

Stogumber Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held after the Annual Parish Assembly in Deane Close Common Room at 19.20 on March 10th 2010

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman
K. Rew
T. Thomas

C. Bramall
V. Sellick
J. Merrick

D. Criddle
M. Symes

T. Taylor, West Somerset D.C.

D. Rowe. PCSO

A. Trollop-Bellew, Somerset C.C.

A. Weir, Clerk

2 Parishioners

1. Apologies

C. Matravers

2. Declaration of interests

MS and CB declared interest in the School Field.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on January 13th 2010

MS requested that his dissent to the provision of a second rail on the slipway handrail be recorded, and with this amendment the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the chairman.

4. Public comments, questions or suggestions

There were no comments from the public.

5. Allotments

It was resolved that the Parish Council would find out if there was a demand for allotments, and if so would try to find a suitable site, and facilitate the creation of an appropriate lease and management arrangements. It was noted that the potential for an untidy appearance of the allotments would have to be considered.

JS

6. Purchase of land

Following the Parish Council's unsuccessful attempt to buy Lings field when Hill Farm was sold, it was resolved that the Parish Council would investigate the purchase a piece of land within or close to the village that could be used over the short, medium and long term to meet a variety of different needs that might over time be identified, such as an overflow car park, allotments, burial ground (once the churchyard is full), site for a larger village hall, affordable housing, etc.

JS

7. Section 106 monies

Work on identifying equipment for the play area continues. The £18,000 from Butts Orchard (Archer's Close) is now due, following the sale of the fifth house, and T Taylor reported that West Somerset Council (WSC) is working on obtaining the money.

8. Finance

Signatories: the agreed new signatories will meet the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will not this year make a donation to St Margaret's Hospice.

It was resolved that the following payments would be made:

- £153.39 affiliation fee to SALC
- £604.14 salary to Clerk for the 14 weeks to March 26th

The Clerk to supply guidance from SALC or other authorities regarding the recommended rates of pay and annual increases for Parish Clerks, to enable the Parish Council to consider increasing his pay.

AW

9. **Public liability insurance**

The Clerk will get written confirmation that the Parish Council's public liability insurance will cover the new handrail to be installed on the slipway from the Church gate on Station Road.

AW

10. **Police report**

Dave Rowe (PCSO) reported that there was nothing to report.

11. **StoGo**

Daphne Criddle reported that the new service providing lifts for Stogumber residents to the doctor's, shops, etc is now operational. The Parish Council passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Daphne Criddle, Bridget Weir, Derek Illman, Miss May and all the volunteer drivers.

12. **County Council report**

The County Council part of the Council Tax will not be increased. £44m cuts will be required, eg the Park and Ride will not be extended. A £400m contract for Highways services was awarded to Atkins (the current contractor) after a rigorous and anonymised process, saving £5m on like-for-like expenditure. The County Council will fill the salt bins (providing it has salt available) that the Parish Council is buying.

13. **District Council report**

The District Council part of the Council Tax will increase by 3%. The Planning Manager is spending almost all his time on Hinkley Point, reducing the resources available for other planning work, so targets are not being met. T Taylor has proposed that where a Planning Officer's decision on a particular application would be contrary to the relevant town or parish council's recommendation, the District Councillor for that ward should be informed and given the opportunity to call-in the application for consideration by the Planning Committee. The Parish Council resolved to write to WSC in support of this proposal.

JS

TT will alert the Parish Council when consultation starts on the new WSC local plan (under one option of which some housing development would be allocated to Stogumber).

TT

14. **Planning**

WSC has granted planning permission and/or listed building consent to:

- 8 Sawpits (front extension)
- James Barton, Vellow Road (internal alterations to bathroom and wardrobes)
- Hound Hill, Higher Vexford (loose boxes and feed shed)
- Ashway, Lower Combecross Lane (various amendments to the previously approved application and *re-instatement of permitted development rights)

The above decisions are in accordance with the Parish Council's recommendations other than the item marked *.

The Parish Council has considered the following application:

- Woodcock Cottage, Capton (internal alterations) (recommended for approval subject to suitable planting plan to disguise new soil pipe)

A revised application for Eastland Barn, Ashbeer Lodge, Monksilver has been submitted: the Clerk to identify the changes to enable the Parish Council to decide whether to hold a further site meeting.

AW

15. **Salt Bins**

TT reported on specifications and TT and JS are to decide which to buy.

JS
TT

16. **Waste bin outside Village Hall**

The District Council will only empty three waste bins in the village, and we have three already. Usage of the bin on Brook Street by the phone box is to be monitored, and if usage is low it may be moved to the Village Hall.

- 17. Disabled toilet for Village Hall**
The Clerk is continuing to investigate sources of funding, and information on these will be passed to the Village Hall Committee. AW
- 18. Student Bus Passes**
JS reported that the County Council is very resistant to making the cost of these more equitable to reflect the level of bus service available. It was resolved that this matter should continue to be raised with the County Council from time to time. JS
- 19. Telephone box**
Carry forward to next meeting. AW
- 20. Handrail for slipway on Station Road**
The Clerk was asked to try to get the contractor to install the handrail as soon as possible, before the Easter date that the contractor has given. AW
- 21. Bus shelter by Archer's Grove**
It is still hoped that Gadds will install a roof on the bus shelter. JS
- 22. Standing Orders**
JS reported that he and the Clerk had attended a SALC meeting to look at the new Standing Orders drafted by NALC which councils may adopt. SALC will produce a revised draft which will then be brought to the Parish Council for consideration.
- 23. Financial Regulations**
The Parish council should have a Financial Regulations document. The Clerk will see if this can be found, and if not will obtain a new draft from SALC. AW
- 24. Staffing Committee**
SALC recommend that councils have a Staffing Committee, but after discussion of the matter no Councillors wished to propose that the Parish Council establish a Staffing Committee. Instead, the Chairman would continue to manage the Clerk. The Clerk to review the standard NALC/SALC job description and let the Parish Council know if he thinks anything should be changed. AW
- 25. Electronic service of meeting notices and agendas**
In order for meeting notices and agendas to be sent to Councillors by email, Councillors must sign a document stating that they accept that items sent in this way have been properly served upon them. The Clerk to obtain a suitable draft document from SALC or another source. AW
- 26. New Councillor**
After many years of service John Merrick said that he would be prepared to resign if a new person came forward for co-option or election onto the Parish Council.
- 27. Improvements to the playing field below the School**
Josh Wedderkopp, a teacher at Stogumber School, is leading a project to improve the field by installing raised vegetable beds, fruit trees, a hedge with an arch, a fenced area, and a framework over which a shelter may be erected from time to time for outside lessons. The Parish Council strongly approved the project, and resolved to send a letter of approbation. JS
- 28. Dates of future meetings**
2010: 12th May, 14th July, 15th September, 10th November
2011: 12th January, 9th March