

MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2013 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

13/142/a PRESENT:

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

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor), Mr John Bailey (County Councillor), Sgt Job Jameson, Matt Frost and Justin Pattinson (Boon Brown Partnership), Sam Lewis (Hamdon Youth Group) and 8 members of the public.

13/142/b APOLOGIES:

Mrs Wendy Hall and Mrs Barbara Brooks

13/143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Merrick declared an interest in matters concerning the Sports and Recreation Trust and Cllr Wilson declared an interest in the Hamdon Youth Group of which he is a volunteer.

13/144 PUBLIC SESSION:

i) Boon Brown – Planning Application 13/03622/FUL

Cllr Sampson introduced Matt Frost and Justin Pattinson, Boon Brown, who are the agents for the proposed housing development of 18 houses in East Stoke.

Mr Frost explained that representatives of Boon Brown had met with members of the Parish Council in August at the site of the proposed development. He then went on to explain that the site is next to Stanchester and the Sports Centre and that the development will consist of 18 houses with a mixture of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses, 6 of which will be affordable houses. Each house will have garaging or private parking facilities.

Mr Frost reported that there had been no objections from any of the consultees so far; more information is needed under the ecology report as it has been found that there are great crested newts in the pond; the Highway Authority have said that the new access is easily accessible; the Tree Officer has said there may be issues with the eastern boundary trees so Boon Brown are looking into a revised draft layout for those houses which may be affected.

Cllr Sampson asked if there were any TPO's (Tree Protection Orders) on any of the trees. Mr Frost confirmed that there was not as yet. There were further questions on the remaining land, parking and the access road and Mr Frost confirmed that the remaining land would be an orchard to act as a divide between the houses and the conservation area. Mr Pattinson said that the scheme complies with the new parking strategy and the access road will be an adopted road and not private.

Cllr Sampson thanked them for coming to the meeting.

(Mr Frost and Mr Pattinson left the meeting)

ii) Hamdon Youth Group

Mr Lewis gave a presentation on what the Hamdon Youth Group has achieved over the past six months and to request a continuation of the funding of £3,000 towards the provision of a youth worker. He went on to explain that a contract between the HYG and the Community Youth Project was signed 1st March 2013 to provide a youth worker for 8 hours a week, 50 weeks of the year at a total cost of £8,000 p.a. In the past six months the youth clubs have been held twice a week, there are drop-in centres in Stoke and Norton and activities have been arranged over the summer break. Mr Lewis said that this had been achieved with funding from both Parish Councils for a Youth Worker, volunteer help to run specific projects and the committee, and equipment donated by other organisations. Statistics show that there has been changes to the number of anti-social behaviour incidents, a change in attitudes between young and old, and there has been an increase in the use of community facilities. Cllr Sampson thanked Mr Lewis for his presentation. A discussion was held regarding the funding. During this discussion Cllr Bloomfield asked if he could comment on the bank reconciliation. The Clerk said that this was on the agenda to be reported on later in the meeting. Cllr Bloomfield read out only the amount held in the business reserve account.

Cllr Bloomfield said he would like to see that the Parish Council fund the youth worker for two years rather than year on year. Cllr Middleton said that it was originally agreed that a request would be made year on year but said that he had no objection to Cllr Bloomfield's proposal.

Cllr Middleton proposed that this request is initially discussed by the Finance Committee and brought back to the Parish Council after a Finance Committee meeting before making a final resolution. The proposal to fund a youth worker at £3,000 per year for two years was agreed in principle.

Proposed: Cllr Bloomfield Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint Agreed unanimously

Cllr Sampson said that he would like to thank Mr Lewis and all the volunteers who help with the Hamdon Youth Group for everything that they do and asked for an article to go into the newsletter. **Action Clerk**

Representatives of the Sports and Recreation Trust raised the issue of broken glass around the skate park and the youth shelter, and the fact that green glass is being pushed into the grass. A discussion was held regarding the youth drinking alcohol in that area and Cllr Sampson said that a group of youths coming in the direction of East Stoke had been seen carrying bags of alcohol. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Co-Op and send a copy to Sgt Jameson. The Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust said that he would rope the area off as there are not enough people to manage it. There was a heated discussion about the siting of the youth shelter in the recreation ground as being the cause of the broken glass and Cllr Sampson explained that there was a history of broken glass in that area for a long time before the police advised to site the youth shelter there. It was requested that the youth shelter should be removed but Cllr Sampson explained that it had been agreed at the February meeting that this would not be done until the terms of the grant had ceased in 2015 as the grant of nearly £7,000 would have to be repaid to Somerset County Council out of the parish precept.

It was agreed that the immediate issue is how to keep the children safe. Cllr Sampson said that it needed to be put on the agenda to be discussed. Cllr Bailey commented that the glass needed to be dealt with. A resident said that he would check the area for glass as he is there every morning.

A resident stated that he was not happy with the amount of money the Parish Council has and the fact that the Parish Council will not install a gate in Matts Lane. Cllr Sampson said that there are other issues beside the cost for not putting in a gate such as the width of the lane. Cllr Wilson said that it was not the Parish Council's decision but it is the Highway Authority's. Cllr Bloomfield asked if a letter could be written to the Highway Authority and Cllr Sampson said that this has already been done. Cllr Bailey stated that he along with the Highway Authority had met with the resident and he explained that there would need to be a consultation with the parish. Cllr Sampson said that the Parish Council had decided not to fund a gate and have not met with any objections from the farmers. Cllr Bailey said that the resident agreed to pay for the gate but money would need to be found for the legal costs of changing a highway. Cllr Wilson mentioned that a discussion was held at a previous meeting but no decision was made and there was no request for costs made. Cllr Middleton proposed that the Finance Committee hold a separate meeting to discuss the cost of various items for that area of the village. The date is to be arranged when the finance meeting is discussed under *Minute ref: 13/149/a (iv)*.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Rose Agreed unanimously

13/145 P.C.S.O. REPORT:

Sargent Rob Jameson reported that there had been three thefts of motor vehicles, one of which included a trailer; a theft of some sheep; four incidents of criminal damage, three of which are being investigated; a burglary in Matts Lane where hay and a lock were stolen; an assault on Ham Hill and five incidents of anti-social behaviour, two in the High Street, two in Matts Lane and one at the Memorial Hall. A black car has been spotted and the occupants have been selling alcohol to the youths. Cllr Bloomfield asked if Matts Lane was a listed 'trouble' area and do the police focus on trouble areas. Sgt Jameson said that there are no formal operations but the area is highlighted.

13/146 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

13/146/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor

Cllr Seal gave her report on Ham Hill; around 3,000 people attended the fayre on the hill and £700 was made on the day. There have been issues again with dogs attacking sheep.

Cllr Seal passed the Clerk a leaflet about the Family Focus project which needs volunteers to help talk to families who need help and a fire safety check booklet. It was agreed that these items would be put in the newsletter. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Seal said that a presentation was made at the full Council meeting by the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police in order to give a strategic overview of budget and current performance challenges. It was stated that there was a notable difference in crime of 28% and that there would be a cut in police funding which will lead to fewer officers on the beat.

(Cllr Rose left the meeting)

13/146/b John Bailey – County Councillor

Cllr Bailey's report had been circulated to members. The report covered Highway issues, the Hamdon Youth Group, Brocks Mount and Superfast Broadband. Cllr Bailey also mentioned that the County Health and Wellbeing grant of £500 could be available again this year. A suggestion was made of a defibrillator being put in the telephone box in West Street. There was a discussion regarding cost and it was stated that this needed to be looked into further.

13/147 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton

Seconded: Cllr Merrick

Agreed: unanimously

13/148 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

13/148/a Police & Crime Commissioner Meeting

The Clerk mentioned that she had received some interest from other parishes but now required some questions for the meeting and could members bring these to the next meeting or email so that the Clerk could let the Police and Crime Commissioner know. The Clerk has also invited the PCSOs and the police.

13/149 **FINANCE**

13/149/a Matters for Report:

i) Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave the year end bank reconciliation report as at the 31st March 2013:

Current Account	£ 100.00
Reserve Account	£ 103,197.31
Sports & Recreation Assets Reserve Account	£ 4,803.25
Asset Management Reserve Account	£ 16,107.87
Total	£ 124,208.43
Outstanding Transfer	£ (2,400.00)
Outstanding Cheques	£ 340.00
Total as Cash Book	£ 126,268.43

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 reported that she had not yet received a bank statement which showed the annual transfer of £2,400 to the Sports & Recreation Assets reserve account. Also, the additional £10,000 which is split between these two accounts has not yet been transferred from the Business reserve account (*see minute ref: 13/114/a*).

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 six months. 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 three areas showing an over spend; these are: Grants & Donations, Play Equipment and the Healthy Hearts exercise classes. The Clerk pointed out that these figures are likely to even out over the coming year but she will keep a check on them. The Healthy Hearts exercise classes are supported by a ring-fenced grant from Somerset County Council and is not part of Parish Council funds. Once there is a nil figure this section will be removed from the comparison report.

iii) NatWest

The Clerk said that the members needed to get together to arrange an appointment with NatWest regarding the signatory issue which was discussed at the previous meeting. A letter to NatWest informing the bank who should be signatories was signed by Cllrs Sampson, Spearpoint and Middleton.

iv) Finance Committee – Budget 2014/15

The Clerk said that the Finance Committee needed to meet to discuss the budget requirements for 2014/15. It was agreed to hold two finance meetings; one to discuss the issues raised under *Minute ref: 13/144* and the other to discuss the annual budget. It was agreed to meet in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on 23rd October and on 20th November.

13/149/b Cheques Payable:

Sarah Moore	Salary & Expenses for September	£ 484.90	<i>Chq 1850</i>
NigeNige	Groundsman Salary for September	£ 708.00	<i>Chq 1851</i>
Stable Print	October Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 1852</i>
HMRC	2 nd Quarter Income Tax	£ 271.24	<i>Chq 1853</i>
Duchy of Cornwall	Land Rent	£ 744.00	<i>Chq 1854</i>
<u><i>SI37 Payment</i></u>			
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal Donation	£ 75.00	<i>Chq 1855</i>

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Spearpoint Agreed unanimously

13/149/c Matters for Resolution

None declared.

13/150 MEMORIAL HALL AND GROUNDS

Cllr Spearpoint reported on the annual playground inspection report and risk assessment received from SSDC. With regard to Stonehill the report shows that there are gaps in the tiles which is a safety issue and need to look at the possibility of changing them. Also there is some surface rust on the swings and the seat and Cllr Spearpoint suggested that some members could repaint these. In respect of the Memorial Hall the report states that there is movement to the multiplay unit. Cllr Spearpoint has checked this point which appears to be unfounded. Cllr Spearpoint said that the new decking has made the multiplay unit even stronger. However, the steps to the unit are starting to rot and these will need to be replaced within the next month. Cllr Middleton proposed that Cllr Spearpoint be allowed to spend up to £500 in order to get these replaced.

Proposed: Cllr Middleton Seconded: Cllr Hay Agreed unanimously

Cllr Spearpoint said that the report also states that the nets need to be monitored but there are no severe problems, there are gaps in the tiles, the seat needs to be monitored, the mechanism to the gate is stiff and there is movement in the blue spinner.

13/151 SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

None declared

13/152 PLANNING

13/152/a Report on Planning Applications

13/03341/COU – Continued use of land for residential and retail use (retrospective) – Leggs Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QL – the storage of such items as doors and windows etc. in the front garden and side driveway should not be permitted.

13/03622/FUL – erection of 18 dwellings and associated works including a new vehicular access, parking, open space and landscaping – land adjacent East Stoke House, Montacute Road, East Stoke, Stoke sub Hamdon – There were no objections or observations. This item was also discussed under *Minute ref: 13/144(i)*.

13/152/b Planning Decisions and Reports

13/02925/FUL – Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar array to provide 6 MW generation capacity together with inverter systems; transformer stations; sub-stations; internal access track; landscaping; security fencing; associated access gate and removal of one Ash tree protected by Tree Preservation Order (re-submission of previously withdrawn application) – Land adjacent A303 Tintinhull Forts, Tintinhull Forts Tintinhull, Yeovil BA22 8PA – Refused.

13/02987/FUL – application for the renewal of extant permission 10/02805/FUL for the erection of a single storey replacement extension at the rear – 12 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QT – Granted
(*Cllr Seal left the meeting*)

13/153 CORRESPONDENCE

13/153/a Area North Annual Meeting

The Area North meeting will be held on 24th October. Cllrs Sampson, Middleton and Bloomfield said that they would attend.

13/153/b SALC Training

SALC are holding training courses aimed at the more experienced councillor at a cost of £50 per member. No member is to be put forward for this course.

13/153/c Local Choices Events

Somerset County Council will be holding this year's Local Choices Event on 6th November between 6pm and 9pm. Cllrs Middleton and Bloomfield said that they would attend.

13/154 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a letter from the Chief Executive of Somerset County Council regarding the blocked drains at the top of the High Street and Bonnies Lane. It stated that there appeared to be a confusion arising about the specific location of the drains in question and that these drains would not be cleared.

13/155 STREET LIGHTING

None declared

13/156 WORKING PARTY REPORTS

13/156/a Local Development Framework

None declared.

13/156/b Allotments

None declared.

13/156/c Local Action Group

None declared.

13/156/d Web Site

None declared.

13/157 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Cllr Wilson reported that the Methodist Church will now be sold.

Cllr Sampson reported that the Copper Beech tree at Loders House in East Stoke is diseased and will have to be cut down. The tree which is 120 years old has no TPO attached to it.

13/158 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at pm and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th November at 7pm.