

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

14/164/a PRESENT:

Members: Mr Paul Spearpoint, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, Mrs Janet Rose, Mr Graham Middleton, Mr Neil Bloomfield and Mrs Wendy Hall.

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), Mr John Bailey (County Councillor) Mrs Sue Dymel (Castle School), Mr Alan Graham (Managing Director, South West Coaches) and 2 members of the public.

14/164/b APOLOGIES:

Mrs Barbara Brooks (Vice Chairman), Mr Bruce Wilson, Mr Roger Bevan, Mr Steve Hay and PCSO.

14/165 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

It had been agreed at the previous meeting for Cllr Brooks to become Chairman. The Clerk asked for a resolution to be passed.

Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield Seconded: Cllr Merrick agreed unanimously

The Clerk suggested that as Cllr Brooks is absent from the meeting due serious family illness then in the exceptional circumstances could the acceptance of office form be signed out of the meeting and witnessed by the new Vice-Chairman. This was agreed.

14/166 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

The Clerk read out a letter from Cllr Brooks which stated that she would like to nominate Cllr Spearpoint for Vice-Chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Merrick agreed unanimously

As acting Chairman Cllr Spearpoint chaired the meeting.

14/167 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

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

14/168 PUBLIC SESSION:

Mrs Dymel of Castle Primary School gave a presentation to the Parish Council. Mrs Dymel talked of the current situation regarding the recent Ofsted report, the improvements that have been made and the impending academy status.

Mr Graham of South West Coaches said that there were going to be more cuts from County Council which will affect concessionary fares and the Saturday subsidy. He thanked the village for getting a petition together which was one of the best in the area and asked for another petition to be raised. He also asked for residents to continue supporting the bus service and mentioned the availability of a Smart Card which will have the application fee waived up until Christmas. Cllr Spearpoint said that Mr Graham would need to talk to other Parish Councils and it was agreed to put an article in the newsletter about the petition and service.

14/169 PCSO REPORT:

The Clerk said that she only had the generic report for the whole of the Hamdon beat. It was agreed to write again to Sue Mountstevens.

14/170 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

14/170/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor:

Cllr Seal reported on the adopted plan in respect of social housing, affordable housing and advice and support for the homeless.

Cllr Seal's report on Ham Hill included the planning application on the quarry extension; that the country park is currently being used by the runners who normally use Montacute Park and; that the sheep will be going onto the Northern spur near the monument.

Other items in the report included a new arts directory is being set up which will list arts organisations around the district; the café which opened in Ninesprings Park is a success and; the possible mobile library closure.

14/170/b John Bailey – County Councillor:

Cllr Bailey's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Bailey commented on the planning application for the quarry extension and that the work regarding the dropped kerbs in the High Street and gullies in East Stoke is progressing. Cllr Spearpoint asked when the drains in West Street were going to be jetted. Cllr Bailey said that they were jetted a couple of months ago. Comments were made about the leaves blocking the drains and Cllr Seal agreed to speak with Streetscene. It was agreed that this may be a possible job for the groundsman. Cllr Spearpoint said that the trees in West Street by the recreation ground were the cause of the blocked drains and that these trees had grown too high. It was agreed to obtain quotations from some arborists.

14/171 HAMDON YOUTH GROUP:

Cllr Bailey gave the annual report. He thanked the Parish Council for its support and said that anti-social behaviour has decreased and the number of youth coming to the group has increased. Cllr Bailey said that the grant gave a degree of security and asked for continuing funding for another 2 years (2016 and 2017). Cllr Bailey commented that there were only four people running the youth services for the county and that Somerset County Council have reduced the level of grants from £5,000 to £3,500 and now requires an accreditation process to qualify. A discussion was held and Cllr Bloomfield proposed to continue the funding of £3,000 per year for a further 2 years.

Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield Seconded: Cllr Middleton agreed unanimously

14/172 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

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

Proposed: Cllr Rose Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint Agreed unanimously

14/173 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

14/173/a Post Box – High Street

The Clerk said that she had sent a letter to Royal Mail regarding the post box but had not yet received a reply. It was agreed to forward this letter onto David Laws MP and to the Conservation Team at SSDC.

14/173/b Heritage Lighting

The Clerk mentioned that she had received a reply from SCC regarding the possible replacement scheme. The Parish Council would have to pay for the replacements and SCC would maintain and pay the energy of the lights. The cost for a heritage style light would be

around £2,000 per unit. A discussion was held and it was agreed to obtain further information regarding installation costs and if the price was the same for column lights and wall-mounted lights.

14/174 FINANCE:

14/174/a Matters for Report

i) NatWest New Reserve Account

The Clerk reported that she had contacted NatWest who have confirmed that the requested new account has not yet been set up and there are still signatories missing on the account despite members taking their personal details into the local branch. The Clerk said that she is waiting to receive the relevant forms to rectify this.

14/174/b Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	Expenses October	£ 82.70	<i>Chq 1924</i>
Stable Print	November Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 1225</i>
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Groundsman for October	£ 345.79	<i>Chq 1226</i>
Smith of Derby	URC Clock Repairs	£ 246.00	<i>Chq 1227</i>
St Mary's Church	Grant – Churchyard Upkeep	£ 700.00	<i>Chq1229</i>
<u>S137 Payment</u>			
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal	<u>£ 75.00</u>	<i>Chq1230</i>
	Total	£1,717.49	

Proposed: Cllr Merrick

Seconded: Cllr Rose

Agreed unanimously

14/174/c Budget 2015/16

i) Budget for 2015/2016:

A meeting of Finance Committee was held on 30th October and to discuss the budget and Cllr Middleton explained the suggested changes. There was an increase in the Clerk's salary as her number of hours had increased; it was agreed to increase the audit costs as a new internal auditor would be required; it was agreed to increase the election expenses because of the population increase in the village and the forthcoming election in May; it was agreed to decrease the Parish Council's insurance budget by £500 and the Land Maintenance costs by £4,000 due to a change in contractor and it was agreed to increase the Contingency fund by £3,000. It was agreed to keep the annual grant for the Sports and Recreation Trust at £2,000. As there are a number of major projects in the pipeline it was proposed to leave the budget at £10,000. It was also proposed that the Furlands allotment site needed extensive work carried out on the vacant plots and for the Parish Council to encourage residents to use the site.

A discussion was held and it was agreed to look into the public liability insurance for the Sports and Recreation Trust and Memorial Hall and, it was agreed to increase the major projects budget to £30,000.

(Cllr Seal left the meeting)

(Cllr Bloomfield left the meeting)

The figures were amended on the budget worksheet. The Clerk pointed out that she had not yet received any paperwork from SSDC and it had not yet been confirmed whether SSDC were passing on the Government support grant again this year. If the grant was not given then there would be a shortfall of approximately £5,280.

(Cllr Bloomfield returned to the meeting)

It was resolved to accept the budget. *(Copy attached to Minutes)*

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Rose 3 Agreed, 1 Abstained

ii) Precept for 2015/2016:

As suggested by Finance Committee, it was resolved to set Precept at £49,195 subject to the confirmation of a support grant of £5,275 with the possibility to change the precept resolution at the Parish Council meeting in January.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Bloomfield Agreed unanimously

14/175 MEMORIAL HALL AND GROUNDS:

Cllr Spearpoint reported that the swing seats had been received and the cost was £408.83.

14/176 SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST:

Cllr Merrick reported that six mobile lights had been purchased.

14/177 PLANNING:

14/177/a Report on Planning Applications:

14/04390/FUL – erection of a dwelling house and garage/domestic workshop – Land adjacent The Stables, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UQ – no objections. Observations on whether there are sufficient parking spaces on the drive and whether the workshop will encourage business use.

14/04476/FUL – demolition of existing buildings and the erection on 14 no dwellings, new vehicular access and associated highway works, garages, parking and landscaping – Southcombe Bros Ltd. land adjacent to Great Field Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QD - No objections. Observations on whether to make site entrance into a raised platform to slow vehicles entering/leaving the site and a condition to include to parking on the street

14/04262/ADV –display of 1 no internally illuminated sign and 4 no non-illuminated signs and recladding of totem – Co-operative Retail Services Ltd., East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6UQ – no observations or objections

14/04730/CPO – application to vary Condition 2 & 6 of permission 11/00633/CPO dated 16 May 2011, to extend the end date of the existing workings, and to delay the submission of the Restoration Scheme – Ham Hill, Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset – no observations or objections

14/04688/TPO – application to carry out tree surgery works to a Sycamore subject of SSDC (Stoke sub Hamdon No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 1990 and a Beech subject of SSDC (Stoke sub Hamdon No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 1992 – The Old Coach House, North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QR – no comments. This was for information only.

14/05006/TPO – application to carry out tree surgery works to Turkey Oak shown as T2 SSDC (Stoke sub Hamdon No. 1) and works to other trees. Tree Preservation Order 1998 (Within a Conservation Area) – 24 Brocks Mount, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6PJ - no comments. This was for information only.

14/04900/TPO – application to pollard a Horse Chestnut tree within the SSDC (Stoke sub Hamdon No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 1998 – 8 Brocks Mount, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PJ - no comments. This was for information only.

14/177/b Planning Decisions and Reports:

14/03862/LBC – works to enable the conversion of outbuildings to dwelling, refurbishment and erection of single storey extension and alterations to access; revised application 14/00864/LBC – 18 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP - granted

14/03860/S73 – S73 application to substitute plans of approved planning application 14/00860/FUL to amend fenestration details, window patterns and sub-division between dwellings – 18 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP - granted

14/03173/FUL – construction of a uPVC ‘lean to’ conservatory at the rear of the property – 6 East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6RQ - granted

14/04218/FUL – installation of a self-contained biomass boiler plant room and fuel store for a new central heating system to serve the Inn – Prince of Wales Inn, Ham Hill, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6RW - granted

(Cllr Rose left the meeting)

14/178 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

14/178/a **Library Services Consultation:**

This item was mentioned under *Minute ref: 14/170a*

14/178/b **Removal of Public Payphones**

BT is planning to remove 31 public payphones in South Somerset and BT is consulting with SSDC on this proposal. Objections to these proposals can be made before 5th December. A discussion was held and it was agreed to press hard for the retention of this box as it is an essential amenity.

14/178/b **Chiselstock – funding request**

A request for support for a one day music festival in support of West Chinnock Primary School was received. It was agreed that as it is unlikely that there are any children from Stoke sub Hamdon attending the school no funding will be given.

14/179 **HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATH:**

None declared.

14/180 **STREETLIGHTING:**

None declared.

14/181 **WORKING PARTIES REPORTS:**

14/181/a **Allotments**

None declared.

14/181/b **Transport Strategy Group**

None declared.

14/181/c **Adventure Playground**

Cllr Merrick reported that a survey had been carried out the previous week.

14/162 **MEMBERS' REPORTS:**

None declared.

14/163 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.25pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th December at 7pm.