

MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 8TH MARCH 2016 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

16/027/a PRESENT:

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Paul Spearpoint (Vice Chairman), Mr Neil Bloomfield, Mr Hugh Donovan, Mr Chris Earl, Mr Brian Evans, Mrs Wendy Hall, Mrs Marilyn Hart, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, Mr Graham Middleton and Mr Malcolm Uhlhorn.

Others: Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), Mr John Bailey (County Councillor), Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), The Friends of Ham Hill and Mr Peter Hulett (Chairman of the Sports & Recreation Trust and Secretary of the Hamdon Youth Group).

16/027/b APOLOGIES:

The PCSO

16/028 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

16/029 PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr M Wooden of The Friends of Ham Hill gave a presentation on the group and Ham Hill. The presentation included what Ham Hill has to offer such as events, recreation facilities, the education centre, the diversity of the nature reserve and the Ham Hill management plan; how The Friends of Ham Hill support the country park through fundraising, marshalling and supporting events and assisting with the conservation work; the current projects such as the Witcombe Valley Stream project, the Lime Kiln restoration, the round house, the geology trail and the nature walks and talks. The group is looking for greater community involvement, help with fundraising, and to get Ham Hill and events more widely promoted as a valuable local resource.

Cllr Brooks thanked the members of FOHH and opened the floor for a discussion. Cllr Spearpoint commented that the Skylark population seemed to be declining. Cllr Seal said that inventories are taken of all wildlife on Ham Hill and would be happy to provide Cllr Spearpoint with a species list. Cllr Spearpoint asked who was responsible for the nest boxes in Pitt Wood and it was confirmed that this came under the rangers remit.

Cllr Brooks brought forward the item on the agenda for the Sports and Recreation Trust so that the Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust could give his report (*See Minute ref: 16/33/e*).

Cllr Brooks also brought forward the item on the agenda about the Community Right to Bid (*see Minute ref: 16/033/a*)

16/030 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

Proposed: Cllr Spearpoint Seconded: Cllr Uhlhorn Agreed unanimously

16/031 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

16/031/a Provision of Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk confirmed that the dog bins had been ordered but independent installation quotes were needed. Cllr Middleton proposed letting the Clerk approve the quotes up to a specific amount and Cllr Bloomfield suggested the amount should be up to £200.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Hall Agreed unanimously

16/031/b Defibrillator – Memorial Hall Grounds

The Clerk reported that there had been some difficulty organising the training session as the hall was only available from 8pm most evenings and Heartstart are unable to do training session at that time of the evening. It was therefore decided to either arrange for the training to be carried out on a Saturday or to seek an alternative venue.

16/031/c Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation

At the previous month's meeting Cllr Seal reported on the Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation (see *Minute ref: 16/019/a*). Cllr Brooks had prepared a breakdown of the consultation which had been circulated to the members. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is what SSDC will charge for new development in South Somerset. Town and Parish Councils will receive 15% of CIL receipts from development occurring in their area, with a limit of £100 per existing council tax-paying dwelling annually. This will be payable on all new dwellings and any development which creates net additional floor spaces exceeding 100sqm. There are exceptions on self-builds, development of less than 100sqm (unless new build), social housing and, charitable development. Cllr Brooks reported that the Consultation provided great detail on how the levy was raised, but was light on the detail as to who made the decisions on what the money could actually be spent on, and whether this was dictated by SSDC.

16/032 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

16/032/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor:

Cllr Seal gave her report:

- The countryside events list for 2016 was passed to the Clerk so that details could be placed in the newsletter.
- The budget has been presented to full council
- Gave an update on the enforcement appeal on Legg's Store, West Street, with the public enquiry taking place in August.

16/032/b John Bailey – County Councillor:

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

- There is a site meeting at Windsor Lane/East Stoke on 9th March regarding gully cleansing
- The Hamdon Youth Group have been successful with the annual grant from Somerset County Council
- Health & Wellbeing grant. Would still like some suggestions from Stoke. SSDC Sport50 will commence in April
- Under the A303 consultation – need to assess the possibility of improvements to the current infrastructure in 2017 and asked members to prepare some ideas.

Cllr Bailey started to read out a letter relating to Cllr Bloomfield.

Cllr Bloomfield raised a point of order and stated that he was sitting here as a parish councillor not a district councillor and asked for Cllr Bailey to cease reading out the letter. Cllr Brooks asked that all Councillors should work with the District and County Councillors to work for the village.

16/033 **SPORTS AND LEISURE:**

16/033/a Community Right to Bid:

Cllr Brooks said that a public meeting was held on 29th February in order to get the views of the residents about purchasing the Methodist Church for a youth centre. Cllr Brooks explained that the poster which had been put up around the village stated that the money would be sought through funding not borrowing. However, on further investigation due to the short timescale significant grant funding was not possible. Therefore using government funding seemed to be the only option. Cllr Brooks explained that the Public Works Loan Board was a long term, fixed rate, low interest loan available to parish, district and county councils which was paid back through the precept. However, the community would need to

agree to this as well as the Parish Council through a consultation process. Cllr Brooks said that another public meeting would be held preferably on a Saturday which would give young families the opportunity to come along.

Cllr Brooks said that a detailed study of facilities in the village and needs of young groups had been undertaken by the working party, including costs. This showed that none of the groups had space to grow, had waiting lists, needed storage for equipment and meeting places were simply not available at the times young people needed to meet. There was clearly a current and a future need for space and storage. One of the options looked at was putting an extension onto the Memorial Hall of the same size and number of rooms as the Methodist Church, so that the two options could be fairly compared. Three estimates had been sought and these were online through a RIBA building estimate calculator, Jewson's calculator and an independent builder from Crewkerne. All three came out in the region of £250,000. In addition it could take up to 2 years to get funding from the Big Lottery with no guarantee that this would be granted, plus time to get planning permission and build time, so the council would be looking at 3 to 4 years before facilities could be provided. On a cost benefit basis, purchase of the Methodist Church was clearly the better option. Cllr Brooks explained that it did not seem appropriate to spend public money on detailed estimates at this stage.

Cllr Bloomfield did not think an extension on the hall with the same square metreage as the Methodist Church was necessary nor did he think that spending £150,000 on a building with no parking etc. was appropriate. Cllr Bloomfield suggested having a smaller extension built onto the Memorial Hall. Cllr Donovan said that the study has established that there was a need, and that even an extension with half the square metreage would still be a considerable cost. He also said that there was a majority vote from those attending the meeting to purchase the Methodist Church even though it resulted in an increase in council tax of approximately £13 p.a. for Band D properties.

Cllr Seal gave a couple of examples of Parish and Town Councils that have had success with taking out a Public Works Loan and these were Crewkerne Aqua Centre and Norton Village Hall.

Cllr Brooks reported that she had received an email from the Secretary of the Memorial Hall committee regarding the possible build of an extension onto the Memorial Hall complaining that the hall committee were not consulted, asking whether planning permission had been sought and if the residents had been consulted. Cllr Brooks read out her reply to this email, explaining the costings above and that the working party were doing initial fact finding, not making decisions. Consultation would always take place, as and when appropriate
(Cllr Bailey declared an interest as he is Chairman of the Hamdon Youth Group)

Cllr Bailey explained that there is still the need for space and storage for village organisations and for a temporary period The Fleur de Lis public house has kindly let the Hamdon Youth Group meet in the skittle alley. However, if the acquisition of the Methodist Church does not go ahead there will still be a need for additional facilities which in turn will require funding and the Parish Council need the support of the community.

Mr Hulett commented that by using the skittle alley the Hamdon Youth Group has been split into two groups. Prior to Christmas there were around 25-30 youths attending but this has declined to half. If it is agreed to build an extension onto the Hall then that could be a considerable wait which could lead to a further loss of members. Further discussions were held regarding the options, funding and loans.

Cllr Hall asked if it was possible to have a referendum for the whole village. Cllr Merrick suggested putting slips in with the newsletter. Cllr Brooks explained that a referendum would be extremely costly, would take at least 2 months to organise to meet legal rules and that SSDC Area North Development had checked with the legal team and confirmed that this was not necessary, taking into account the level of consultation so far. Cllr Brooks added that she had consulted SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) who had written to say that the Parish Council is being very open and transparent and were following the correct procedure, and were to be congratulated.

Cllr Bloomfield said that the work carried out so far by the working party is very commendable but thinks it would be a good opportunity to improve the Memorial Hall.

16/033/b **Events 2016:**

- i) **The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations**
Cllr Brooks said that she had contacted the village organisations. It was suggested to include the Pop-In at Oak Tree House.
- ii) **Volunteer Awards**
Cllr Hall reported that the nominations forms had been distributed to various points in the village and was accessible via the website. The Clerk said that she had checked with SALC regarding giving vouchers or wine as awards and this is acceptable and is covered under *Section 137 Local Government Act 1972*.

16/033/c **Hamdon Youth Group:**

This item was discussed under *Minute ref: 16/032/b*

16/033/d **Memorial Hall and Grounds:**

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with BT and had electronically signed the order form. However, there seemed to be a communication problem between BT and Openreach; BT were making appointments to connect the Wi-Fi but Openreach are yet to install the telegraph pole. **Action Clerk**

16/033/e **Sports and Recreation Trust:**

Mr Peter Hulett, Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust, gave his report.

- The planning application for the Boules Court has been submitted
- There will be a meeting with SSDC to discuss the adventure play area
- The Trust agreed at their last meeting to accept the Parish Council's terms for the Management and Maintenance agreement
- The accounts are with the auditor and once they have been approved a copy will be sent to the Parish Council

(Cllr Bloomfield left the meeting)

- The electric supply for the flood lights needs replacing which will require planning permission and the estimated cost to rectify this is around £20,000. The Trust has some funds but they will be approaching the Football Foundation for funding.

(Cllr Bloomfield returned to the meeting)

- There have been problems with parking around the recreation ground and a letter has been sent to the football clubs. The Trust will be asking the fudge factory if their car park can be utilised at weekends
- A grant of £850 has been given to the FOHH to purchase equipment to help children with nature studies.

Cllr Donovan asked about the drainage off the recreation ground into the ditch in Matts Lane. Mr Hulett confirmed that there is a collection point on the football pitch which runs off into the ditch. Cllr Bailey said that there is a Highways drain in West Street which goes across the recreation ground and into Matts Lane at some point.

16/033/f **Play Areas:**

Cllr Spearpoint said that the play area gates had been removed for repair.

Cllr Brooks said that a resident had reported that the 'No dogs' sign had been removed from the play area at Stonehill. Cllr Spearpoint suggested that a new sign should be bolted to a back board.

16/033/g **Any Other Issues:**

None declared.

16/034 **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

16/034/a **Allotments:**

No report given.

16/034/b **Community Emergency Plan:**

No report given.

16/034/c Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

No report given.

The polling station for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections will be held in the Memorial Hall on 5th May.

16/034/d Footpaths:

The Clerk reported that she had received one quotation for the 'dig back' in Tunwell Lane. Cllr Uhlhorn agreed to provide a work specification.

16/034/e Ground Maintenance:

i) Update on Interim Contract

The Clerk reported that she had received one tender and that she and Cllr Uhlhorn will liaise before the next meeting

ii) Other Issues

The Clerk said that the dead tree in the Memorial Hall grounds had been cut down but a large stump had been left which could be a trip hazard and looked unsightly. It was agreed to contact the contractor.

16/034/f Highways and Transport:

Cllr Spearpoint reported that there was an accident on the corner of Matts Lane and felt that double yellow lines were needed to stop parking in that area.

16/034/g Street Lighting:

Cllr Brooks said that the lights in the High Street were still out and that the Clerk had contacted the street lighting team at SCC several times. There is a major fault which Western Power Distribution needed to sort out.

16/034/h Other Issues:

Cllr Uhlhorn reported that there is funding available from SSDC for tree planting on parish land and that he will put an article in the newsletter asking residents for some suggestions.

16/035 FINANCE:

16/035/a Matters for Report

i) Replacement Cheque to Caloo

The Clerk reported that the cheque (no. 2011) for the play equipment had been returned by NatWest Bank stating that it had not been signed in accordance with the mandate. However, this was not the case and the bank has since confirmed that the cheque was correct. As payment had already been authorised (*see minute ref: 16/009/b*) a replacement cheque for £65,040.00 was issued (*Chq 2019*)

ii) Cllr Middleton asked what type of presentation was needed at the quarterly meetings. It was agreed that the Finance committee should meet to discuss the matter.

16/035/b Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	Expenses February	£	17.50	<i>Chq 2020</i>
Stable Print	March Newsletters	£	190.00	<i>Chq 2021</i>
Duchy of Cornwall	Land Rent	£	<u>744.00</u>	<i>Chq 2022</i>
	Total	£	951.50	

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Hall agreed unanimously

16/035/c Matters for Resolution

None declared.

16/036 PLANNING:

16/036/a Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

16/00633/FUL – Erection of a ground floor rear extension – 8 The Avenue, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QB – no observations or objections

16/00553/FUL – Replacement conservatory at rear of property – Springmead, 45 East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UF – no observations or objections

16/00684/FUL - Proposed boules court and associated picnic table and seating – Memorial Ground, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6RJ – no observations or objections

16/00880/S73 – application to vary planning condition 2 (approved plans) of approval 15/05576/FUL. To allow for repositioning of some windows and doors – Hatchcroft, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UQ – No objections but would like the following observations to be taken into account in relation to the proposed turning area for cars. As the area is on a slope, there is likely to be run off in heavy rain down to East Stoke Road, and this area already suffers from flooding problems. We note that the new parking area is to be gravel; we would advise planners that we wish to see a soakaway within the property boundaries (5 metres from the building) to take water from the turning area.

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

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Evans Agreed unanimously

16/036/b **Planning Decisions and Reports:**

16/00201/FUL – The erection of a first floor extension to side and storm porch to front – 27 Hamdon Close, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QN – This application has been granted.

16/037 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None declared.

16/038 **MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:**

The Clerk said that SALC were holding two training sessions for new councillors. These were being held on 16th March at a cost of £20 per member and 11th May at a cost of £25 per member. Cllrs Donovan and Hart are able to attend the training on 16th March whilst Cllrs Earl, Evans and Uhlhorn are able to go on 11th May. There is also a 'preparing for audit' training session for Clerks on 23rd March at a cost of £25.00. The Clerk said that this last cost could be split between Stoke sub Hamdon and Montacute Parish Councils.

Proposed: Cllr Brooks Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint Agreed unanimously

Cllrs Middleton and Spearpoint said that they are no longer doing Speedwatch sessions. Cllr Brooks thanked them for their hard work and it was agreed that an article should be placed in the newsletter asking for volunteers.

16/039 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

Suspension of Standing Orders at April Meeting
Update of Standing Orders at the Annual Parish Council Meeting
Memorial Hall presentation.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th April 2016 at 7.15pm.