STOKE ST GREGORY PARISH COUNCIL

51 Polkes Field, Stoke St Gregory, Taunton, Somerset. TA3 6EX.

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024 in The meeting room. Williams Hall, Dark Lane, Stoke St Gregory at 7.30pm

In Attendance: John Hardy (Chair), Jessie Cartwright (Vice Chair), Heather Venn, Lawrence Bostock, John Hembrow, Peter House, Ann Finn, Sally Taylor (Clerk), David Fothergill and 2 Members of the Public.

Apologies for absence: Janice Pearce

The minutes from the meeting of Monday 13th May were approved and signed

Declarations of interests and dispensations: None

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

Susan Crabbe - A resident of Huntham to report on progress made to date with flood reduction initiatives.

Emergency vehicles struggle to get through. Owners of ditches have been clearing. More specific things need to be done. Culvert needs replacing and has spoken to SRA. They have new grants for small projects reduce flooding, but to qualify for these need PC support. JHe and Phil Stone have been involved. NC were looking to utilise some CIL funding.

JHe reported on Broad Lane: ditch blocked and expenditure needed £12k clean ditch and repair culvert. Now concerned NC may not divert funding that way. This is close to the border.

Work needed at Huntham Lane by Hutchings may be as much as £10--12k as well. JHa asked if PC needs to contribute financially. SC said no, just support.

New grants so don't have small print as yet. Can be an individual or a community group who applies not necessarily an organisation.

HV proposes support application for the grant and if there is a shortfall that the PC would consider financially in part. Agreed unanimously

AF asked about the same for Meare Green? Jha has enquired about this and they did clear last summer. There is a commitment to rectify issues but not while the road is closed.

DF advised that Huntham Lane will be fully resurfaced once works are complete.

24 Planning

36/24/0006NMA Lovells House, Dark Lane. Non Material Amendment has been granted for patio doors. (Sent by E mail 2/6/24)

36/24/0007 Lovells House, Dark Lane. Erection of detached car port (retention of works already undertaken)

Site visit took place on Saturday 8 June. Well designed and fits with surroundings. To be viewed as an application. *All were in favour to approve.*

25 Councillor non attendance at meetings

Cllr Cuthbertson has now not attended 7 meetings. Apologies are no longer being sent. No communication has been received from him. Continued non attendance does at times leave numbers low at meetings.

JHe suggested sending him a note – what is the situation – would you wish to stand down?

DF suggested calling SALC *ST to call*

As apologies should be approved at each meeting a vote whether to accept apologies to be introduced going forwards.

26 Stoke St Gregory 2023 Community Plan

Feedback from Drop in Surgery 8/6/24

Only spoke to one person and it was about HOTV.

LB represented the PC at Envirofair - 4 people spoke to LB, none of which were residents of SSG parish. Main topic was around flash flooding. All would like a solution to blocked drains. It is a concern everywhere. There needs to be some degree of self help. DF says there 140k gullies in Somerset. Could consider PC hiring a drain machine to suck out once a year?

Need to get quotes and put in precept. Would need a S38 Highways Notice to do ourselves so better to hire a contractor. Need to establish scale of the problem - how many gullies are there?

One person could take each road in dry and again in wet to identify locations. PH has map of where all gullies should be - it's very old but is a good starting point. *PH to locate map. Allocate areas to check to Councillors at next meeting.*

Set date for next Drop in Surgery: 7th September 11am JHa with JC and will look to advertise better.

Review of Community Plan and Tracker Update - next month

27 Project Play

Additional expenditure to be approved for a generator to power the bouncy castle at village fete. This was not included in the initial invoice paid. It had been requested on the booking form and it was assumed it had been included, but AM has recently found out it is an extra £100 and hadn't been booked

All felt we question this with the company. *HV to speak to the company*

HV and JHe declare an interest.

PC agreed to pay - unanimous decision.

28 Somerset Councillor report

Attached

29 Grass Cutting Church Close

SEG had written to ST to complain that grass cutting had taken place on 31 May at the outside of Church Close. They were particularly upset as this was the night before Envirofair.
ST spoke to Contractor who informed her the residents of No2 Church Close stopped him completing his normal mow as they own part of the area and did not want the bank mowed due to the wildflowers growing there.
He had started the work as it was right at the end of May and he had a spare hour in his schedule at the end of the day. He has sent his apologies to be forwarded to SEG.
ST has clarified with No2 that the bank and the area diagonally down from the bank (including the CC sign) belong to them and should be removed from the mowing schedule.
SEG have asked that this area is completely excluded from the mowing schedule.
This area affects the visibility splay of Church Close and the Village Hall and would be unpleasant for those reading the notice board.
It was unanimously agree that grass cutting in that area is essential and must be continued.
New noticeboard still expected by end of month. Location is still an issue with some people. No room outside of shop. Shop notice board is owned by Church - could put a small notice with an arrow to locate new board.

30 Digital Mapping
Could use to highlight drainage issues
ST to check digital via parish online
Will be useful to review if come across situation where we don't know the answers. Try without paying initially for example through MAGic maps - Defra

31 Village Fete on 6 July 2024
Band have agreed they can play under the trees if sunny due to inability to secure a suitable covered area.
Not so if wet, but Contingency plan for using the hall may be in place.
ST to check

32 Advertising of Events/Meetings
Covered under 29 above

33. Maintenance of Burial Ground
There have been issues potentially due to lack of grass cutting. In future No Mow May can only be applied to the bottom part of the Ground. Graves should be mowed plus a path from the gate.
Need to reseed the grave damaged, think by rabbits.
Hedge needs to be cut. Hasn't been cut this year. Inside is cut by James but top of hedge needs to be cut before nesting season.
ST to agenda nearer time

34 Emergency and Incident Response Plan

5 things not yet complete, some gaps filled in at meeting

Lesley Nash was involved in producing this with Ian, might be useful for JC to touch base with her.

Some items which are obviously incorrect were changed.

Utilities locations need to be input, or do they - what use are they in this context?

JC will edit - HV will check.

35 Broomfield Park

DF to ask Norman Cavill for an update.

36 Highways

SID - AF has spoken to Paul Deacon - NC - asked if units are portable. Response that take 2 people one morning to move so not practical. Will help install when we get one. Elan City quote 2807.99 including VAT.

Need to order a pole via Kate Brown from Highways.

All voted for AF to go ahead and order.

37 Footpaths

SE had spoken to ST to advise that work is ongoing.

38 Stoke Environment Group

Envirofair was a great event. Village benefited from it. We need to recognise this greatly enjoyed. Hi Line donated silver birch trees - and now will come back to this event again.

JH to write to Fi McQueen to thank her - ST to let JH know her contact details.

39 Defibrillators

Electrician has been put in contact with residents and will be installed asap

40 Flooding

Covered above under public questions.

41 Playing Field

22 June next meeting before fete.

42 Heart of the Village -

Historic Towns and Villages. 20-22 People will be meeting there in Sept/October

All agreed don't need to send a representative.

43 Village Website

Gov.uk e mail addresses - some have had success in installing, others not so. ST advised the support e mail is on the e mail sent with the login and password details.

Anyone having issues to contact support.

44 Councillor Training

JHa went on the Chair training course. - Is it for me

ST to send though again latest course list.

45 Financial matters

Payments to be authorised	
01-06-24 N Sloan - Website Admin	£120.00
01-02-24 S Taylor Clerk Salary for April	£391.50
10-06-24 Absolute Bounce - for village fete - Generator	£100.00
Payable to Anne Merritt as she has paid.	
30-05-2024 G Wagen and James Inv 3415	£101.64
10/06/2024 Reimbursements to S Taylor:	
Information Commissioners Office annual fee	£40.00
Printing and Ink March to May	£21.45
HOTV refreshments for APM	£26.97

HV proposed AF seconded all agreed

46 Other items for discussion

HV parish clock invoice will come in next month. It is suggested someone else as well as NS should be trained to take responsibility for the clock.

All to think about anyone who might be suitable.

The next meeting date will be as follows Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.30pm at The Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory.

Meeting closed at 20.03 pm