

MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2016 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

16/146/a PRESENT:

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Hugh Donovan (Vice-Chairman), Mr Neil Bloomfield, Mrs Caroline Freeman, Mrs Marilyn Hart, Mr Robert Manning, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, and Mr Malcolm Uhlhorn

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Paul McNeill (Ham Hill Ranger) and no members of the public

16/146/b APOLOGIES:

Mr Brian Evans, Mr Graham Middleton, Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor) and Mr John Bailey (County Councillor)

16/147 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Brooks declared an interest in matters relating to the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Merrick declared an interest in matters relating to the Memorial Hall and the Sports and Recreation Trust.

16/148 PUBLIC SESSION:

Paul McNeill gave a presentation on Ham Hill and the rangers, and handed out a leaflet about SSDC's Countryside Services. The presentation included aspects of the archaeology on the hill, the work carried out which assist the ecology and the encouragement of a higher biodiversity of plants and wildlife and, the various events held on the hill including projects such as the Witcombe Valley Stream project. Mr McNeill said that along with the Friends of Ham Hill there are a team of volunteers who assist the rangers in maintaining the park.

16/149 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minute ref: 16/144 had been amended to include 'the good councillor guide'

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

Proposed: Cllr Uhlhorn Seconded: Cllr Merrick agreed unanimously

16/150 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

16/150/a Youth Club Grant

The Clerk said that she had now received the exact amount for the grant for the Youth Club which was £456. It was agreed to award this grant.

Proposed: Cllr Donovan Seconded: Cllr Merrick agreed unanimously

16/150/b SLCC Membership

The Clerk said that the annual subscription for the SLCC membership was £139.00 and that the cost would be split between Stoke sub Hamdon and Montacute Parish Councils. It was agreed to pay half the cost at £69.50.

Proposed: Cllr Manning Seconded: Cllr Donovan agreed unanimously

16/150/c Other

Cllr Merrick ran through the list of actions from the previous minutes. It was agreed to add a couple of additional columns (meeting date and progress) and for it to be a standard agenda item.

Items regarding Tunwell and the Memorial Hall Wi-Fi were raised under Matters arising but are shown under *Minute refs 16/154/e and 16/153/c* respectively.

16/151 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

16/151/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor

No report given.

Cllr Bloomfield commented that Somerset Waste Partnership are considering carrying out waste collections on a three weekly basis and that CIL has now been approved and will possibly come into effect in the new year.

(Cllr Bloomfield left the meeting)

16/151/b John Bailey – County Councillor:

Cllr Bailey's report had been circulated to all members.

16/152 SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST REPORT:

Cllr Hart gave a report on the topics raised at the recent Trust meeting.

- A defibrillator was being installed at the recreation ground and that they are hoping to get a fireproof litter bin.
- The Trust would also like to install a couple of picnic tables near the Boules court. Cllr Brooks said that permission would be needed from the Memorial Hall committee.
- SPAG will soon need to use the hall for their rehearsals.
- The planning application for the floodlights was still on going
- Tenders have gone out for the building of the adventure play area

Cllr Brooks explained that due to meeting dates there are problems getting the inspection report to the parish council on time. Cllr Merrick said that Cllr Hart could pass a hard copy to the Clerk.

Action Cllr Hart

16/153 SPORTS & LEISURE:

16/153/a Community Right to Bid:

Cllr Brooks said that final ratification has not been received and it is still on going.

16/153/b Hamdon Youth Group:

The Clerk said that at the previous meeting there had been a discussion regarding the grant for the youth worker and the proposed increase but no resolution was passed. The Clerk confirmed that the grant for 2017/18 was £3,250 and an extra 10% had been requested for the following year. It was agreed to give a grant in 2018/19 of £3,575.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Brooks agreed unanimously

16/153/c Memorial Hall and Grounds:

Cllr Uhlhorn reported that he and the Clerk met with SSDC's Tree Officer to inspect the trees in the Memorial Hall grounds. A Tree Condition report and map had been circulated to all members. The report stated that the branches of the two trees either side of the basketball court needed lifting and so did the Lime tree adjacent to Langlands. Several trees needed removing; these being 2 x Cherry trees, 3 x Bird Cherry trees which are leaning into the road, all the Conker trees as they have 'Bleeding Canker' making them unstable and, the Rowan tree. There is also a stump and bramble patch which need removing. The majority of these trees will be replaced.

Cllr Uhlhorn said that this report will be given to the Memorial Hall committee along with a drawing of where the replacement trees will go. **Action Cllr Uhlhorn**

Cllr Brooks gave an update on the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Bloomfield gave an update on the Wi-Fi installation. He reported that a new order and new telephone number had been set up and that he was meeting with the BT engineer on 20th December. **Action Cllr Bloomfield**

16/153/d Play Areas:

Cllr Uhlhorn apologised for not having the playground inspection report.

The Clerk said that the swing seat had been delivered and the second one was on order.

16/153/e Any Other Issues:

A grant request had been received from the Little Fishes Toddler group to assist with hire costs and the restocking of crafting materials. It was agreed to award a grant of £250.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Donovan agreed unanimously

16/154 **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

16/154/a Allotments

No report.

16/154/b Community Emergency Plan:

A discussion was held regarding the working party meeting to formulate an emergency plan.

16/154/c Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

No report given.

16/154/d Footpaths:

Cllr Uhlhorn enquired about the repair of the grate in Tunwell. The Clerk said that she had received on quote and was waiting for a further 2 quotes. Cllr Uhlhorn suggested getting a large grate/gate to cover the whole front of the wall to the well entrance. The Clerk said that due to the age of the well it may need planning permission and that this would incur a larger cost.

The Clerk said that a resident had paid his grandson to cut the vegetation back on the footpath which leads down from North Street to the garage on the A303 and had asked whether the parish council would reimburse him. From previous discussions with the County Councillor this area was under the remit of Highways and Highways England and was not the responsibility of the Parish Council. However, it was agreed that due to the difficulties of getting this footpath cleared and as a good will gesture a one-off payment would be made this time but would not be a precedent for the future. It was agreed to pay the resident £40.

Proposed: Cllr Donovan Seconded: Cllr Manning agreed unanimously

The Clerk agreed to pay the resident and claim it back under expenses.

The Clerk gave an update on the damaged foot plate on the stile on footpath Y25/12 (see *Minute ref: 16/140/d*). The Clerk said she had checked the SCC website to get the footpath number and noted that it had been reported to Rights of Way in September and still had not been repaired. It was agreed to chase this matter as it was dangerous. **Action Clerk**

16/154/e Ground Maintenance:

The Clerk said that she had only received one quotation for the groundsman tender. It was agreed to postpone the decision until the January meeting.

16/154/f Highways and Transport:

The Clerk reported that Highways have confirmed that East Stoke and Windsor Lane will have enhanced cleansing works. This will consist of a road sweeper clearing the sides of the verge to ensure all gullies are exposed and then the gullies will be emptied.

16/154/g Street Lighting

No report.

16/154/h Any Other Issues:

Cllr Brooks said that the URC Synod has made a formal decision to close the URC for services with effect from 31st December 2016 and they have advised their tenants accordingly. After this date the Synod takes over responsibility for the building. The Parish own the clock which is maintained by the Parish Council and the Synod have been advised (*Cllr Hart left the meeting*)

16/155 **FINANCE:**

16/155/a Matters for Report

- i) Finance Committee Meeting

Cllr Donovan said that the Finance Committee met but this was an informative meeting for the new members. No recommendations were made and the Clerk will not receive the updated information on the Band D rates and the Tax Base until mid-December. Once these have been received the Finance Committee will meet again and then report back at the January meeting.

ii) NatWest – Refund

The Clerk reported that a refund had been received from NatWest of £50.51. This is due to an administrative error on charges.

16/155/b Matters for Resolution

i) Cheques Payable:

Sarah Moore	Expenses for November	£ 108.92	<i>Chq 2062</i>
Stable Print & Design Ltd	December Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 2063</i>
A.J. White	Groundsman October & November	£ 880.00	<i>Chq 2064</i>
Grant Thornton	External Audit	£ 510.00	<i>Chq 2065</i>
Somerset Association of Local Councils	Clerk Training (½ Cost)	£ 15.00	<i>Chq 2066</i>
Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall	Annual Maintenance & Insurance Grant	<u>£1,718.85</u>	<i>Chq 2067</i>

Total £3,422.77

Proposed: Cllr Donovan Seconded: Cllr Manning 3 agreed; 2 abstained

ii) Other:

The Clerk reported that she had received the forms from NatWest for new signatories. It was agreed that Cllrs Donovan, Freeman, Hart, Manning and Uhlhorn would be added to the account.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Brooks agreed unanimously

16/156 PLANNING:

16/156/a Planning Information:

No report.

16/156/b Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

16/04345/FUL – removal of existing fixed floodlighting and associated wiring system and replacement with 6 no 7m lighting masts each with 2 no 300 watt LED floodlights, and with associated wiring system – recreation ground, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QE – no observations or objections

16/04061/FUL – demolition of existing nursery buildings and erection of 14 houses with associated access (amended plans/additional information) - Land adjoining Woodside, Montacute Road, East Stoke TA14 6UQ – Councillors put forward two objections on the following grounds:-

1. Design of buildings.

Councillors note that there are key (not minor) changes to building materials, as the new designs now comprise brick built frontages, rather than reconstructed stone, and consider this unacceptable in one of the hamstone villages in our area. The site can be seen from Ham Hill and spoils the public view in a Conservation village.

Councillors also refer planners to the new proposed Heritage Environment Strategy document currently out for consultation, in which (at 5.8.1) SDC “will seek to ensure all new development preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the area and its setting”. We note that under this consultation document development will be required to employ materials and colours that reflect those characteristic of the

area and conform to the existing pattern of historic built form". This view corresponds to the view the Parish Council holds for the characteristics of our village built environment, and has already expressed in response to the Blue Cedar development at Southcombes, Great Field Road, and we would wish to apply the same principles here.

Again in the same consultation document (at 5.14.6) SSDC "will assess development proposals on design quality and the contribution a design will make to local character and context or street scene, and its impact in the wider landscape or any key views".

Councillors would therefore wish to see reconstructed stone as a major building material in the houses not the proposed brick. If partial render is proposed, then a dark buff (not white or cream) to blend in with the stone to improve the visual impact, as in the Southcombe's development.

2. Access and highways safety.

The entrance and exit to the site is via an already narrow road, and is near a sharp bend and opposite a Sports Centre and Stanchester Academy. Despite minor changes recommended by planners over the past few months on access, there have not been any actual changes to the width of the road itself resulting in increased safety or mitigation of risk. The entrance road is already used by a significant number of car drivers visiting the Co-op shop with a high level of traffic throughout the day from 7 am until 10pm 7 days a week. The entrance road is immediately alongside the Co-op's car park which is in constant use. Large articulated Co-op delivery vehicles regularly need to park there to offload. The narrow entrance road creates a pinch point where car drivers and pedestrians compete for access. There are a significant number of children crossing from Stanchester Academy to access the shop which is concerning from safety issues. If the width of the entrance road could be increased by reducing the grass area on the 'Montacute' side of the entrance road this might be an improvement. The increase in houses from the current 11 to 14 will only exacerbate these issues.

It was agreed to ratify the planning committee's decisions.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Manning agreed unanimously

16/156/c **Planning Decisions and Reports:**

16/04297/FUL – shed construction – 5 Windsor Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UE - granted

16/04131/FUL – installation of a solar photovoltaic renewable energy generation systems consisting of PC panel arrays on 3 separate roof slopes with associated inverters, electrical cabling, switches, controls and supporting frameworks – Community School Academy, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UG - granted

16/157 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

16/158 **MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:**

A question was raised on whether Stoke sub Hamdon had a Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Brooks agreed to check on this. **Action Cllr Brooks**

Cllr Donovan asked whether the Speedwatch team could change their site along West Street. The Clerk agreed to talk to the Speedwatch co-ordinator. **Action Clerk**

16/159 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th January 2017 at 7pm.