

Stogumber Parish Council, SPC.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on November 10th 2011

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

C. Bramall

J.Danson

C. Matravers

K. Rew

V. Sellick

M. Symes

T. Thomas

T. Simpson

J Leeming, Clerk

Three members of the public

Item	Topic	Action
1	Apologies: A Trollope-Bellow (District and Council Councillor) would be arriving late.	
2	Declaration of Interests. CB declared a personal interest in item 8, Miss May's field as a neighbour. MS declared a personal interest in item 15e as a possible business contact.	
3	Public comments, questions or suggestions. There were three members of the public present. There was no public comment at that time.	
4	Minutes of Meeting held 08/09/2011. It was proposed and passed that the minutes of the meetings on 8 th September 2011 were a reasonable record of the meeting. They were signed by the chairman.	
6	As ATB had not arrived, Item 6 was discussed. WSC have drawn up a new Local Plan, this has not been issued for consultation yet but it was felt worth discussing at this point. JS explained that a particular question the plan raised was the trigger for the affordable housing levy in villages and whether it would be 1 or 3 new houses. Crowcombe Parish Council have been in touch with their concerns over the plan and JS asked if councillors wanted to meet with CPC to form a working party over joint concerns. Rod Price, member of the public spoke about his concerns over the Local Plan, he felt the it was ambiguous and favoured Watchet, Minehead and Williton over the villages, he felt it could put WSC in the driving seat with a top down approach to planning whereas the proposed Localism Bill suggests favouring a bottom up approach with parish councils driving local decisions. Russell Derbyshire, member of the public spoke and felt that WSC didn't want development in the villages and that a levy would stifle development. A discussion followed regarding whether it was time to have a village plan, which would include proposed development of the field. If drawn up following proper guidelines then WSC would have to adopt it and would have to justify any decisions that went against the village plan. Appeals would have a better chance of success if the development were part of the village plan. It was proposed that a working part be set up to work alongside CPC to lobby against WSC Local Plan, when published and advise on whether a village plan would put SPC in a better position. It was suggested that members of the public could be co-opted onto the working party if CPC agreed. The working party to consist of JS, TS, CB and CM with RP co-opted and to report back to the next meeting. JS to consult with CPC and arrange first meeting. Peter Bolton, PCSO arrived, TT left the meeting.	JS
	Peter Bolton PCSO Police report PB introduced himself and explained his role in the area. He is tasked to attend council meetings and give a report. There have been no reports of vandalism in the area since the last report. There have been 2 minor incidents in the village but not classed as anti-social and both were dealt with quickly. Patrols in the area have increased which PB felt had a positive effect on behaviour. There has been no one charged over	

the vandalism in the church, as there was no admission of guilt and no evidence. PB left the meeting.

- 5 A Trollope-Bellow (District and Council Councillor) arrived.
District Report.
 In future, when opinions differ planning officers will inform parish councils why their view was not taken into account. JS stated he would prefer planning officers to discuss and explain before any decision is made which differs to SPC's view and to be informed when cases go to committee. ATB recommended that SPC ask to be informed if the case is to go to committee on the SPC response letter.
 Staffing levels at WSC to be cut to 83 FTE, there are more cuts expected in 2 years, which may mean a large increase in council tax in the future, WSC council tax is 30% below the average. The lower floor of the council offices is to be rented to SCC because of the staff cuts. S106 regulations have been amended to include biodiversity. ATB
- County Report.**
 Because of the difficulties in the European and UK economies there may be further cuts on top of the current 28% over 4 years. The Third Way in Taunton has opened and development in the Northern part of Taunton will start in April, funded by central government and developers. The changes at County Hall will cost £3million but will save £20million. 67% of secondary school pupils are at Academies. The proposals for changes to boundaries will go forward to the Boundary Commission who may come back with different recommendations.
- 7 **Precept for 2012/13.**
 The referendum sent out to residents regarding the purchase of Miss May's field suggested there would be a need to increase in the precept by £20-£30 for a Band D house to pay for the loan. JL produced initial calculations showing the effect on each band of different precept levels. There was discussion about how much of the reserve if any should be drawn on to finance next year's loan repayments. JL to produce a report and draft budget for discussion at the next meeting. JL
- 8 **Miss May's Field.**
 a) JS has given residents of Quantock View assurances that SPC had no powers to take over any part of the gardens or parking area of Quantock View and that when a survey and proposals have been drawn up then all residents would be consulted before any plans were implemented.
 b) P Haines has volunteered to advise SPC and help draw up plans for the various options for the car park. He requires a survey of the field levels and does not have the correct equipment to carry out one. SPC agreed to appoint N Staddon to carry out a survey at a cost of £300. JL
 c) R Criddle to start work on moving the water supply as soon as weather conditions suit. CB to notify the Morrisons of the start date when known. CB
 d) There was no other feedback to report.
 e) JS to consult Graham Carne at WSC about whether the district provider could offer better terms for the loan. JS
 f) JL to arrange survey and brief P Haines when complete. JL
- 9 **Electoral Review of Somerset consultation.**
 Copies of a map showing the proposed changes to the boundaries were circulated. It was felt that the changes would have little impact on SPC and there was no proposal to make representations to the Electoral Commission.
- 10 **Parish Survey results.**
 a) JS has written to the school about the possibility of using the school's minibus to transport children to Minehead Eye on a regular basis and is awaiting a response. JS
 b) The majority of councillors had no objection to the draft letter. MS objected to conservation areas in general as he felt it could stop progress and said 3 residents of Vellow had indicated verbally that they would be against the idea. JS

TS felt conservation areas didn't make a huge difference but could stop inappropriate development. JS explained that the letter was to gain the residents view only, it was agreed that the letter would be sent out to Yellow residents to obtain their views.

11 **Stogumber Play Area.**

This item was carried forward as TT had left the meeting.

12 **Finance.**

a) The second half of the precept was received on 31/9/11.

The assets on 09/11/11 are as follows:

Current account	£7, 184.52
Reserve account	£7.95
AMC account	£5925.35

The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed:

b) Clerk's salary and PAYE 13 th October – 16 th November	£203.80
Clerk's salary and PAYE 17 th November – 14 th December	£163.04
Wessex Water standing charge for trough in Miss May's field	£9.81
C F Hawkins for hedge cutting	£54.00

c) The AMC account will be closed on 14/11/11 and the AMC bank is not offering any alternative accounts. It was agreed to transfer the balance of that account to the Nat West reserve account until an account with a better interest rate could be found. JL

d) JS, CB and JL have been added as signatories to the Nat West accounts.

e) It was agreed to approach N Staddon to survey the field at a cost of £300.00.

f) The external audit invoice totalled £430.00 + vat, the previous year's fee was £50.00 + vat. The audit fees are set by The Audit Commission and are based on the total amount in the account, the loan for the field was paid into the account on 30/3/11 thus triggering a higher level of fees. SPC felt this was unfair and JS to write to the head of The Audit Commission to complain . JS

13 **Grant Requests.**

a) Somerset West Care and Repair Ltd

KR reported that the majority of people in the area needing such a service used Mediquip and may not know of Somerset West Care and Repair Ltd. The council decided not to give a grant, as they could not be sure it would benefit local residents.

b) A grant to assist transport nominated children to Minehead Eye was carried forward to a future meeting pending enquires re the use of the school minibus for this purpose.

14 **Path to Cricket Club.**

a) The registration of the path with the Land Registry to be carried forward pending a decision on whether the car park is to be handed over to SPC. Both could then be registered at the same time to save expenses. JL

15 **Planning.**

a) The plans for the Nets at the Cricket Club have been approved by WSC.

b) The plans for the outbuildings at Keepers Cottage have been approved by WSC.

c) The plans for replacement windows at The Old Post Office have been approved by WSC.

d) There has been no decision made by WSC on replacement windows at 6 The High Street.

e) There was not a quorum at the planning meeting at The Firs Hill Street. JS and MS reported to the council and it was agreed that the council would report there were no objections to the plans. JL

f) It was agreed that when councillors felt there was no need for a planning meeting to decide applications then the clerk could respond to WSC on behalf of the council after consultation with councillors. The Standing Orders to be JL

amended to reflect this change

- g) An application for amendments to the stairs in the Linhay at Catford Cottage was considered and agreed that the council had no comment to the application. JL
- 16 **Highways.**
- a) The foliage in Brook Stream had been cleared by volunteers but It was noted that there was build up of silt. Julian Harding has volunteered his services to SPC as part of his community service for his Duke Of Edinburgh Award. KR suggested and it was agreed that he could be asked to clear the silt from the stream. KR to organise with JH KR
- b) WSC has drawn up a draft resolution to put to council, which in principle agrees to transfer ownership of the car park to either SCC or SPC. ATB to contact the highways department at SCC to ask them to look again at adopting the car park as part of the highway. ATB
- c) JL reported that all the grit bins apart from the one below Cridland Steep have been filled. It was suggested that this was because it was difficult to see. JL to approach Mr & Mrs Gibbs to see if the bin could be moved to the grass verge opposite. JL
- d) Awaiting response from Angela Lamplough WSC re erecting a post at the top of Pickpurse Lane to attach the smaller bin. JL to follow up. JL
- e) WSC have listed the work to install a new road sign at Wood Lane and the replace the sign at Slade Close for the next financial year as there is no money left in the budget this year.
- f) WSC's response to a request to have the planning obligation on Summerfield to build a bus shelter lifted was that Summerfield were not allowed to transfer the cost of the build to the play area. JS stated that Summerfield were making a donation to the play area. SCC have stated that they would want £1,800.00 from Summerfield in case there was a future need for a bus shelter before releasing Summerfield from their obligations. WSC response was that money could not be put aside for future needs. ATB to discuss with SCC, JS to copy relevant e-mails to ATB. ATB
- g) CB to reply Mrs Conrad and send back the original documents. CB
- h) It was felt that the car parking strategy as proposed was acceptable and better than it used to be. JL to respond to consultation. JL
- i) SCC has requested a financial contribution to replace defective pavements with slabs rather than tarmacadam in conservation areas. It was agreed to respond stating that SPC would consider the matter should the occasion arise. JL
- j) There were no other matters to report.
- 17 **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.**
- JL has received a form to register beacons being lit as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. It was agreed that the beacon should be registered and steps should be taken to move the beacon from its current position at the cricket club to Miss May's field. It was also agreed that SPC would provide a grant of £200.00 towards the cost of any village celebrations. KR to report this in the Standard. KR
- 18 **Any other business by permission of the Chairman.**
- TS reported that the parking along the wall opposite Slade Close was increasing and becoming a hazard. JS felt that it probably slowed traffic along that road and that the situation should be monitored.

The meeting closed at 22:00. The next meeting will be on 12th January 2012 at Deane Close Common Room.