

Stogumber Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held in Deane Close Common Room at 7.00pm on 19th November 2009

1 The Chairman welcomed our visitors Mr Moyes from Nettlecombe and Mr A Goodchild of WSC.

2 Mr A Goodchild, Planning Manager at WSC

Mr Goodchild spoke about the planning arrangements and how the input from the Parish was linked to the final decision by WSC. Mr Goodchild agreed that:

a) WSC would send SPC copies of all the officer's reports relating to planning applications in the parish, whether they supported or rejected SPC's recommendation.

b) WSC would send planning applications to the Clerk by post and email with PDF.

c) WSC would give recommendations from SPC the same weight as recommendations from other statutory consultees.

There was a break for those who wished to retire from the meeting and then the formal PC meeting started.

3 Present

C. Matravers	J. Merrick	T. Taylor, District Councillor
C. Bramall	M. Symes	Mr A. Trollop-Bellew, County Councillor
J. Spicer	K. Rew (part)	D. Rowe, Police Community Support Officer
T. Thomas		

Apologies

D. Criddle	V. Sellick
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4 Police Report

The unfinished houses in Slade Close and Archer's Grove (Butts Orchard) are a dangerous temptation to children to play, and access to the proper play area is impeded by Gadds' building equipment. DR and TT are to meet Janice Malarkey of West Somerset Council, who has offered to help (including legal action) persuade Gadd's to make the sites safe and re-open access to the play area. After his report DR left the meeting.

5 Declaration of Interests

JS declared a personal interest in the bus shelter on Woolston Moor.

6 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and along with those for July's meeting were approved by the Council and signed by CM (Chairman).

7 Election of Chairman

Councillor Julian Spicer was proposed, seconded and agreed by the Council to become Chairman. He accepted the position and agreed to take over at the next meeting. CM remained in the chair for the rest of this meeting.

8 Salt bins

It was agreed that three salt bins should be selected and purchased:

JS
AW

- a) In the corner of The Square nearest Manor Cottage and close to the Church wall.
- b) Station Road (location to be determined).
- c) Top of Pickpurse Lane.

9 Deane Close noticeboard

AW

Clerk to obtain a key.

10 Bus shelter on Woolston Moor

This has been erected (and the roof replaced when it later blew off).

11 County Council Report

AT-B

AT-B reported that there would be zero increase in the budget and no recruitment unless for essential posts such as Children's Social Services.

AT-B was asked to raise with SCC the c£500 cost of students' (under age 18) bus passes, which the Council thought was excessive and discriminates against rural students gaining an education. SCC has previously argued in correspondence that the cost was fair because the students had unlimited use of the buses in the county. The Council disagrees, because the extremely poor bus service for Stogumber means that Stogumber students could make little use of the buses other than for attending college.

12 Trees given to the School by the Woodland Trust

JS

The School has little room for these trees, and has asked the Council to suggest locations. Three were proposed: the Churchyard, the Village Hall field and the grass verge at the entrance to Wood Land. Chairman to investigate these options and report to the School.

13 Exmoor Dark Sky Reserve

AW

It was agreed that the Clerk would write in support of the application by Exmoor to become a Dark Sky Reserve.

14 Waste bin outside the Village Hall

AW

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact SCC to see if they could supply a low cost and/or second-hand waste bin that could be placed outside the Village Hall, which the Council could secure on a concrete base.

15 Disabled toilet at the Village Hall

AW

The Village Hall Committee has contacted the Council seeking help with upgrading their disabled toilet. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate sources of finance for which the Village Hall Committee could apply.

16 Parish Council noticeboard

The Council has received a suggestion that the Parish Council noticeboard be relocated to the Churchyard. It was agreed that the current location of the noticeboard was satisfactory and that the location would not be reviewed until the noticeboard was in need of replacement, to avoid unnecessary expense.

17 Section 106 (Planning Obligations) money

JS

JS urged the Parochial Church Council and the Cricket Club (the two recipients shortlisted by the

Council) to submit their proposals for using the £18,000 that would arise on the sale of the fifth house in Archer's Grove.

JS to liaise with WSC regarding the £9,000 which WSC received from Magna in respect of the Magna Slade Close development, and which the Council has allocated to the Playground.

18 Crowcombe Cars

DC
JS

Crowcombe Cars is a voluntary service that provides lifts for people needing to get to hospital, shopping, etc. It is co-ordinated by Crowcombe residents, but the great majority of the service-users are in Stogumber. The Council has been asked to find Stogumber residents willing to co-ordinate a service for Stogumber: there are already five Stogumber drivers. It was agreed that DC and JS would investigate.

19 Public Comment

No members of the attended or spoke at the meeting.

20 District Council report

AW

The District Council ward boundaries are being reviewed, to ensure a fair distribution of one councillor for about 900 people. The current Crowcombe and Stogumber ward has some 967 persons. The Council agreed that they are happy with the current combination of Crowcombe and Stogumber in one ward especially since the schools are federated. The Clerk to write to state our view.

21 Finance

It was agreed that the precept and the fencing of the slipway footpath would be postponed to an extra finance meeting to be arranged.

22 Planning

There was one new application for a new 0.6m dish and its associated controls to be added to the existing tower. It was agreed that a site meeting was not necessary and that the Council had no objections.

The Council held a site meetings at Lings Cottage on Brook Street (close-boarded gate) and had no objections.

WSC has granted permission for the recent applications for Vexford Hall and Stogumber village hall.

23 Retaining wall and public footpath on Station Road by Hall Farm Barn

MS
JS

Rebuilding and repair of the wall has been completed, and the fence and surfacing of the footpath is in progress.

It was agreed that MS would obtain from Phil Farmer (contractor carrying out the fencing for SCC at the site) for fencing the slipway footpath.

It was agreed that the Council was happy for SCC to organise an opening ceremony, and that JS would liaise with SCC.

24 Village email list

JS

It was agreed that parishioners will be invited to give their email addresses to the Council, so that the Council can send emails that it feels are likely to be of interest to parishioners, such as crime warnings and road closure notices.

