

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024 in the meeting room at The Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory.

Present – John Hardy (Vice Chair) Heather Venn, Peter House, John Hembrow, Cllr. Norman Cavill (Somerset Councillor)

In Attendance – Two members of the public.

Apologies – Janice Pearce (Chair), Ann Finn, Lawrence Bostock, David Cuthbertson

227. Appointment of Chair for the Meeting – Due the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Jha says standing in for JP, all agreed he can take the chair.

228. Approve and sign the minutes of the January meeting – The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed accordingly at the next meeting.

229. Interests and dispensations; None

230. Public Question Time – None

231. Planning

36/23/0026 and 0027

Agricultural Umbrella Building - Huntham Farm Conditional Approval Granted

36/23/0030

Mobile Homes at Meare Green Farm - Application approved but subsequently withdrawn.

It is a Certificate of lawful use - Councillors don't understand why it has been withdrawn. It was suggested it may be connected in some way to The Vault - a new storage facility which is at MGF. No applications received for this as far as aware.

36/20/0023

Development at Lovells Farm, Update

Garage/house and additional garage.

HV wrote to Somerset Council representing PC - took a lot of pictures - only allowed 2. One was entrance, one was at back where blank wall in planning application now has patio doors. Had e mail back saying nothing wrong - so HV reiterated it was not right. Jha has now picked up and believes this is not a minor breach. Needs to put in writing again - there is now dual access to the road. Myra Snr Enf Off - says there is no planning for the other garage as is permitted development - JHa disagrees and says it needs PP.

JHa to write letter ST can then register on portal and send the letter. Letter to be circulated prior to sending to Somerset Council.

232. Councillor Vacancy

Two candidates have submitted applications for the Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council. Jessie Cartwright and David Evans were asked to introduce themselves to the PC, and why they would like to be considered for the vacancy. The PC asked each of the candidates questions. The members of the public left the room whilst the personal attributes of the candidates were discussed by the PC.

1 Signed by the Chair.....Date.....

A vote was taken and Jessie Cartwright received a majority vote.

The candidates are invited back to the meeting. JC is offered the position, which she accepted.
ST will ensure the necessary paperwork is completed prior to the start of the next meeting
DE is thanked for his application, and is told that there may be positions arising again in the near future.

DE has offered his assistance in researching the best way forward for the PC and Village websites. His input was appreciated and he was asked to come back to the next meeting when Nick Sloan will be in attendance.

233 Stoke St Gregory 2023 Community Plan

Feedback - DE came to talk re the website, a couple of other people came to say hi. No PC business at all. JH says is a good idea need to continue - but reduce to one hour 11am after planning site meetings.

HV went with list of contact details and dates of meetings.

Next planning meeting visit to burial ground.

Noticeboard - still under construction.

234. Project Play

Update - nothing received.

PH reported that the Playing Field Ctte have been asked to produce a safeguarding policy as some grant funding organisations need to see one in place.

235. Somerset Councillor Report

Report from DF is [attached](#). NC was in attendance to present the report.

236. Preparation for APM

20 May 2024. LB will present a talk on the Rural Life Museum.

ST to make all arrangements.

237. Retirement of Dr James Hickman

It was reported that Dr Hickman would like to accept the invitation open the Village Fete on 6th July subject to availability. This will be confirmed by the end of April.

It was suggested that the village groups all contribute to an item to be made by Coates English Willow to commemorate his retirement to present to him at the Fete.

ST to write to all village groups and to coordinate.

238. No Mow May

E mail from I Upshall (15/2/24 Forwarded 01/03/24)

JHa - feel we should support but there are some areas which must be mowed to keep functional.

To support in some way we should ask burial ground mowing contractor to leave a margin or the bottom end to be left. This is the only land we control. Playing Fields have been asked as well as other relevant groups - let them make their own decision. End of burial ground currently not being used to be left. just mow row up from latest graves.

ST to Inform contractor what can be cut and to leave the rest until June.

239. Warm Room

On to next agenda - JP

240 Emergency and Incident Response Plan

On to next agenda

241. Broomfield Park

No progress with conveyancing of land between Broomfield and Church Close Garden sheds are reported to have been erected on the land in question. This goes against principle - natural barrier - to be maintained without structure. Will be conditions - but not sure if anything formalised. Will become a problem if houses sell as land not yet signed over.

NC to write to Andy Leiner

242. Highways

Newletter did x ref the link to the one network.

Next few months are going to be challenging.

PC needs to voice concerns about closures due to the huge impact. Organisations need to communicate with each other.

Should be asking for 8.30 to 4.30 closure only - write to WW, and specifically about emergency vehicles

There is an issue with emergency vehicles and sat nav as sends down Huntham.

E mail from Coates – HV advised her to contact direct but that we would be contacting for better information.

JHa to draft letter. Need clarity on situation - mode of communication - more regular updates.

243. Footpaths

Footpath by Allotments - hedge cutting - update - PH not been able to do anything about hedges, The ground is the issue - is narrow but Gerald has an idea of something that may work.

PH to speak to Allotment Cttee to formulate a plan. Possible visit to take a look on the Saturday morning planning site meeting.

Footpath from Huntham Close to Willey Road - School have raised concerns. JHa went to have a look - existing fence was put back in - footpath edges deteriorated and tarmac filled in against the fence. Nothing the PC can really do.

JHe reported that at Huntham Lane - barbed wire across footpath as planning to relocate back where it originally was and according to OS map.

244. SEG

No Update

245. Defibrillators

AF liaising with Coates to get the Meare Green one installed.

Match funding for Curload machine granted, PC half has been paid and awaiting delivery.

246. Flooding

JHe has been liaising with Phil Stone Re Huntham Lane and Broad Lane - PS said issues will be sorted over summer. Blockage to be addressed, ditch to be dredged and hedge to be cut. Two fields culverts blocked. Verge pushed into ditch after landrover drove in to it - PS trying to get County to do something. Broad Lane towards Moredon - dig mud out and stone over. PS looking at as well - in NC but affects SSG.

EA event - HV attended next stages for Currymoor, Athleney Spillway and Baltmoor Wall - nothing reported.

247. Playing Fields

Replacement bin has arrived and has been installed.

248. HOTV

Business plan - being produced.

Disabled ramp - Highways land and Royal Oak land ownership continues. Have taken away wooden one but want advice.

The PC is not in a position to advise due to the boundary debate, however wishes it to be noted that it is appreciative of HOTV being inclusive and its initiatives around disability access.

249. Parish Council Website

See e mail (PC Bits from HV 18/2/24)

NS e mail circulated - wait for NS to attend next time.

Make a plan on direction and how to facilitate the other village links.

Different other providers for gov.uk - 2 others need to explore these.

Next meeting to discuss further with NS and DE

250. Financial Matters

Payments to be authorised

01-03-24 N Sloan - Website Admin	£120.00
01-03-24 S Taylor Clerk Salary for February	£391.50
29-02-24 S Taylor Reimbursement Postage/Ink/Paper Oct - Feb	£43.48
04-03-24 Department of Health - Match funding for defibrillator	£750.00

Defib had already been paid as agreed the funding at previous meeting.

Payments approved.

251. Other items for discussion

None

Meeting closed at 9.20

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