

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

15/028/a PRESENT:

Members: Mr Paul Spearpoint (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Wendy Hall, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, Mr Graham Middleton and Mr Roger Bevan

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

15/0028/b APOLOGIES:

Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Bruce Wilson, Mr Neil Bloomfield, Mr John Bailey (County Councillor) and PCSO

15/029 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

15/030 PUBLIC SESSION:

There were no public in attendance.

15/031 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Merrick agreed unanimously

15/032 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

15/032/a Matts Lane

The Clerk said that she had not received any more information from the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the copse at the bottom of Matts Lane.

15/032/b Post Box

The Conservation Officer at SSDC has confirmed that the Royal Mail would need to obtain planning permission to remove the post box and that the Council would formally object to this as the box is part of the heritage of the village and in a key area. A letter has also been sent to David Laws MP who has pledged his support. He has written to the Chief Executive of the Royal Mail enclosing our correspondence.

15/032/c Telephone box

There was nothing to report regarding the proposed removal of the telephone box.

15/032/d Highway Issues

Cllr Bevan asked whether there had been any progress regarding the Highway issues that he had previously raised, namely the Ash trees at the top of the High Street, the school sign near Stanchester and the repainting of the 'slow' signs in East Stoke. The Clerk said that these had been reported to Highways but she had not received a response as yet. The Clerk said that she would chase these matters and Cllr Bailey asked to be included in the correspondence.

Action Clerk

15/032/e Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Reports

Cllr Bevan commented on Cllr Brooks's report regarding inability to get information specific for the parish and our efforts to improve the reporting. Cllr Bevan said that the Beat Manager is extremely busy and members could subscribe to the police's newsletter. Cllr Spearpoint mentioned that the newsletter tends to cover only Bristol. The Clerk mentioned that when there was a change over with the PCSOs a few months ago the Parish Council were assured that if the PCSO could not attend a meeting due to shift patterns then a volunteer from the station would attend. A discussion was held and Cllr Bevan said that this matter needed to be put in the hands of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

15/033 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

15/033/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor:

Cllr Seal gave her report:

- APP/R3325/C/14/3000142 – Appeal against Enforcement Notice – Westend Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon – the Inspector will be making a site visit.
- Cllr Seal commented that the budget had been approved and stated that the Council Tax will be reduced by 1.99% and that there would be no cuts to frontline services.
- SSDC have approved grants of £340,000 of which £229,000 will be for community grants.
- The Local Plan has been approved. Cllr Seal agreed to send the relevant section for Stoke sub Hamdon to the Clerk. Stoke sub Hamdon's remaining housing requirement is 44 houses.
- Cllr Seal reported that SSDC have award £10,000 to the Sports and Recreation Trust for the adventure playground.
- Cllr Seal commented that as a couple of housing developments have been approved in the village then the parish is eligible for some S106 funding.
- Ham Hill - the events programme is in place; the woodland work is now coming to an end; over 1,000 trees were planted and; the Dogs' Trust are hold micro-chipping sessions for dogs this month as it will become law in April 2016 for all dogs to be micro-chipped.

The Clerk said that she had received a request from a resident for the brambles to be cut back at the top of Ham Hill Road between the end of the public footpath and the turning towards the rangers' station. Cllr Seal said that she would speak to the rangers.

Action Cllr Seal

Cllr Bevan commented on the excellent work that is being carried out on the eastern side of Stroud's Hill where a gate has been removed and the wall is being restored.

15/033/b John Bailey – County Councillor:

Cllr Bailey's report had already been circulated to all members. The key issues Cllr Bailey discussed were:

Highways

- The road closure notices for Windsor Lane and East Stoke
- The Transport Strategy Group – Cllr Bailey will chase the traffic regulation order and ascertain the timescale for the work to be carried out.
- Drainage issues – the Clerk explained that she and Cllr Brooks had investigated the blocked drains and gullies in the village and that a letter was about to be sent to Highways requesting a site visit. The Clerk said that she would send a copy of the letter to Cllr Bailey. Cllr Bailey commented that he would attend the site visit. A discussion was held regarding the Highway's contractors.

Action Clerk

Youth

- Waitrose in Crewkerne are supporting the Hamdon Youth Group under their shopping token grant scheme during March. Cllr Bailey asked members to give their support.
- The Youth Council are working with the Sports and Recreation Trust
- Progress on the Cole Lane project? Cllr Spearpoint said that he is unable to request funding from the Parish Council until he has assurances how many of the youth will be involved. Cllr Bailey said that it need not be just a youth project but to get all ages involved.

Other

- Nothing to report on Brocks Mount
- Library changes – as a result of the recent consultation from 1st April charges for using computers in libraries will cease and free Wi-Fi will be installed in all libraries. Outreach library services for vulnerable people will be developed and expanded with an increase in funding of £10,000 per year for the Home Library Service and a new contract has been sent up with the Royal Voluntary Service from 1st April. A number of mobile library services with either be combined or withdrawn from August 2015. The music CD lending service will be discontinued.

- There will be a reduction to the bus services. Cllr Spearpoint pointed out that it appears that Service 81 will be unaffected.

(Cllr Bailey left the meeting)

15/034 SPORTS & LEISURE:

15/034/a Memorial Hall and Grounds:

The Clerk confirmed that the Memorial Hall Committee have agreed in principle for the noticeboard to be placed in front of the hall by the layby. A discussion was held on where the other noticeboard could be placed in East Stoke. It was suggested that it could be placed by the old fountain or at the Co-Op. It was agreed that permission would need to be sought from the Co-Op first.

Action Clerk

15/034/b Sports and Recreation Trust:

The Clerk confirmed that the Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust would be attending the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the proposed adventure playground and that any documentation would be circulated prior to the meeting.

15/034/d Hamdon Youth Group:

This item was discussed under Cllr Bailey's report (see *Minute ref: 15/033/b*).

15/034/e Play Areas:

The Clerk had received the annual playground inspection and risk assessment offer from SSDC and asked for a resolution to proceed with the inspection. The cost per playground is £48 for the inspection and £30.50 for the risk assessment. It was agreed for the inspection to be carried out.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Bevan Agreed unanimously

15/034/f Any Other Issues:

None declared.

15/035 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:

15/035/a Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

See *Minute ref: 15/032/e*.

15/035/a Street Lighting:

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

15/035/b Allotments:

Cllr Middleton asked whether there had been any response regarding the supply of water butts for the Furlands/Stonehill allotments. The Clerk said that some allotment holders from the Furlands site had replied and expressed that it would be useful. The allotment holders had also said that they did not object to having the vacant plots either weed sprayed or covered in tarpaulin.

The Clerk was asked whether she had received copy of the deeds relating to the private road adjoining the allotments at Stonehill. The Clerk explained that she had and, that she had contacted the Duchy of Cornwall who had confirmed that the track had been sold as part of numerous sales of the dwellings fronting the main road in 1908 and in these conveyances the Duchy of Cornwall reserved the right of access over the track in common with other owners in the rank and tenants of their land. Therefore the allotment holders have right of access over the track but not to park on it and the allotment tenancy agreement only states that the allotment holders can park on part of their allotment whilst working on it. It was agreed to write to the allotment holders in question to explain the situation.

Action Clerk

15/035/c Footpaths:

No report.

15/035/d Highways and Transport:

This item had been discussed (see *Minute refs: 15/032/d and 15/033/b*)

15/035/e Flooding Group:

The Clerk confirmed that a couple of residents had agreed to attend the flooding group meetings.

15/035/f Any Other Issues:

- (i) Trees - West Street
The Clerk said that she was still waiting for some of the additional quotations to come in and this would go on the agenda for next month.
- (ii) Parish Noticeboard
This item had already been discussed (*see Minute ref: 15/034/a*).
- (iii) URC Clock
It had been reported that the clock had stopped again and the Clerk confirmed that contractor would be coming out on 16th March.
- (v) Litter Pick
The Clerk said that a date needed to be arranged and it would need to go into the newsletter in plenty of time. It was agreed to hold the litter pick on 16th May. The Clerk confirmed that Streetscene would supply all the equipment, held with the risk assessments and collect the rubbish at the end of the day. It was agreed to contact the Hamdon Youth Group, the Boys Brigade and the Brownies to ask for volunteers.

Action Clerk

15/036 FINANCE:

15/036/a Matters for Report

The Clerk reported that a BACS payment notification had been received for the VAT return for the total amount £1,966.25.

15/036/b Matters for Resolution

i) Cheques Payable:

Sarah Moore	Expenses February	£ 281.77	<i>Chq 1948</i>
Stable Print	March Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 1949</i>
Stoke sub Hamdon	Healthy Hearts Exercise		
Memorial Hall	Classes - Rent	£ 60.00	<i>Chq 1950</i>
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Groundsman: Nov - Feb	£ 1,383.16	<i>Chq 1951</i>
Somerset Association of	½ Cost of Audit Training &		
Local Councils	Full Cost of Councillor		
	Training	£ 37.50	<i>Chq1952</i>
	Total	<u>£ 4,507.36</u>	

Proposed: Cllr Bevan Seconded: Cllr Middleton agreed unanimously

ii) Other:

None declared.

15/037 PLANNING:

15/037/a Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

South Petherton Parish Council has applied to SSDC for the designation of a neighbourhood area under The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as amended. The area proposed covers the whole of the parish of South Petherton and is the first step for a parish preparing a neighbourhood plan. The Clerk said that details can be viewed on the SSDC website under planning. Cllr Middleton suggested contacting the Clerk to find out whether we could send a representative to observe the process.

Action Clerk

Cllr Bevan asked whether a planning application had been received on Heron House, North Street. The Clerk said that she had not done anything yet. Cllr Seal agreed to check on this matter.

Action Cllr Seal

14/05518/CPO & 14/05519/CPO – Ham Hill Quarry Extension – no application received, only Regulations report. Clerk to look into why no plans were received. *Action Clerk*

15/037/b Planning Decisions and Reports:

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 – Permission was granted

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 – Permission was granted.

15/038 CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

15/039 MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:

15/039/a Members' Reports:

No reports.

15/039/b Clerk's Report:

i) Election Process

The Clerk explained the election process and handed out the nomination forms. The Clerk explained that the Election Notices would be going on the noticeboard on 18th March and that the nomination forms must be delivered by the individuals no later than 4pm on 9th April.

15/039 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Memorial Hall Play Area.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th April at 7pm.