

Minutes of the Stogumber Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 12th September 2019

at Deane Close Common Room, commencing at 7.30pm

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

PRESENT

Cllrs M Symes (Chair), T Vesey, T Brick
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)
SCC Cllr C Lawrence, SWT Cllr M Kravis
7 Members of the public

In the absence of the Cllr C Bramall, M Symes (PC Vice-chair) took the chair for the meeting

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Apologies received from Cllrs C Bramall, A White, C Matravers, G Tuckfield, V Sellick and R Foster
SWT Cllr P Pilkington

2) Declarations of Interest/Dispensations

MS – wig wag signs (as a neighbour)

3) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

4) District and County Councillor reports

SCC Cllr C Lawrence:

• Health & wellbeing:

Home first- trying to get people out of hospital and back home with appropriate support as quick as possible. Winter will put increased pressure on less mobile people.

Encouraging parents to let their children have the measles vaccination- outbreaks are happening because of lack of cover

Drugs & alcohol abuse & mental health awareness. Young people are not good at asking for help or communicating their needs. Work is being done in schools to educate young people to ask for help and where to get it

- Broadband, Connecting Devon & Somerset. The contract has been removed from Gigaclear and it will be going back out to tender
- Fire service consultation. CL has written to express concern at the far-reaching changes that are being proposed. Porlock is a very necessary station for the moors and West Somerset area

SWT Cllr M Kravis:

- SWT has been declared a frack free zone
- Redoing economic development strategy and working on new corporate plan
- Redoing transport strategy for Taunton (not yet for West Somerset)
- Voted to oppose fire service cuts
- Opposed the application from Magnox to import nuclear waste from other sites to Hinkley
- Need to merge local plan

- Awarded a small amount of money to deal with a no deal Brexit

Cllrs requested clarification of certain areas of planning policy that were relevant to recent applications received in the parish. MK agreed to investigate these matters further with the aim of reporting back at the next meeting.

5) Minutes of Parish Council meeting on 11.7.19 and planning meetings held on 25.7.19 & 8.8.19 (x2)

The minutes for the above meetings were approved by councillors and signed by the Chair as a true record

6) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Wig-Wag lights outside the school

Not yet installed but due imminently. The sites have been marked and installation is hoped to be this month. The Police have agreed to have a presence and will monitor school parking

b) Potential pedestrian ramp from Beacon Field car park

SCC Cllr CL thought that this is a fantastic challenge – how to tie in Beacon Field to the school entrance? CL has been talking to Highways – they can do a survey but massive waiting list for such help. The road crossing point is a problem as there is no pavement for people to stand on while waiting to cross. A suggestion was to approach the owner of 1 Quantock View if path could be run through part of his garden to exit onto Quantock View splay which would give a better exit onto the road for pedestrians.

Had thought been given to a walking bus from the car park as an alternative possibility, so the children move as a group and cross in one go?

CL and the PC to maintain conversation with Highways in attempt to progress the path

c) Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda items below

None

7) Playground – consider grant to Stogumber Play-Ground Association

Councillors considered a grant to the Stogumber Playground Association and agreed an amount of £200

8) The Beacon Field

a) Electric car charging point

The clerk reported that CB had been in contact with the installation company who were in the process of establishing if it is possible to connect to an electricity supply to install a charging point. CB has also established that there is no universal method of drivers accessing and paying at a charging point- some can be paid with a credit card, some you have to be a ‘member’ to use.

Councillors resolved to wait for more information before progressing this any further

b) Rubbish Bin

The clerk reported that she had requested a rubbish bin to be sited at the road end of the Beacon Field vehicle access ramp. A SLA from IDVerde UK (working on behalf of SWT) has been received for the bin purchase (£175), installation (£75) and the cost of 1 year of 1 x weekly emptying (£205.40). All amounts to be paid in advance.

Councillors resolved to proceed with ordering the bin

c) Allotments / Community garden

A Howe sent a letter to the PC regarding the article in the Stogumber Standard about potential allotments and suggested a community garden. Village is socially diverse and a neutral venue for a garden for the village could be good.

Councillors felt that parishioners’ interest would have to be gauged before any further action was taken. Concerns were raised that the only flat bit of Beacon Field is adjacent to car park

and is used for overflow parking

A Howe and K Dawson offered to work together to investigate demand and then report back to PC

d) Any other matters concerning the Beacon Field or Car Park

None

9) Highways / Footpaths

a) Updates on previously reported issues

- i) The footpath behind Deane Close / Sunnysdene has been cleared by SCC
- ii) The footpath by Nevys Farm. The Rights of Way Officer has visited Nevys Lane and spoken to the builders who will tell the landowner to contact him. From speaking to the builders and seeing it, he concurs that the reasons for the diversion are down to health and safety. The builders were confident that it would go back to the old-line once work finishes but he will get the full story once he speaks to the landowner. He confirmed that as the route has been marked as a temporary diversion there will never be grounds for the definitive line to be moved to the new line unless a formal application is made. Did councillors know how long the diversion has been in place? Councillors thought that it had been in place for the last twelve months.
- iii) PPLO: no one has yet come forward to take over
- iv) The clerk reported that the other issues from July meeting have been reported, and has followed it up several times but as yet no response from Highways

b) Grit Bin – Capton

The clerk reported, despite contacting Highways several times, the permissions and siting of this bin has not been progressed further

c) Consider request for brown information signage

Several village businesses have requested brown information signs from Highways from the main road directing drivers to facilities in the village. Highways have responded that such a request must be made by the PC and the cost of signs will be rechargeable to the parish.

Councillors agreed that the village needs to be marketed to boost growth but felt that maybe local businesses should consider a financial contribution to the cost.

The clerk was requested ask Highways about signage costs and possible content for three sites -Hartrow, Woolston Moor and Crowcombe crossroad with a view to reporting back at the November PC meeting. if available before this, then circulate to J Hayes who offered to co-ordinate possible contributions from local businesses.

3 members of the public left the meeting at this point

14) Hedge cutting

Bicknoller PC had contacted Stogumber PC to ask if the SCC decision to reduce the height of hedge cutting along the highway was impacting the parish.

Councillors agreed that it wasn't an issue in a small car but it is affecting lorries and larger vehicles. It is causing damage to vehicles and there is considerably more straw being pulled off agricultural vehicles by branches this year. This straw has the potential to cause significant problems later in the year by blocking up drains and gullies. Councillors resolved to write to Highways to explain the PCs concerns that 1 cut is not sufficient for rural areas with narrow tree lined lanes areas and hopes that a return to a higher cutting level may be implemented next year.

14) Any issues to report

None

14) Finance

a) To approve bank reconciliation

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 31.7.19, of £17,983.85. £1,866.04 of this balance is held in reserved funds.

14) Payments to approve

| | |
|--|---------|
| Clerks Salary | £550.90 |
| HMRC | £56.20 |
| Clerk's expenses | £73.18 |
| Grant to Stogumber Play Ground Association | £200 |
| SALC-Councillor training | £25.00 |
| IDVerde Waste bin, Beacon Field | £430.40 |

c) Amounts received

| | | |
|--------|---|----------|
| 5.7.19 | HMRC. VAT refund | £2193.67 |
| 5.7.19 | Sto Go. Donation towards Wig-wag installation | £500 |
| 3.8.19 | Village Hall. Donation towards Wig-wag installation | £300 |

d) Consider Clerk attending SALC 'VAT for local councils' training

Cllrs approved the clerk attending the above training course in November

e) Any other financial matters

None

11) Consider the SWT consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement

The Strategy team at SWT have started work on the new Local Plan for the new Council area.

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), sets out how they involve the residents, businesses and others when we look at local development.

Councillors resolved not to offer a formal PC response at this point in the process

2x public left at this point

12) Apparent disparity of funding in differing SWT areas

The parish council had received an email from Williton PC outlining their concerns with apparent disparity in funding between PCs that were in West Somerset and those that were Taunton Deane, particularly in regard to funding for public conveniences – these are funded by SWT in previously TD parishes but not previously WS parishes. The clerk has already written to Williton PC to support their concerns, and to express concern that this un-equal funding may extend to other areas.

SWT Cllr MK stressed that SWT is a new council working to the budget set last year. Hopefully the inconsistencies can be addressed in next year's budget.

13) Planning:

a) Previously considered applications

i) 3/31/19/008. Combe Barton, Combe Cross Lane, Stogumber, TA4 4JL. Change of use of land from agricultural to dog exercise area with erection of dog kennels and store (retention of part works already undertaken)

Grant

ii) 3/31/19/007. Bosleys Cottage, Deans Lane, Stogumber, TA4 3QP. Erection of single storey extensions to the west and south elevations and a first floor extension to the north elevation (amended scheme to 3/31/05/030)

Grant

iii) 6/31/19/002. Springwater Farm, Maunsborough Lane, Elworthy, Taunton, Somerset
Proposed new timber cladding and first floor extension within the footprint of the existing garage structure together with the construction of a new first floor bridge connection.

Withdrawn

14) 6/31/19/001. Ashbeare House, Elworthy, Taunton, Somerset

Proposed change of use of land to equestrian together with demolition of existing buildings and erection of stable block and storage outbuildings.

Approved

b) Any other planning matters reported to the clerk before the meeting

Meetings to be held on 16th September to consider 2 applications:

- i) 6/31/19/003 (Exmoor Park planning authority)

Springwater Farm, Maunsborough Lane, Elworthy, Taunton, Somerset
Proposed ground floor and first floor extensions together with new sunroom and rear entrance, new balcony and external terrace.

- ii) 3/31/19/012 (SWT Planning authority)

Le Potager, 14 Sawpits Close, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 3TX
Erection of an outbuilding forming a hobbies store and studio

14) Any other business by permission of the Chairman

The Chairman requested that the minutes record the PCs thanks to the clerk for all her work for the council

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30

Stogumber Playground Association Meeting

Held immediately after the Parish Council Meeting on 12th September 2019, commencing at 21.30
Deane Close Common Room

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

PRESENT

Cllrs M Symes (Chair), T Vesey, T Brick
C Morrison-Jones (clerk)

In the absence of the Cllr C Bramall, M Symes (PC Vice-chair) took the chair for the meeting

1) To receive any apologies of absence

Apologies received from Cllrs C Bramall, A White, C Matravers, G Tuckfield, V Sellick and R Foster

2) Public comments, questions or suggestions

None

3) To approve the minutes of Playground Association meetings held on 11.7.19

The minutes for the meeting held 11th July 2019 on were approved by councillors and signed by the Chair as a true record

4) Matters arising from the minutes

a) Fencing / gate posts

i) MS reported that the gate post has been done with surrounding cement raised up to stop water ingress down the side of the post.

ii) The maintenance of the fence alongside houses is part of playground lease. It is in poor condition. MS to ask Chris Moss to do an estimate for repairs needed.

- b) Any other matters arising from the minutes not covered below**
- i) The clerk reported that she had contacted RoSPA in regard to any restrictions / guidelines tin regard to constructing steps in the bank by the slide. The advice received from RoSPA was that in order for the steps to be compliant with EN1176, the playground standards, the steps should be a metre from the edge of the slide-chute. This is to discourage interaction between users of the slide and those on the steps and puts the steps outside of the free space of the slide.
The RoSPA website informs that playground standards are not retrospective or, currently, a legal requirement but represent good practice in the event of an accident claim
- ii) A parishioner has reported a huge amount of rubbish in play-area and was very upset by the amount of rubbish. MS had explained to them that PC does weekly checks & rubbish picks, but it is down to parental responsibility to supervise children.
- 5) Playground upkeep**
- a) Consider Annual Inspection report**
As none of the findings were classified by the Inspector as critical, Councillors agreed to carry this item forward to next meeting when more councillors are present.
- b) Any issues raised in the routine inspections**
The clerk was requested to contact Woodland South West for a quote for spraying off the weeds in the play-area.
- c) Update regarding repairs /maintenance**
None
- 6) Finance**
- a) To approve bank reconciliation**
Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 30.7.19, of £131.05
- b) Payments to approve**
Fields in Trust insurance £90.00
- c) Amounts received**
15.7.19 SPC grant £300.00
- d) Any other financial matters**
None
- 7) Any other business by permission of the Chairman**
None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.49