

STOKE ST. GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th April 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, Lawrence Bostock, Jessie Cartwright, Cllr. David Fothergill (Somerset Councillor) – attended briefly, left for personal matter.

In Attendance – Three members of the public. GG, NS and DE

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

252. Approve and sign the minutes of the March meeting – The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed accordingly. The minutes of the February meeting (previously approved) were also signed.

253. Declarations of interests and dispensations:

None

254. Questions and comments from the public (limited to 15 minutes in total)

A. Footpath Group - Dave Evans to report update on behalf of SE

Volunteers do work around the village. Footpath Group has no insurance.

ST to clarify with Insurers. Check if Public Liability covers . If not ask insurers if we could cover footpath maintenance specifically ie by Footpath Group.

GG suggested SEG should have own insurance like Playing Fields and Allotments.

B. GG suggested there should be an archive for institutions in the village for items of historical significance. All agreed should be a point for future discussion.

ST to add to Agenda in future.

255 Planning

36/20/0023

Development at Lovells Farm, Update

Jha wrote to Enforcement Officer (EO) as is not viewed as being a minor breach. She wrote to owners who are upset we hadn't gone to them, however correct procedures have been followed. They have answers to EO questions. This is still ongoing - EO has not yet visited site. EO has spoken to Planning Officer and has confirmed the patio doors at least will need additional planning permission. We have raised the objection and it now lies with the Planning Officer.

A Councillor is obliged to bring to the Council any concern raised by parishioners, but do not need to disclose who has objected. The PC then decides what course of action to take. The PC then becomes the objector.

36/23/0008

Appeal by: MR J COATE Site: UPHAMS BARN, GRIGGS HILL, STOKE ROAD, STOKE ST GREGORY, TAUNTON Proposal: Variation of a Condition No. 18 of application 36/07/0015 as the dwellings are no longer required for persons employed at the Willow and Wetlands Centre at Griggs Hill, Uphams Barn, Stoke Road, Stoke St Gregory.

An appeal has been lodged with The First Secretary of State against the non-determination by the Local Planning Authority of the above application.

Nothing for the PC to say as it is the inaction of the Council that is being appealed.

256. Gov.uk Compliant Website/Village Website (Nick Sloan and Dave Evans in attendance)

The question we need to answer is if we still need a Village wide website or do we just need a Gov.uk compliant Parish Council only website.

NS advises that we are broadly compliant with accessibility requirements.

General discussions supported a move to Gov.uk e mails for security purposes. There have recently been breaches of personal e mails.

No emails are currently linked to the website.

HOTV typed in links you directly to the Village Website.

GG trying to integrate Village Hall in to the Village Website. Wants to use the same format and creating a village 'Brand'

GG and NS to approach Teapot to enquire about incorporating the VH, and improving the mobile version of the site as that is currently not working well. They will also ask them to conduct an accessibility audit to satisfy all gov.uk requirements. Outcome to be presented to PC before commissioning any work by Teapot.

All in agreement to keep a village website.

Embedding discrete gov.uk within existing website may be possible (NS). E mail system not currently incorporated .

Can we obtain gov.uk e mail addresses separately from holding a gov.uk domain?

DE doesn't think so, but NS thinks may be possible.

DE pointed out that his role is as a researcher not an advisor. The security of the e mail addresses is most important solution required.

Will need a separate domain – has to be approved by a company that does that.

ST to look at applying for the gov.uk domain as the Registrant

Can add optional website maintenance.

The PC want the simplest solution without doubling cost.

If just went to the gov.uk domain we could transfer the whole website NS thinks. Accessibility criteria and transparency – we are compliant.

ST to go back to SALC for advice how do we do this and retain what we have.

ST to ask Parish Online if we can use gov.uk e mails without a gov.uk website and provide a revised quote .

Do other organisations need to be contributing to website costs HV suggested?

Individual orgs could maintain their own pages. But there is a reluctance NS has found.

GG Said Village Hall may be able to make a contribution.

JHe has the view that it is a facility for the Village and should be financed via precept.

It was pointed out that the PC contacts on the website requires updating.

JC to send photograph and contact details to ST. ST to review and to advise NS of other changes.

257. Stoke St Gregory 2023 Community Plan

Will pilot the drop in surgery for a year, so the next date will be June.

Agreed as June the 8th for one hour after planning visits - 11am until 12pm. LB and PH will host.

258. Project Play

No positive responses to grant applications to date as far as we know.

AM has e mailed asking for a donation from the Youth budget to hire activities at the Village Fete - didn't indicate how much is being asked for. As it is for village children at the fete we would be happy to sponsor. Missed deadline for agenda but have discussed under PP due to the urgency.

Agreement was made in principal. ST to obtain a figure from AM and circulate to Councillors to vote if agree. Figures on next agenda.

259. Somerset Councillor report

[Attached](#)

260. Preparation for APM 20 May 2024

ST to arrange refreshments - purchase from village shop - sale or return basis

Outgoing Chair's report will be sent by JP

Next agenda appointment of Chair

May 13th meeting JHa is away and HV will Chair this meeting.

HV recommends all attend the 'Chairmanship is it for me?' meeting - Each to register themselves.

261. Retirement of Dr James Hickman

As a PC we should mark it with a small purchase from W and W if no response from any of the other organisations.

ST to send reminder with APM letter to village organisations

262. Warm Room

No update

263. Emergency and Incident Response Plan

No Update

264. Broomfield Park

Nothing more to report as yet.

What is a structure? Re the sheds/greenhouses. No agreements in place as yet.

ST to ask Norman Cavill for an update.

265. Highways

Potholes are getting worse.

Water collecting on side of road at Meare Green due to drainage. Paul Fielding has asked if PC can do anything. Serious concerns - have no real control but we can ask the questions of Highways. Remedial work will be needed, particularly at Huntham.

JHa to Contact Highways.

266. Footpaths

Dave Evans reported. FG meeting soon. Debbie Ebsary Co footpaths warden has left. She got more paths cut/cleared. Wardens now told can't use outside contractors - a lot less cuts during the year.

DE to send list to ST.

Council responsibilities need to be highlighted. Did some clearance through to Curload and Polkes Field though to Woodhill. FG will keep PC informed. People will often help. How are we to resolve this - may have to take on more ourselves.

267. Stoke Environment Group

No Report

268. Defibrillators

Machine is up and running at Coates.

ST to activate on The Circuit

ST to write to Coates to ask about the running costs.

Need an electrician to install the Curload machine - ST to ask Coates for contact details, and obtain quotes from two other electricians.

269. Flooding

Nothing in particular to report

270. Playing Field

AGM GG has taken over as Chair.

May be more meetings so LB and PH may want to alternate.

271. Heart of the Village

Nothing to report.

272. Financial matters:

Fixed Asset Register as at 31-3-24

Unsure about ownership of Finger posts and village signs. JHe doesn't think fingerposts are ours and not an asset and therefore should be removed from the list.

There is no rubbish bin opposite Old Post Office - remove from list.

There is no grit/salt bin on Dark Lane - remove from list

JHa reported that the No Cycling Signs between Church Close and Broomfield do not exist. ST to investigate

JHe to look at removing old damaged grit/salt bins on Curload and Griggs Hill.

Payments to be authorised

01-04-24 N Sloan - Website Admin

£120.00

01-04-24 S Taylor Clerk Salary for February

£391.50

HV proposed JHe seconded.

Payments Received

None

273 Other items for discussion

The King's Portrait has arrived. Location within the Hall was decided. PH put it away in a cupboard for safekeeping.

ST to inform GG of the location decided on for GG to hang the portrait.

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

The next meeting dates will be as follows **Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.**