

MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2015 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

15/139/a PRESENT:

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Paul Spearpoint (Vice Chairman), Mrs Rebecca Merrick, Mrs Wendy Hall, Mr Brian Evans, Mr Neil Bloomfield, Mrs Marilyn Hart, Mr Hugh Donovan and Mr Malcolm Uhlhorn

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), Mr John Bailey (County Councillor) and 5 members of the public.

15/139/b APOLOGIES:

Mr Graham Middleton, Mr Chris Earl and the PCSO

15/140 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Merrick declared an interest in matters relating to the Sports and Recreation Trust and Cllr Bloomfield declared an interest in matters relating to the Charity Shop.

15/141 PUBLIC SESSION:

Representatives of the Hamdon Youth Group gave a report on the group's objectives, achievements and financial situation throughout 2015. It was explained to the Parish Council that the group has faced funding challenges as Somerset County Council have cut their funding from £5,000 to £3,500; also the criteria had been altered and the group needed to achieve the County benchmark for quality Youth provision. Unfortunately due to a delay regarding information about the Methodist Hall's insurance only 50% of this year's funding has been received. The representatives also asked if the Parish Council's commitment could roll forward for a further two years and stressed that the group was in desperate need for volunteers and a new venue. A discussion was held and Cllr Bloomfield proposed to consider an increase in funding to £3,250. The Clerk pointed out that the Parish Council has already agreed to fund £3,000 for 2016/17. Cllr Hall suggested that the £250 could be used for a specific project and Cllr Brook proposed that £250 be added to the agreed grant for 2016/17 but be used for specific purposes.

Proposed: Cllr Brooks Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint agreed unanimously

Cllr Bloomfield proposed to provide the Hamdon Youth Group with a grant of £3,250 for the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19

Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint agreed unanimously

A representative of Stanchester Academy explained that the school wished to make Stanchester part of the community and they would like to make their facilities available for groups/organisations. These facilities could be used up to 8pm in the evening. The representative also stated that there are also a couple of school buses which could be for hire. However, there would be some restrictions on these and it would be dependent on the type of licence held. It was agreed that this information needed to be made available to the community and it was suggested putting it on the website and putting articles in the newsletter and Hambook.

The Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust said that it had been agreed to launch the feasibility study in January/February on what buildings etc. are available for the various community organisations. He also stated that a letter had been sent to the Methodist Church for a 'stay of execution'.

15/142 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Donovan agreed unanimously

15/143 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

15/143/a Defibrillator Installation

The Clerk confirmed that the defibrillator had been installed and inspected.

15/144 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

15/144/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor:

Cllr Seal gave her report.

Ham Hill

- The bonfire evening was very successful
- The round house has been taken down as it is in need of repair
- On the 5th December a number of free trees were planted in Pitt Wood
- When the hole will filled in Witcombe Valley a number of 2015 coins were put in
- The rangers have cut back the trees on the West side of Ham Hill and are contacting the Clerk regarding the Monument side

Other Matters

- Planning is not required if the Parish Council are installing a Boules court in the Memorial Hall grounds
- An appeal has been submitted on the enforcement notice for Westend Stores.
- SSDC will be looking at the budget and the support grant for Parish Councils has been reduced.

15/144/b John Bailey – County Councillor:

Cllr Bailey's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Bailey also reported that the Public Health budget had been transferred to Somerset County Council three years ago and now that it is not under the NHS the money is no longer ring-fenced for that purpose.

Cllr Bailey said that a meeting had been arranged with Castle School to discuss parking and walking bus proposals

Action Cllrs Brooks & Bailey

Cllr Bailey said that the proposals for the Health and Wellbeing grant needed to be in by the end of January. Cllr Brooks asked members to think of any ideas which would benefit the community.

15/145 REVIEW OF WORKING PARTIES AND COMMITTEES:

Cllr Brooks said that as there are a number of new members on the Parish Council a review of the working parties and committees was needed. Additional members were therefore seconded on to the following committees/working groups:

- **Planning:** Cllrs Donovan and Uhlhorn
- **Ham Hill:** Cllr Evans.
Cllr Seal suggested that a Parish Council representative should be on the Friends of Ham Hill committee. It was agreed to rename this working parking as 'Friends of Ham Hill Representative'
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Uhlhorn
- **Volunteer Award Scheme:** Cllrs Hall, Hart, Brooks and Bloomfield
- **Memorial Hall Refurbishment:** The Clerk, Cllrs Bloomfield, Brooks and Donovan
- **Emergency Plan:** Cllrs Merrick, Evans and Spearpoint

15/146 SPORTS & LEISURE:

15/146/a Memorial Hall and Grounds:

The Clerk confirmed that there was a hall committee meeting on 9th December.

15/146/b Sports and Recreation Trust:

Cllr Merrick said that an outline sketch of the adventure playground had been done but this was only a rough draft.

Cllr Spearpont commented on the work that had been carried out on the trees outside the recreation ground and that a couple of trees had been cut down which were not under the Parish Council's remit. The Clerk said that she had already contacted the contractor and they have agreed to replace the trees which were cut down in error and that work will recommence once the weather improves.

15/146/c Hamdon Youth Group:

This matter was discussed under *Minute ref: 15/141*

15/146/d Play Areas:

The Clerk said that the new play equipment had been installed but she had noticed that a couple of 'dumpy' bags had been left in the Memorial Hall grounds. The Clerk also stated that she had received the invoices and noticed that there was a charge for skip hire and no skips were used. Cllr Merrick mentioned the standard of finish and suggested that it should be checked. **Action Clerk**

15/146/e Any Other Issues:

None reported.

15/147 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:

15/147/a Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

No report given.

15/147/b Street Lighting:

No report given.

15/147/c Allotments:

No report given.

15/147/d Footpaths:

No report.

15/147/e Highways and Transport:

i) **Parking:**

Cllr Brooks explained that the meeting with Castle School (*see minute ref 15/144/b*) was to discuss setting up a trial period of 3-6 months for residents (Castle Street only) to use 6 parking spaces in the school car park between 5pm – 8am and at weekends. Also to discuss a walking bus but this would need enthusiastic parents so there would also be the need to talk to the PTA.

ii) **High Street – Trees**

The Clerk said that she had received an email from Highways who had reiterated the comment made by the Duchy of Cornwall that the parish should look to maintaining the bank in question in the future. The Clerk asked whether it was possible to put it into the Land Maintenance contract. Cllr Uhlhorn and the Clerk would arrange a meeting and look at the costs. **Action Cllr Uhlhorn & Clerk**

15/147/f Community Emergency Plan:

No report given.

15/147/g Any Other Issues:

i) **URC Clock:**

The Clerk mentioned that the lights in the clock tower and around the clock were not working. Cllr Bloomfield agreed to look into the problem. **Action Cllr Bloomfield & Clerk**

15/148 FINANCE:

15/148/a Matters for Report

i) **Dispensation Forms**

The Clerk explained that before discussing the budget for 2016/17 and passing a resolution all Parish Council members who live in the parish must request

dispensation from the Clerk as each member has a pecuniary interest in the budget. The Clerk handed the forms out for completion which she then countersigned.

ii) Finance/Budget Meeting:

Cllr Brooks said that the Finance committee met on 26th November to discuss the budget which had been prepared by the Clerk. Cllr Brooks gave an outline of the budget and the parish's current position and explained that the Clerk will not receive the information from SSDC regarding the support grant until later in December. Therefore the budget resolution and approval of minutes will be made at the January meeting.

15/148/b Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	Expenses November (<i>incl S137 payment to Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal</i>)	£ 226.49	Chq 2001
Stable Print	December Newsletters	£ 190.00	Chq 2002
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Groundsman for November	£ 397.99	Chq 2003
Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall	Annual & Insurance Grants	£ 1,701.12	Chq 2004
<u>S137 Payment</u>			
St Mary's PCC	Youth Club & Boys Brigade Grant	£ 864.00	Chq 2005
	Total	£ 3,379.60	

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint agreed unanimously

15/148/c Matters for Resolution

None declared.

15/149 PLANNING:

15/149/a Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

15/05111/FUL – erection of a single storey rear extension to the dwelling – 24 Norton Road, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QW – there were no observations or objections

APP/R3325/C/15/3138832 – appeal against enforcement notice – Westend Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon – this is to be sent to the planning committee.

15/149/b Planning Decisions and Reports:

15/04359/FUL & 15/04360/LBC – Change of use from D1 non-residential institution to one C3 dwellinghouse, with associated internal and external alterations – The Methodist Church, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QG – application has been withdrawn

15/04489/TPO – application to carry out tree surgery works to 1 no of Beech tree subject to TPO SSDC (STHA 1) 1992 – Land adjacent The Old Coach House, North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QR - granted

15/150 CORRESPONDENCE:

No report given.

15/151 MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:

The Clerk said that she had carried out the risk assessment for the Parish Council. There was only one change and that was under Clerk's safety. The Clerk explained that as her husband no longer work shifts then she would have to notify other parish council members of appointments when admitting members of the public into her home.

Cllr Hall said that there was a notice on the telephone box stating that it would be removed. Cllr Bloomfield said that parishes could adopt a telephone box for £1 and communities could utilise the box for a variety of uses. Cllr Bloomfield agreed to email for the parish to adopt the telephone box.

Action Cllr Bloomfield

Cllr Donovan commented that a public meeting would need to be arranged regarding the feasibility study and the use of the Methodist hall.

15/152 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th January 2016 at 7pm.