

**MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL  
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2015 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

**15/015/a PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Paul Spearpoint (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Wendy Hall, Mr Bruce Wilson, Mr Neil Bloomfield and Mr Roger Bevan

**Others:** Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor) and Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk)

**15/015/b APOLOGIES:**

Mrs Rebecca Merrick, Mr Graham Middleton, and Mr John Bailey (County Councillor)

**15/016 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

None declared.

**15/017 PUBLIC SESSION:**

There were no public in attendance.

**15/018 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Cllr Bevan said *Minute ref: 15/003 page 2* should read '.....the village by 75% over 13 years.' and not 25%.

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

Proposed: Cllr Spearpoint    Seconded: Cllr Bevan    agreed unanimously

**15/019 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

**15/019/a Digital Recorder**

The Clerk confirmed that she had purchased a digital recorder and an additional memory card at a cost of £111.65 and £12.94 respectively. The recorder already has two built in adjustable microphones but an external microphone could be added.

The 'Recording of Meetings' policy had been adopted at the previous meeting and the Clerk passed the document to Cllr Brooks for signature.

**15/019/b Matts Lane**

The Clerk confirmed that the Duchy of Cornwall is looking into the situation and their intention is to turn this piece of land into a woodland area with permissive access for locals similar to the Jubilee wood. The Duchy of Cornwall land agent confirmed that the blackthorn and bramble will be cleared, the hazel coppiced, the pond will be cleaned out and a variety of native trees will be planted. The Parish Council will be informed of the formal proposal in due course.

**15/019/c Post Box**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received no response to the letter that she had sent to the Royal Mail in October objecting to the removal of the post box in the High Street. After recent exchanges of emails she is waiting for some advice from the Conservation Team at District Council. Cllr Seal said that she would contact the Conservation Team on the Parish Council's behalf and suggested speaking to David Laws MP for his assistance.

*Action Clerk & Cllr Seal*

**15/019/d Telephone Box**

The Clerk said that there has been no feedback regarding the removal of the telephone box in West Street. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

**15/020 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**15/020/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor:**

Cllr Seal gave her report:

- The rangers had visited the resident regarding the overgrown trees which are obstructing the views and the monument on the north and west side of the hill. It is possible the work will be carried out in November.
- Cllr Seal asked if a polite note could be put in the newsletter stating that any problems regarding waste collection should be reported to the Somerset Waste Partnership and not to the collection crews. *Action Clerk*
- SSDC will not be increasing their council tax and approval for this will be going to full council
- APP/R3325/C/14/3000142 – Appeal against Enforcement Notice – Westend Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon – the Inspector will be making a site visit shortly.

**15/020/b** John Bailey – County Councillor:

No report this month as the Councillor was away on holiday.

**15/021** **SPORTS & LEISURE:**

**15/021/a** Memorial Hall and Grounds:

Cllr Brooks confirmed that the line marking had been carried out in the Memorial Hall car park and in the layby.

**15/021/b** Sports and Recreation Trust:

The annual report had previously been circulated. The Sports and Recreation Trust AGM was well attended and it was agreed that the Trust was doing very well.

**15/021/d** Hamdon Youth Group:

Cllr Spearpoint said that there had been no meeting as Cllr Bailey was still away. Cllr Wilson mentioned that the Thursday session is well supported and an open event was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February to encourage the younger youth to come along. Cllr Wilson said that HYG are still trying to get the youth council up and running and Cllr Brooks said that she would like get the Parish Council to be involved with the youth council. Cllr Spearpoint said that there was a meeting at the beginning of March and invited Cllr Brooks to attend.

**15/021/e** Play Areas:

No discussion.

**15/021/f** Any Other Issues:

None declared.

**15/022** **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

**15/022/a** Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

There was no PCSO in attendance. The generic report had been circulated to all councillors. It was concluded that this report was of no use as it only gave a total number all incidents for the whole of the Hamdon Beat which covers several villages. Also the information on the police website is not relevant as the information is six weeks out of date. A discussion was held and Cllr Seal offered to contact the Community Safety Officer and also asked the Clerk to forward the latest police report to her. *Action Clerk & Cllr Seal*

**15/022/a** Street Lighting:

Street lights no.1 and no 2 in Hillview Close are permanently on. The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported.

**15/022/b** Allotments:

The Clerk confirmed that the rent renewal letters had been sent out and that some of the rent had been received.

Cllr Spearpoint presented a letter from an allotment holder. The resident stated that the Parish Council does not have the authority to grant access to the track adjoining the allotments as it is a private road and requested a change to the allotment tenancy agreement for Stonehill. A discussion was held and it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as proof was required before a resolution could be passed.

Cllr Hall said that the wall at the back of the allotments in Whirligig/Tunwell Lane had collapsed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the resident who repairs dry stone walls.

*Action Clerk*

**15/022/c**      Footpaths:

No report.

**15/022/d**      Highways and Transport:

Cllr Spearpoint said that the drains which are set in the kerb in West Street still have not been cleared. Cllr Bevan commented on the bad condition of the drains in Bonnie's Lane and Ham Hill Road and that Somerset County Council need to carry out a site visit and check the drains. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Highways about this along with the other issues raised at the meeting last month.

*Action Clerk*

**15/022/e**      Flooding Group:

Cllr Brooks said that the aim of inviting residents with local knowledge to the flooding group meetings is to recognise the flooding hotspots around the village so that any issues can be addressed. The Clerk stated that SSDC were holding a Water Management Community event in early April which will address parishes' key concerns. Cllr Brooks agreed to go.

**15/022/f**      Any Other Issues:

(i)      Trees - West Street

The Clerk said that for she had asked for quotes for work to be carried out on the trees in the bank outside the recreation ground in West Street. The specifications for the quotations were the removal of the Poplar and Willow trees, reducing the other trees by at least 15ft, the clearance of the shrubs/trees on the bank up to 3m from the footpath and treatment of the stumps to stop regrowth. Three quotations had been received which were: Westend Tree Services - who wanted a £90 upfront charge to visit the site and assess the situation before quoting for the work; Fern Garden Tree Services - £1,625 (price includes traffic lights and highways license) and; True Tree Care - £1,120. The Clerk said that in light of the unsatisfactory quotation from Westend Tree Services she had subsequently asked Streetscene and the current groundsman contractor, Somerset Landscapes. However, Somerset Landscapes do not carry out work on trees and would need to sub-contract this work out. The Clerk also said that she had contacted the tree officer at SSDC to ascertain if there were any planning permission implications. The tree officer visited the site and confirmed that no planning permission was required. He marked the trees which should be removed and advised that some trees did not need any work carried out to them.

A discussion was held and it was agreed that as the majority of the trees were in a poor condition further quotations would be obtain for the removal of all the trees and to have a native hedge planted. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

*Action Clerk*

(ii)      Groundsman Tender

The Clerk reported that the ground maintenance contract was due to go out for tender and she wanted to clarify the specifications to the contract and if there was any items to be added or removed. It was agreed to include The Priory under 'special events grass cutting' and add vacant allotment plots to the weed killing section.

(iii)      Parish Noticeboard

Cllr Brooks said that she and the Clerk were discussing the possibility of having a larger noticeboard as the current board does not hold enough information. The suggestion is to move it to the area at the front of the Memorial Hall near the layby where there are two existing posts and that the noticeboard would consist of three sections/doors; two for the Parish Council and one for the Memorial Hall. The Clerk said that she had spoken to the Secretary of the Memorial Hall, who agreed to present the idea at the next Memorial Hall Committee meeting and she had spoken to the Planning Department who had indicated that planning permission would probably be required. A discussion was held and it was thought that the third section

of the noticeboard could possibly benefit all the organisations in the village. The Clerk will obtain some quotations for a new noticeboard. *Action Clerk*

It was also suggested that the existing noticeboard could be moved to East Stoke.

(iv) Trees – High Street

Cllr Bevan said that no work had been carried out on the line of Ash trees at the top of the High Street. The Clerk explained that there had been a disagreement on the ownership of these trees but it would appear that they belong to Highways as they are growing on the road edge in front of the Duchy of Cornwall's fence line. The Clerk agreed to contact Highways. *Action Clerk*

(v) Litter Pick

Cllr Hall said that a resident had enquired about a litter pick. A discussion was held and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Streetscene regarding how to organise one. The Clerk would also contact the Hamdon Youth Group and village organisations for their assistance. *Action Clerk*

**15/023 FINANCE:**

**15/023/a** Matters for Report

The Clerk reported that the VAT return had been sent off and the amount totalled £1,966.25

**15/023/b** Matters for Resolution

i) Cheques Payable:

Sarah Moore	Expenses January	£ 42.70	<i>Chq 1942</i>
Stable Print	February Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 1943</i>
Stoke sub Hamdon			
Sports & Recreation Trust	Grant for Insurance	£ 2,172.42	<i>Chq 1944</i>
Barry Gosney	Fit Swing Seats at Stonehill	£ 72.00	<i>Chq 1945</i>
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Renewal	£ 35.00	<i>Chq 1946</i>
SSDC	Line marking at		
	Memorial Hall	<u>£ 1,455.24</u>	<i>Chq1947</i>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 4,507.36</b>	

Proposed: Cllr Spearpoint    Seconded: Cllr Hall    agreed unanimously

ii) Other:

The Clerk asked if the data protection renewal could be paid by direct debit the following year.

Proposed: Cllr Brooks    Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint    agreed unanimously

The Clerk said that she had received notification that the membership cost for the Community Council for Somerset was increasing to £40 pa for 2015/16 which was only a £5 increase and asked for a resolution to renew the membership.

Proposed: Cllr Bevan    Seconded: Cllr Brooks    agreed unanimously

**15/024 PLANNING:**

**15/024/a** Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

**14/05319/FUL** – Demolition of existing nursery buildings and erection of 11 houses and associated access works (revised scheme) – Land adjoining Woodside, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon – the Parish Council's objections had not been uploaded onto the SSDC website. This has now been rectified.

**15/00085/S73** – Application to vary condition 2 of planning approval 14/00109/FUL by substitution of revised plan no's 96/EL/ABT Rev1, 96/GF/ABT Rev1 and 96/FF/Rev1 – 96 North Street – no objections or observations.

**15/00345/TPO** – Application to dismantle to ground level a Sycamore subject to SSDC (Stoke sub Hamdon No. 1) TPO – The Old Coach House, North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QR – this is for information only and no response is required from the Parish Council.

**15/024/b** Planning Decisions and Reports:

None declared.

**15/025** CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

**15/026** MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:

**15/026/a** Members' Reports:

There were no reports

**15/026/b** Clerk's Report:

i) Newsletter

One of the newsletter volunteers has given up part of their round. A request for volunteers had gone into the February newsletter and the Clerk had received a favourable response. However, the Clerk asked for help from the Councillors should the need arise and Cllrs Brooks and Bevan agreed to help. Cllr Bevan said that he would be able to help with Montacute Road/East Stoke.

ii) Training Events

Two SALC training events are being held in March at the Edgar Hall in Somerton; one for audit training and the other for Councillor training at a cost of £25 each. The Clerk expressed an interest in the audit training as a refresher course.

Proposed: Cllr Bevan      Seconded: Cllr Brooks      agreed unanimously

It was agreed that Cllr Brooks would attend the Councillor training.

Proposed: Cllr Bevan      Seconded: Cllr Bloomfield      agreed unanimously

iii) Election Costs

If there is a contested election in May then the costs to the Parish Council would be in the region of £450.

**15/027** ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.20pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7pm.