

MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 11TH MARCH 2014 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

14/037/a PRESENT:

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

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), Mr John Bailey (County Councillor), PCSO, Rachael Whaites (SSDC Countryside Manager) and 2 members of the public.

14/037/b APOLOGIES:

None declared.

14/038 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Merrick declared an interest in matters concerning the Sports and Recreation Trust.

Cllr Hay declared an interest in Somerset Landscapes Ltd.

14/039 PUBLIC SESSION:

A resident gave a short statement with regard to the planning application at 18 North Street. The resident explained the reasons for the planning application and stated that he had agreed to take out a Section 106 Agreement so that the property could not be sold as two separate dwellings.

(Cllr Wilson entered the meeting)

Rachael Whaites, SSDC Countryside Manager, introduced herself and explained that she was covering Katy Menday's maternity leave. Ms Whaites gave a report on the countryside events that had taken place. She also stated that the rangers will continue to clear the fallen trees through into April; Witcombe track will be fenced off to keep out the sheep; there will be changes to the viewpoint car park; the Ham Hill Herald will be updated; the September event will be changed this year into include a Heritage trail; the new tenants will be arriving in April and the rangers will be attending the Stoke May Fayre this year.

Cllr Bloomfield asked about the amount of cattle being introduced onto the hill. Ms Whaites said that there would be approximately 60 cattle in Pit Wood and Witcombe Valley. A question was raised regarding overgrazing and Ms Whaites said that Natural England wants more sheep on the hill over a shorter time and that the rangers will be meeting with the new tenant farmer.

(Rachael Whaites left the meeting)

14/040 P.C.S.O. REPORT:

(The PCSO arrived during Cllr Seal's report – minute ref 14/041a).

The PCSO reported that there were no incidents of anti-social behaviour, 3 thefts from vehicles and 1 from a shop, a burglary from a studio and damage to the doctors' surgery.

14/041 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

14/041/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor

Cllr Seal said that the modification to the Local Plan will be discussed at a meeting on 13th March.

Cllr Seal said that there are stroke units in both Yeovil and Taunton hospitals and a consultation will be held on whether to have a dedicated hospital of excellence in Taunton and not Yeovil

(The PCSO entered the meeting, gave her report and then left the meeting)

Cllr Seal continued with her report. She said that the road to Mulcheney should be opened shortly but the Highways team would need to assess the road first in case of flood damage.

The planning application regarding the store in West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon has been refused.

14/041/b John Bailey – County Councillor

Cllr Bailey's report had been circulated to members.

Cllr Bailey mentioned the increase in potholes in the roads due to the recent bad weather and that these will be repaired eventually but the Highway Authority is prioritising work.

The Hamdon Youth Group had its six monthly review with CYP. Cllr Bailey said that the youth group now has a volunteer for the Geocaching session but still need volunteers to lead the skateboard/BMX session. Cllr Spearpoint volunteered. Cllr Bailey reported that the youth group received positive feedback from the County Youth Service (a copy of their letter was attached to Cllr Bailey's report)

Cllr Bailey asked if he could be copied in on the correspondence regarding the youth shelter.

Cllr Bailey said that with funding from the Health and Wellbeing Fund, a Healthcheck event is being organised in the Memorial Hall.

Cllr Bailey said that following the success of Route 60 some years ago another event is arranged in the autumn at Martock Parish Hall for the more mature driver.

14/042 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

There were some amendments to the previous month's minutes:

Minute ref: 14/019/a the titles were missing from Cllrs Middleton, Merrick and Bloomfield's names.

Minute ref: 14/02/b – the first line should have read 'Cllr Bailey's report had been circulated In the twelfth line of that minute reference it should have read 'Cllr Bailey is setting up a meeting between the legal team and residents'.

Minute ref: 14/026/c – The proposal for the budget was agreed by 7 members and 1 abstained.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Hall

Seconded: Cllr Rose

Agreed: unanimously

(Cllr Bailey left the meeting)

14/043 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

14/043/a Kissing Gate

Cllr Middleton asked what the progress was with the kissing gate for Dannings Well Lane. The Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to four contractors - D A Redwood Construction, Jeff Davis, Barry Gosney and Clifford Dunston asking them to quote for a wooden 'V' Enclosure kissing gate and installation costs.

14/043/b May Fayre Programme

The May Fayre Committee had asked what text the Parish Council would like to go in the programme. It was agreed to leave this entry to the Clerk.

14/043/c Standing Orders

A draft copy of the new standing orders had been circulated to all members. The new standing orders were adopted.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton

Seconded: Cllr Brooks

Agreed: unanimously

14/043/d Groundsman Contract

The Clerk had received 'best price' proposals for the groundsman contract from Somerset Landscapes Ltd. at a cost of £4,149.60 p.a. incl. VAT; Woodhaze Ltd. at a cost of £4,752 p.a. incl. VAT and; SSSC Streetscene who quoted on each specific job at different hourly rates. NigeNige Services declined to tender for this year and one contractor did not reply. A discussion was held and it was agreed to award the contract to Somerset Landscapes Ltd. However, the Clerk was asked to obtain clarification on the separate charge of £600 per occasion for item 10 – drainage.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick

Seconded: Cllr Bloomfield

Agreed: 7

Abstained: 1

Cllr Hay declared an interest in Somerset Landscapes Ltd.

14/044 FINANCE

14/044/a Matters for Report:

i) VAT Refund

The Clerk reported that the VAT return of £2,070.98 had been received by BACS payment.

ii) Newsletters

The Clerk reported that as the village shop has reduced in size so the proprietors are unable to have any newsletters. Therefore there are over 70 surplus newsletters and asked for the print run to be reduced. It was agreed to reduce the amount by 50 to 1,000.

14/044/b Cheques Payable:

Humphries & Jones Ltd	Condition Report for War Memorial	£ 450.00	<i>Chq 1879</i>
Sarah Moore	Expenses for February	£ 155.72	<i>Chq 1880</i>
NigeNige Services	Groundsman Salary for February	£ 708.00	<i>Chq 1881</i>
Stable Print	March Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 1882</i>
Stoke sub Hamdon			
Sports & Recreation Trust	May Fayre Grant	£ 470.00	<i>Chq 1883</i>
Duchy of Cornwall	Land Rent, Allotments & Recreation Ground	£ 744.00	<i>Chq 1884</i>
<i>Section 137 Local Government Act 1972</i>			
Shopmobility	Grant	£ 50.00	<i>Chq 1885</i>

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Rose Agreed: unanimously

The cheque for the Sports and Recreation Trust was passed to Cllr Merrick for the May Fayre Committee by the Clerk. Cllr Middleton asked if the cheques could be totalled on the agenda.

14/044/c Matters for Resolution

None declared.

14/045 MEMORIAL HALL AND GROUNDS

None declared.

14/046 SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

14/046/a Youth Shelter

Cllr Merrick announced that the football teams have agreed to help dismantle and move the shelter if available. It was agreed that the shelter would need to be repainted before moving to the school. The Clerk pointed out that in accordance with the terms set out by Somerset County Council it would be the responsibility of the Parish Council to get the shelter painted.

14/047 HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

This item was discussed under *Minute ref: 14/041*.

14/048 PLANNING

14/048/a Report on Planning Applications

14/00357/FUL – construction of detached classroom on site of former nursery building – Stanchester Academy, Montacute Road, Stoke sub Hamdon – there were no observations or objections.

14/00860/FUL – conversion of outbuilding to dwelling, refurbishment and erection of single storey extension, and alteration to the access – 18 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP – this application is still with the planning committee.

14/048/b Planning Decisions and Reports

13/03341/COU – continued use of land for a mixed use of residential and B8 storage of used windows and doors with ancillary sales (retrospective) – Leggs Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QL – This application has been refused permission as it would have an unacceptable visual impact to this residential area to the detriment of the amenities of the locality.

14/048/c Proposed Development

Cllr Sampson informed members of a proposed development in the village but there has been no planning application submitted as yet.

14/049 CORRESPONDENCE

14/049/a Tiny Turrets – Castle School

A thank you letter was received from the Tiny Turrets Nursery School for the grant and they also enclosed photographs of the work that had been carried out.

14/049/b Complaint - Dogs

A resident has complained that there was dogs mess on the pavement in Castle Street near the school. The resident had contacted the dog warden. It was agreed to put another article in the newsletter asking people to pick up after their dogs.

14/050 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The Clerk said that she had received confirmation from the Duchy of Cornwall that the Ash trees at the top of the High Street are the responsibility of the Highway Authority. The land belonging to the Duchy is on the other side of the fence which is situated behind the Ash trees.

The Clerk also reported that she has contacted the Duchy regarding the bank of trees and wall in East Stoke opposite the junction of Windsor Lane. The Clerk has asked the Duchy to check the safety of the trees and the wall as part of the wall has collapsed and another part is bowing out; this has occurred due to the excessive amount of rainfall. The Duchy's arborist will carry out a risk assessment.

14/051 STREET LIGHTING

None declared.

14/052 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

14/052/a Local Development Framework

This item is to be removed from future agendas.

14/052/b Allotments

The Clerk reported that she has received the majority of the allotment rent and that the reminders have been sent out. The Clerk will be showing some prospective new tenants around Furlands site at the end of the week and asked if she could get the groundsman to strim any untidy vacant plots allotments. It was agreed for this to be done.

14/052/c Local Action Group

This item is to be removed from future agendas until further notice.

14/052/d Transport Strategy Group

Cllr Brooks reported that there has been a good response to the survey and the TSG were looking at the car parks in the village, contacting Somerset County Council regarding road lining which will hopefully improve parking and also looking at road safety.

Cllr Spearpoint asked what the weight restriction was for vehicles going through the village. Cllr Sampson confirmed that it was 7.5 tonnes except for vehicles needing access to businesses in the village.

14/053 MEMBERS' REPORTS

None declared.

14/054 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.10pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th April 2014 at 7pm.