacted by someone with connections to the Village who offered to produce a new noticeboard. This design for this needed to be resolved quickly as the window available to build it is December. After discussion the following was agreed:

A1 glazed area X 3.

Lockable doors

Toughened or laminated glass

Space at top to scribe SSG PC (LB to organise)

HV to provide the drawings of the basic structure.

PH to oversee the installation

ST advised that SEG would like to have the existing noticeboard, all were in favour.

The website is still not up to date for the Councillors. DC still to provide photograph and contact details.

159. Project Play

DJ has presented the plans to the primary school children, and also at the Royal Oak for those at secondary school when they got off the bus. Grants will be applied for from January, with applications being made through the Playing Field. The question was raised about CIL monies being applicable for match funding, DF clarified that they were able to be used.

AM and DJ have asked for the ringfenced CIL funding to be transferred to a Playing Field bank account. Three months bank statements will be required to be shown. It was agreed in principal that the PC can transfer the monies subject to the Playing Field Committee confirmation.

160. CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

Nick Sloan was in attendance to answer questions on the CIL bid received from HOTV. ~This project is requesting £7,000 for:

Infrastructure projects, improving accessibility into the Royal Oak premises, providing disabled access, and heating to the function room. These three items will complete the accessibility programme and ensure that all members of our community will be able to enjoy the facilities.

The project elements are:

- **Front ramp and parking space** - provide disabled parking space, replace the wooden ramp with a permanent ramp, and use signage on the road and wall of the building to show that the space is designated as a disabled parking space.
- **Garden ramp**
A ramp from café level up to the top garden with safety railings if required.
- **Function room**
Purchase and fitting of a stairlift to the function room stairs, and three panel heaters.

HV congratulated HOTV on their recent success in applications for grants. She questioned whether existing grants covered any of the areas specified in this bid. NS advised that the £50k loan was limited to the restructure of the internal aspects of the downstairs areas.

PH asked about the ownership of the area outside of the shop where the disabled parking space would be located. NS confirmed that Highways do own the tarmac but not the concrete. DF said his understanding was that HOTV would apply to Highways to implement the changes and pay a fee to them. He asked if HOTV would need to work with Highways and NS confirmed they would.

NS confirmed that the disabled access to the upper floor would be with a stairlift as a lift would be too expensive. HOTV is a community asset and needs to be accessible to all especially bearing in mind a large proportion of the population is aged 50+. The function room is an underutilised area of the building.

The spirit of this bid is to be inclusive and to provide a service to the community as a whole, this together with the reflection of the hard work already put in by HOTV to obtain funding from elsewhere makes the PC mindful to support the bid.

All voted in favour to approve the CIL bid.

161. Damage of the Coppice at the Village Hall

As a compensatory gesture Hi Lines have made payments of £1,000 each to SEG and to the Village Hall. A formal apology has been published in Stoke News and the damage done has been made good. They have also been working with IU to improve the area. They will also be in attendance at Envirofair 2024. This agenda item can now be closed.

162. Anti-social behaviour

Nothing further to report. CCTV is being installed at the Village Hall in the near future.

163. Somerset Councillor Report

Report from DF is attached.

164. Emergency and Incident Response Plan

To be added to the Website.

165. Broomfield Park

JHa reported that the trees had been planted that same day. Re the land, ~GTH and the Management Committee are still some way off completion.

166. Highways

Nothing further to report.

167. Footpaths

David Evans has provided JP with a booklet of all the footpath maps so that ownership can be more easily established in the future.

168. Stoke Environment Group

A good job has been done in the refurbishment of the bus shelter, but it will need maintenance. SEG will have ongoing costs and the PC should support them as they are maintaining PC assets. A question has been raised over hedge cutting at the allotments as hedges are growing over the footpath, but there is no clarity over who is responsible. JP to speak to GG to clarify ownership.

169. Defibrillators

AF has applied for a grant for a defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation. Will know outcome by end of month. If successful they will pay for everything for 10 years. Electricity costs are around £30 per month which PC will need to reimburse to persons owning buildings where units are sited. Nicola Coate supportive of having one for Meare Green at Coates English Willow, they recently had an incident where someone needed to go to North Curry to fetch one to use. Need to ensure that it is sited somewhere there with 24/7 access. AF to be guardian of unit sited there.

ST advised that grants were available from the Dept of Health and Social Care with match funding of approx. £750. Need to be clear whether includes the storage box and installation. Cannot apply for this until a site is secured as it needs to be specified on the application. HV to ask Simon and Kate Williams. Agreed to fund from CIL monies, and will tick box in CP.

170. Flooding

JHe reported the main issue was on Huntham Lane at the far end near Mike Hutchings home. Jhe will pump out to clear drain on to fields. Generally roads flooding due to blocked drains is an issue

171. Playing Fields

ST has looked at options for replacement bins. Do we want a lid? Would wall mounted be better? Then what fixings are needed/ liners etc. PH will take a look and recommend what is needed.

172. HOTV

Nothing further to discuss.

173. Parish Council Website

ST advised that Parish Online had advised that SALC were offering a 30% discount to encourage PCs to have gov.uk websites with associated e mails built. The cost for a PC of our size would be £318 pa to include all updates, subscriptions and maintenance. Jhe suggested this wouldn't include the upkeep of the information on the site and this would still have to be done. The other issue is that the current website is a Village website and is not limited to PC business. To be further looked in to with additional research as to how it would work in SSG.

174. Consultations and Surveys

Nothing

175. Financial Matters

Standing Orders

Payments to be authorised

01-12-23 N Sloan - Web administration (Oct)	£120.00
27-11-23 G Wagen & James - Burial Ground (Nov)	£46.20
01-12-23 S Taylor Clerk Salary for November	£391.50
16-11-23 Somerset Council – Extension to 30mph limit	£3996.74

Payments approved. HV proposed, LB seconded

Budget/Precept: Proposals for 2024-25 budget were discussed. ST to update spreadsheet to reflect discussion and circulate asap. Also ST to confirm date we need to submit to Somerset Council.

176. Other items for discussion

None

The meeting was closed at 9.55pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm in the meeting room at The Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory.