

Stogumber Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room on 13th November 2013

The meeting started at 19:30

Present

J. Spicer, Chairman

M Moss

C Matravers

J Danson

V Sellick

K Rew

C Bramall

M Symes

J Leeming, Clerk, A Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor), C Lawrence (County councillor), PC D Masters, two members of the public

Advisors: R Sharpe

Item	Topic.	Action
1.	Apologies. There were apologies from Trevor Simpson and advisor Tom Vesey.	
2.	Declaration of Interest and request for dispensations. CB declared an interest in item 7 as a neighbour. There were no requests for dispensations.	
3.	Public comments, questions or suggestions. No member of the public spoke at this time.	
4.	Acceptance of minutes of meetings. It was proposed and passed that the draft minutes from the meetings held on 12/9/13 and 9/10/13 were reasonable records of the meeting. They were signed by the chairman.	
5.	Police report. PC Dave Masters has returned to the area. There were 29 calls during the last month. Most were in relation to minor incidents, 5 were traffic related, 6 were crime related with 2 still under investigation. There were 12 ASB calls all relating to the same address and are being investigated. VS reported that there was a person driving a moped with 'L' plates dangerously on the local roads. DM to follow this up and speak to the driver.	
6.	District and County Councillors report. District Council. WSC and TDBC have met separately to discuss the joint business case and both have voted in favour of it. This will save WSC at least £300k per year. Both will remain sovereign authorities and there will be no cross subsidies and no cuts to public services. All staff will be employed by TDBC but will work for both authorities. There was opposition to WSC selling the old Aquasplash site in Minehead but the financial implications made it necessary. WSC has no budget to build or subsidise a new swimming pool. The Aller Farm solar panel planning application was refused but is going to appeal. Not as much waste is being recycled through the Sort-it Plus scheme, WSC will lose subsidies if this continues. County Council. SCC to make savings of £30m in 2014/15, and is looking to make £4m savings in November towards this. SCC looking to voluntary help where appropriate to mitigate some of these cuts. The Bilbrook road closure has caused difficulties, made worse by lorries ignoring the official diversion and causing hold ups in the Watchet area. The work could not be carried out at night for safety reasons. CL putting together claims for the Health and Wellbeing Budget, MM to resubmit a form to CL.	
7.	The Beacon Field. The fencing on the Beacon Field has been completed and it is now stock proof. The new fence restricts access to the hedge by the road, a different contractor may need to be sought to trim this hedge. The school may get some small whips to plant on the bank. Signs asking dog owners to clean up after their dogs were put up at the entrances to the field but have been removed. JD to get plastic signs printed and screw fixed to the entrances.	JD
8	Play Area and proposed bike track. MM is to arrange a site meeting with R Criddle and other members of the play area committee to progress a low cost bike track. It will require drainage works and movement of soil. CL gave MM a Health and Wellbeing grant form to	MM

complete.

9 Finance.

a) The current account balance is £6,378.42, the 2nd instalment of the precept has been received and a loan repayment of £3,223.02 has been made. The reserve account balance is £3,367.39

b) The following expenditures were all agreed and the appropriate cheques signed.

Clerk's salary and tax for October	£284.67
Clerk's salary and tax for November	£284.67
External auditor	£120.00
SALC training course for clerk	£25.00
Hire of Stogumber Village Hall	£10.00
Wessex Water bill for trough in Beacon Field	£17.37
Thomas Brothers for printing survey forms and draft statement	£13.44
Fencing expenses for Beacon Field.	
R Hayes	£96.00
M Perry	£660.00
Mole Valley Farmers	£642.37

The total expenditure on the fencing was £1275.31 net which was £4.31 over the approved figure. This increase was agreed to

c) Copies of the budget for 2012-13 had been circulated prior to the meeting, JL reported that the budget was in line with the forecast.

10 Neighbourhood Plan.

Copies of the results of the survey were circulated. These will also be published on the website and in the Standard. There had been 50 respondents. The draft statement will now be reviewed in light of the survey results.

It was agreed that statements 2 – 10 would remain unchanged as there was majority support.

There was discussion regarding Statement 11. Planning permission for change of use of the pub and shop should not be granted.

JS explained that there would be a presumption against granting planning permission at WSC but felt the statement should be changed to allow a possible change of use of part of the businesses, without losing the core amenity. There was opposition to keeping this statement in. A vote was taken 5 to 4 in favour of amending the statement.

There was agreement that statement 12 regarding a larger village hall should remain, but questions were raised about the capital and ongoing maintenance costs of a larger hall.

It was agreed that statement 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 would remain unchanged as there was majority support.

There was discussion regarding statement 15. Create a village green, whether part of the Beacon Field could or should be used as a village green and what a village green would be used for. There was agreement to remove this statement.

There was opposition and a petition from residents of Deane Close regarding Statement 35 A traffic free route from Pickpurse Lane and Hill Street.

It was agreed to remove the statement.

The review would continue at the next meeting.

11 Risk Assessment.

It was agreed that CB and CM would undertake the review of the risk assessment with JL. JL to contact them to arrange a convenient date.

CB,
CM, JL

12 WSC review of Statement of Licensing Policy.

CM has reviewed the statement and reported to the council. It was agreed that SPC has no response to make to this policy.

13 Planning.

a) 3/28/13/005 Erection of a Solar PV development and associated works on land at Aller Farm. Application was refused but applicants have lodged an appeal. There is no need to resubmit SPC's comments as there is no new evidence

submitted.

b) **Draft Exmoor Local Plan consultation.**

Summaries of the draft local plan have been circulated to councillors and JS has contacted landowners in the parish whose land is in Exmoor. SPC has no comment to make at present but will consider a response if approached by any resident of the parish living in the Exmoor area. The consultation end date is 13/12/13.

14 Highways.

a) **Brown Tourist Signs.**

Tourist destinations in Stogumber would not appear to fit the current criteria for brown tourist signs on the main road. JS asked if people would photograph any brown signs in the area which also do not appear to fit the criteria, to build up a case for the village.

b) **Speed restrictions within the village.**

CL to contact David Peake SCC Highways, to ask for a meeting in the village to discuss speed restrictions.

c) **Update.**

There are loose edging bricks outside the shop, JL to report this. There is a plant pot outside Shashter Cottage which sticks out into the road and could be a hazard. CB to contact the owner to ask if it could be removed. The grit bins have been filled.

15 Cuts to No.28 Evening Bus Service.

Watchet Town Council are seeking support for their campaign to have some of the evening bus services reinstated. KR added that the reduced service prevented students accessing out of school activities. It was agreed that SPC would support this campaign, JL to write to First Group.

16 Proposed sale of one Slade Close property.

Government funding for building affordable homes has been cut back. Magna wants to build 30 new homes in Minehead and needs to sell 10 to be able to do this. They have identified 2 Slade Close as one they wish to sell because they have been unable to find a new tenant and it needs £15k repairs. MS felt that Magna had a responsibility to maintain their properties and questioned why a suitable tenant couldn't be found. It was felt that this would be a good opportunity for someone local to purchase a property and would be likely to stay within the affordability of local people. It was agreed that SPC would not object to this sale but inform Magna that they would expect to be consulted on any future sales with each having a proper case put forward. JL to write to Magna.

17 Meeting dates for 2014.

JL has forwarded a list of meeting dates for 2014. All meetings listed are on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Some meeting are provisional dates for neighbourhood planning meetings. These dates were agreed with.

18 Any other business by permission of the Chairman.

It was agreed to hold a December meeting.
There was no other business reported.

The meeting closed at 9:30pm. The next meeting will be at 7:30pm on Wednesday 11th December 2013 at Deane Close Common Room.