

**MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON**  
**TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

**14/001/a                    PRESENT:**

**Members:** Mr Mike Sampson (Chairman), Mr Paul Spearpoint (Vice Chairman), Graham Middleton, Mr Bruce Wilson, Mrs Janet Rose, Rebecca Merrick, Mrs Wendy Hall, Mrs Barbara Brooks and Neil Bloomfield.

**Others:** Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), Mr John Bailey (County Councillor) and 6 members of the public.

**14/001/b                    APOLOGIES:**

Mr Steve Hay and PCSO.

**14/002                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Merrick declared an interest in matters concerning the Sports and Recreation Trust, Cllr Wilson declared an interest in the Hamdon Youth Group of which he is a volunteer and Cllr Sampson declared an interest in the planning application, reference 13/04994/FUL.

Cllrs Sampson, Spearpoint, Wilson, Rose, Merrick, Middleton, Hall and Brooks declared a pecuniary interest in the setting of the 2014/15 precept.

**14/003                    PUBLIC SESSION:**

A resident raised the issue of flooding in East Stoke and asked what could be done. Residents have tried to alleviate the problem by clearing drains etc. and have already spoken to the county councillor. A discussion was held and the resident asked whether the profile could be raised and would the Parish Council write to the Highway Authority on their behalf. Cllr Sampson mentioned that there were no drains between Sea Wall and Windsor Lane. Cllr Bailey said that in order to get the culvert cleared it would be a good idea for all the authorities and the landowners to meet to determine who is responsible for which area. Also it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to have map to showing this and to have an emergency flood plan in place. The resident also mentioned that an elderly resident could not get any sandbags from SSDC. Cllr Seal agreed to deal with this matter. **Action Cllr Seal**

The resident said that he had been in discussions with Somerset County Council highways department and had also written to David Laws MP on the matter. Cllr Sampson asked the resident to keep a log with photographs on everything that has happened. It was agreed for the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Neil McWilliams. **Action Clerk**

Another resident also commented on the flooding in Montacute Road and East Stoke; there is an issue with the drainage near Hedgecock Lane as the gully has not been cleared and is blocked. He said that he had discussed this with the county councillor. The resident also mentioned that there was an issue regarding road safety in Montacute Road, East Stoke. He said that 1) both the warning signs for horses and the school were dirty and covered in vegetation; and 2) the painted 'Slow' sign on the westbound road near East Stoke Lodge has worn away and vehicles have come off the road on this corner. It was agreed that Highways would be contact regarding this matter.

There were further discussions on gully cleaning and it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Highways regarding Somerset County Council's program for cleaning. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Wilson mentioned that he had given a suggestion to the Transport Strategy Group regarding the speeding in East Stoke. The resident said that over 1,300 Speedwatch sessions have been held and speeding has been reduced to 3%.

The Chairman of the Sports & Recreation Trust gave his report on the maintenance plan. He said that the Sports & Recreation Trust AGM will be held in the Working Men's Club on 4<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. The Chairman of the Sports & Recreation Trust also mentioned where the three main sources of funding came from member clubs, the Parish Council and by fund raising. The grant from County Council had now been discontinued.

Cllr Sampson said that the Sports & Recreation Trust had submitted a letter requesting the annual grant of £2,000. Cllr Middleton proposed to give £2,000 to the Trust.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton                    Seconded: Cllr Bloomfield                    1 abstained                    5 agreed

Cllr Merrick questioned whether she should abstain from voting and it was decided that she would discuss this matter with Cllr Sampson.

**14/004 P.C.S.O. REPORT:**

None declared.

**14/005 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

**14/005/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor**

Cllr Seal reported that the Octagon Theatre was doing well especially the pantomime. The bucket collection after the performances raised £10,000; ½ of this amount would go to the theatre and ½ would go to the special baby care unit.

Cllr Seal said that SSDC have supported and refurbished play areas in seven villages.

Cllr Seal reported that the Woodlands Trust supplied ‘tree packs’ so 800 trees were planted in Pitt Wood; barbed wire fencing has been installed on Ham Hill in preparation for the cattle; a donation had been received and this was used to purchase some bat boxes; and there will be a new ranger education centre being built at Ninesprings at the start of March.

Cllr Seal reported that planning application 13/03341/COU will be discussed at next Area North meeting.

**14/005/b John Bailey – County Councillor**

Cllr Bailey gave his report which had circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The report covered several highway issues which included flooding, gullies and also parking issues.

Cllr Bailey also reported on the Hamdon Youth Group saying that the 6 monthly review with CYP would be on 12<sup>th</sup> February and asked if a member of the Parish Council could attend. Cllr Bailey also said that the insurance cover had been increased due to the growing number of young people attending. Cllr Bailey also reported on the various ad hoc activities and accommodation options.

Other matters covered in Cllr Bailey’s report included the Transport Strategy Group, the Health and Wellbeing grant and the consultation on the review of subsidised local bus services.

**14/006 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Cllr Hall reported that under minute ref: 13/180/b her name should have been included in the Transport Strategy Group. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Rose

Seconded: Cllr Merrick

Agreed: unanimously

**14/007 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

The Clerk reported that she had received a response from the Police & Crime Commissioner with regard to some of the questions raised at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December. These concerned whether the PCSOs have powers to issue speeding tickets, what the impact would be on Road Policing Units when they are moved from Yeovil to Bridgwater and what initiatives were planned to address anti-social behaviour issues.

**14/008 FINANCE**

**14/008/a Matters for Report:**

i) Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave the year end bank reconciliation report as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013:

Current Account	£ 100.00
Reserve Account	£ 95,224.55
Sports & Recreation Assets Reserve Account	£ 7,204.64
Asset Management Reserve Account	£ 16,109.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 118,638.59</b>
Outstanding Cheques	£ 1,075.00
<b>Total as Cash Book</b>	<b>£ 117,563.59</b>

The Clerk pointed out that all monies held in the Sports & Recreation Assets and the Asset Management reserve accounts are ring-fenced for specific purposes. The Clerk also pointed out that there were a number of bills that were yet to be paid which are normally paid in the latter quarter of the financial year.

ii) Comparison Against Budget

The Clerk distributed the Comparison of Budget report to all members. The report shows the annual budget and the expenditure for the first nine months of the financial year. This report does not include the annual payments into the Sports & Recreation Assets and Asset Management reserve accounts. The report shows that the majority

of areas are showing an under spend. However, there are two areas showing an over spend; these are: Grants & Donations and Play Equipment. The Clerk pointed out that these figures are likely to even out over the coming year but she will keep a check on them.

iii) 2014/15 Precept – Dispensation Forms

The Clerk explained that under the Localism Act 2012, each Councillor at the meeting living in the parish had a pecuniary interest in the setting of the precept and were required to complete a dispensation form, which is authorised by the Clerk, before passing a resolution on the precept for 2014/15. The Clerk passed around the forms for completion and subsequently authorised them.

**14/008/b** Cheques Payable:

Sarah Moore	Expenses for December	£ 92.48	<i>Chq 1865</i>
NigeNige Services	Groundsman Salary for December	£ 708.00	<i>Chq 1866</i>
Stable Print	January Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 1867</i>
HMRC	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Income Tax	£ 181.80	<i>Chq 1868</i>

Proposed: Cllr Merrick                      Seconded: Cllr Rose                      Agreed unanimously

**14/008/c** Matters for Resolution

i) Precept – Finance Committee Meeting

The minutes and draft budget for 2014/15 had been previously circulated to members at the December Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk explained that she had received notification from South Somerset District Council of the allocation of grant from Central Government and that this totalled £5,275; a decrease on last year's allocation of £530. Also, the estimated Tax Base for 2014/15 would be £671.27 giving an equivalent Band D charge of £73.29. This means a decrease for the tax payer (Band D) of £1.71.

Cllr Middleton explained that as there were sufficient funds the Finance Committee are proposing to keep the precept at £49,195. However, members need to be aware of the flooding issues and possible associated costs. A discussion was held and Cllr Merrick said that she agreed to keep the precept at its current level but had concerns on the budget and would like to raise some questions with the Chairman of the Finance Committee before it is resolved.

Cllr Rose proposed to keep the budget at its current level of £49,195

Proposed: Cllr Rose                      Seconded: Cllr Hall                      Agreed unanimously

Cllr Sampson decided to defer resolving the budget until the February meeting until all relevant questions had been discussed.

*(Cllr Rose left the meeting)*

**14/009** MEMORIAL HALL AND GROUNDS

None declared.

**14/010** SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

The reported that she had written to Somerset County Council and Castle Primary School regarding the youth shelter and that she was still awaiting their responses.

**14/011** HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

This item was covered under *Minute ref: 14/005/b*

*(Cllr Seal left the meeting)*

**14/012** PLANNING

**14/012/a** Report on Planning Applications

**13/04994/FUL** – erection of canopy roof to front of dwelling house – The Firs, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6UG – there were no observations or objections

**13/02925/FUL – Appeal ref: APP/R3325/A/13/2209592** – installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar array to provide 6NW generation capacity together with inverter systems; transformer stations; sub-station; internal access track; landscaping; security fencing; associated access gate and removal of one Ash tree protected by TPO – land adjacent to Tintinhull Forts, Tintinhull Forts, Tintinhull, Yeovil BA22 8PA – The Parish Council strongly objected to this appeal. The solar farm would have a detrimental impact to the landscape and have an adverse impact on local views especially from Ham Hill, St Michaels Tower and Montacute House. This would have a considerable adverse effect on tourism in the area.

**14/012/b**      **Planning Decisions and Reports**

None declared.

**14/013**      **CORRESPONDENCE**

**14/013/a**      **SSDC Playground Inspections for 2014**

The Clerk said that she had received the annual playground inspection form from SSDC for 2014. The service would be carried out in June/July £48 for the annual inspection and £30.50 for the risk assessment per playground. Cllr Merrick proposed to go ahead with this offer.

Proposed:      Cllr Merrick      Seconded:      Cllr Bloomfield      Agreed Unanimously

**14/013/b**      **Ham Hill – Dog Poisoning**

It has been reported that two dogs were taken ill after licking a white powder that had been placed on some mole hills and beside paths in one of the flat fields on Ham Hill. The rangers are asking dog owners to exercise caution.

**14/013/c**      **Ham Hill - Grazing**

The rangers are working with a new tenant farmer and there will be sheep and cattle grazing in some areas on Ham Hill as from April. The rangers are asking visitors/dog walkers to use the site responsibly.

**14/013/d**      **Dogs on Memorial Hall Grounds**

A letter had been received in response to the article in the parish newsletter. The resident stated that she was unaware that dogs were not allowed on the Memorial Hall grounds despite clear notices at either entrance. The Clerk will reply to the letter.

**Action Clerk**

**14/013/e**      **WWI Celebrations**

The Clerk reported that some residents are planning on holding an event to commemorate the centenary of WWI and have asked if the Parish Council would contribute towards the food. The Clerk explained that it is possible for the Parish Council to do this under s145(1)(e) of the LGA 1972. A discussion was held and it was agreed in principle to support this subject to further information.

**14/014**      **HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS**

None declared.

**14/015**      **STREET LIGHTING**

None declared

**14/016**      **WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

**14/016/a**      **Local Development Framework**

None declared.

**14/016/b**      **Allotments**

None declared.

**14/016/c**      **Local Action Group**

None declared.

**14/016/d**      **Transport Strategy Group**

Cllr Brooks said that information/minutes will be emailed to members each month. The group will be going through the old village plan and will be carrying out a survey asking for suggestions to help with the parking situation. A consultation note will go into the newsletter.

**Action Cllr Brooks**

**14/017**      **MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Cllr Wilson said that he had taken the additional gritting material to the Prince of Wales

Cllr Middleton asked what the progress was regarding the replacement of the kissing gate at the bottom of Dannings Well. The Clerk reported that she had received some quotations from specialist companies but these were rather expensive. It was agreed to obtain quotes from local suppliers.

**14/018            ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Flooding/Drains.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.12pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7pm.