

MINUTES OF STOKE SUB HAMDON PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

16/102/a PRESENT:

Members: Mrs Barbara Brooks (Chairman), Mr Hugh Donovan (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Marilyn Hart, Mrs Rebecca Merrick, and Mr Malcolm Uhlhorn

Others: Mrs Sarah Moore (Clerk), Mrs Sylvia Seal (District Councillor) and two members of the public

16/102/b APOLOGIES:

Mr Neil Bloomfield, Mr Chris Earl, Mr Brian Evans, Mr Graham Middleton and Mr John Bailey (County Councillor),

16/103 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Cllr Merrick declared an interest in matters relating to the Sports and Recreation Trust and Memorial Hall. Cllrs Brooks and Uhlhorn declared an interest in matters relating to the Memorial Hall.

16/104 PUBLIC SESSION:

A resident commented that the pavement between the United Reform Church and the Charity shop were crumbling and the weeds had not been cleared. The Clerk stated that this would need to be reported to Highways. The resident said that he would email some photographs to the Clerk which could be forwarded onto Highways. *Action Clerk*

16/105 CO-OPTION:

Cllr Brooks stated that there were two vacancies on the Parish Council and three candidates had expressed an interest. However one of the candidates had withdrawn due to work commitments. Cllr Brooks introduced the remaining candidates; Mrs Caroline Freeman and Mr Robert Manning. Cllr Brooks asked for a nomination for Mrs Freeman

Proposed: Cllr Donovan Seconded: Cllr Hart Agreed unanimously

Cllr Brooks asked for a nomination for Mr Manning.

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Uhlhorn Agreed unanimously

The Clerk asked Mrs Freeman and Mr Manning to sign the Declaration of Acceptance. The Clerk countersigned the documents. The Clerk asked the new councillors to complete the Register of Interest form and to return it to her.

Cllr Brooks welcomed Cllr Freeman and Cllr Manning to the Parish Council.

16/106 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Cllr Merrick asked for the first line of *Minute ref: 16/094* to be amended to read 'No inspection report given'.

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

Proposed: Cllr Uhlhorn Seconded: Cllr Hart 3 agreed; 2 abstained

16/107 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

16/107/a Defibrillator – Memorial Hall Grounds

The Clerk reported that the hall had been provisionally booked in October. However, when the Clerk went to confirm the booking she found that the hall had been since been booked

from midday onwards and so the morning could not take place as there was an hour when the Hall was double booked. It was agreed to review training dates. *Action Clerk*

16/107/b Councillor Training

The Clerk confirmed that the training session was booked for the 13th October and copies of the booking form had been sent to all those councillors who would be attending. Cllr Brooks asked if the two new councillors could be included on the same training session. *Action Clerk*

16/108 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

16/108/a Sylvia Seal – District Councillor

Cllr Seal gave her report:

- SSDC's new CEO will be starting in October and he will be looking into transforming the council into a lean and efficient organisation. The district council will now have to become income generating so will be looking at various projects.
- Ham Hill: the Medieval Fayre was a success despite the bad weather.
- Yeovil Country Park: Lottery money has been secured which will go towards renovating and exposing the springs. Cllr Seal said that she would report on this further next month.
- Somerset Waste Partnership: There is increasingly more waste being brought to the recycling depot in vans and trailers from outside the county. Therefore people who use vans and trailers will need to apply for a free permit. This applies only to the Somerset sites.

16/108/b John Bailey – County Councillor:

No report given.

16/109 SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST REPORT:

Cllr Merrick said that the Rec inspection reports for the Parish Council were routinely discussed at the Sports and Recreation Trust meetings. Cllr Merrick went on to explain that the recreation ground inspections that are carried out are only visual inspections and it was assumed that if there was nothing to report then this need not be passed onto the parish council. However, those who are carrying out these inspections have been asked to complete a check list even if there is nothing to report. Councillors asked that the results of all inspections should be passed to council, even if no actions were required.

Cllr Merrick said that the Chairman of the Sports and Recreation Trust hoped to send a report on projects and events through to the Clerk very shortly. This will cover the floodlights' planning application submission; the adventure play area – where they were waiting for the design brief; and the boules court – the sub-contractor has been instructed to proceed and the Trust are waiting to hear when it is due to start. In addition, the May Fayre had made a profit of around £8,000 and the Stoke Performing Arts Group's play 'A Grandsire Went Wrong' was a resounding success and made a profit of £1,000 which will go back into the Performing Arts Group.

The Clerk said that she had received a letter on behalf of the Sports and Recreation Trust notifying the parish council that a planning application had been submitted for the floodlights.

16/110 SPORTS & LEISURE:

16/110/a Community Right to Bid:

Cllr Brooks reported that the Methodist Church council have received two other bids in addition to the Parish Council's and it could be several weeks before the parish council hear back. Cllr Donovan said that the Church is bound by charity law when considering all the bids, and determine which offers "best value" in the circumstances. The local Circuit were in favour of accepting the bid, but it would be decision made at national level.

Cllr Merrick asked the Chairman whether she had heard the news about the URC closing at the end of the year. Cllr Brooks said that the parish council had not heard officially from the URC, which was a concern, as the clock belongs to the parish, not the church and that access is needed as the clock is a parish asset and requires regular services and

maintenance. Cllr Manning informed members that it is only the services that will be stopped for the time being but the long term position is not yet known. Cllr Brooks confirmed that formal notification would be given to the church about our asset in the event of eventual sale of the property.

16/110/b Hamdon Youth Group:

No report given.

16/110/c Memorial Hall and Grounds:

The Clerk reported that there is no news on the progress of the Wi-Fi. She confirmed that she has received the Hub but until the telegraph pole is installed by Openreach the Wi-Fi cannot be connected. It was agreed to chase the matter again and to make a formal complaint.

Action Clerk

16/110/d Play Areas:

i. **Stonehill: Insurance quotes for damage to play area**

The Clerk reported that the insurer required two quotations and that she has received one from Wicksteed which has been sent to the insurers but is still waiting for a quote from Caloo. Once she has received this it will be forward on to the insurers.

The Clerk said that she had met with the representative from Caloo and he has agreed to supply a new bolt for the multiplay unit in the Memorial Hall grounds and to either supply an allen key or get the rope element repaired when he is next in the village.

ii. **Stonehill: Police report on damage to swing**

The Clerk confirmed that this had been reported to the police but unfortunately there will be no further action.

16/110/e Any Other Issues:

None declared.

16/111 **VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:**

16/111/a Allotments

The Clerk said that she had not spoken with the groundsman about the allotments or waste ground as yet.

Action Clerk

16/111/b Community Emergency Plan:

No report.

16/111/c Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:

The Clerk reported that there had been a couple of burglaries in the village and in Tintinhull. She said that she had put an article in the newsletter advising people not to leave their doors and windows open and, not to broadcast holidays on social media.

16/111/d Footpaths:

The PPLO has reported to Rights of Way footpath Y25/17 which runs behind the allotments at Furlands. The footpath is extremely overgrown and has not been cut this year. The PPLO had previously reported this footpath a couple of months ago.

16/111/e Ground Maintenance:

The Clerk reported that a resident had complained about an overgrown Elder tree in Tunwell Lane which was blocking the light to his property.

Cllr Uhlhorn said that he had sent the new tender document to the Clerk and the Clerk thanked Cllr Uhlhorn and replied that she had made some amendments and additions which they could both agree on. It was agreed that the contract would be advertised in the Western Gazette and tender documents would be sent to those contractors who had previously applied for the 2016 contract, as agreed.

Action Clerk

Cllr Uhlhorn said a tree surgeon was needed to carry out remedial work on the trees in the Memorial Hall grounds. It was agreed to obtain quotes for these trees and the Elder tree in Tunwell Lane.

Action Clerk

16/111/f Highways and Transport:

Cllr Brooks commented that the TRO'S have been signed off and were now being formally advertised.

The Clerk reported that a resident has raised concerns about the junction at Langlands and West Street. The cars parking on West Street make it impossible to see oncoming traffic approaching from the right so the resident has suggested that the cars park on the opposite side of the road. However, the Clerk pointed out that this issue has been raised before and it had been concluded that it would prove more dangerous if cars were parked on the opposite side of the road due to the camber of the Matts Lane junction and the number and type of vehicles that use this junction. Cllr Brooks stated that Highways had reviewed this junction and they had said that the white lines were not needed and would not be taking any action.

The Clerk reported that Highways have inspected the path between North Street and the A303 which leads to the garage and state that Somerset County Council's element of that path is clear and no action is planned for this financial year. However Highways will try to add it to the annual cut which will be around July 2017. The overgrown section comes under the Highways England remit. It was agreed to contact Highways England. *Action Clerk*

16/111/g Street Lighting

No report given.

16/111/h Any Other Issues:

- i. Noticeboard: Quotes for repair & re-location
The Clerk said that she has sent out 4 letters asking for quotes but has only received one response.
- ii. Railings, North Street: Quotes for repainting
As with above 4 letters asking for quotes has been sent out but only one response has been received. Cllr Merrick said she thought the railings only needed cleaning rather than painting. Cllr Donovan agreed to inspect them.
- iii. Report from Duchy regarding tree failing on car
The Clerk confirmed that the Duchy of Cornwall will be sending out an inspector to survey the trees along the bank in East Stoke.
- iv. Highways sign at the bottom of North Street.
It was noted that the brown Highways sign had still not been repaired. The Clerk said that she would chase Highways again. *Action Clerk*

16/112 FINANCE:

16/112/a Matters for Report

- i) Signatory Review: Forms from NatWest
The Clerk reported that she had not received the additional forms from NatWest.
- ii) Letter to NatWest: Amendment of direct debit instruction
The letter which had been signed the previous month had been returned as it had not been signed in accordance with the mandate. The Clerk asked for this to be re-signed.

16/112/b Matters for Resolution

i) <u>Cheques Payable:</u>			
Sarah Moore	Expenses for July & August	£ 63.56	<i>Chq 2048</i>
Stable Print & Design Ltd	August & September		
	Newsletters	£ 190.00	<i>Chq 2049</i>
A.J. White	Groundsman July & August	£ 880.00	<i>Chq 2050</i>
Duchy of Cornwall	Land Rent for Recreation Ground		
	& Allotments	£ 804.00	<i>Chq 2051</i>
Stuart Talbot	Grant towards the		
	Playdays 2016	£ 100.00	<i>Chq 2052</i>
	Total	£ 2,227.56	

Proposed: Cllr Merrick Seconded: Cllr Hart agreed unanimously

ii) Other:

A letter had been received from the Duchy of Cornwall increasing the annual rent on the allotment land from £240 p.a. to £260p p.a. plus VAT from 29th September 2016. The Clerk asked for a resolution so that she could sign and accept the increase.

Proposed: Cllr Donovan Seconded: Cllr Hart agreed unanimously

The Clerk asked if the council wanted to join the Community Council for Somerset at a cost of £40 per year. CCS offer support, access to their funding portal, training and networking opportunities, resource guidance and tool kits and 15% discount on chargeable services. A discussion was held and it was agreed that SSDC and SALC provide all these services. It was agreed not to go ahead with the subscription.

The Clerk said the amount of £75 had been allocated in the budget to the Royal British Legion for a donation and a wreath and asked for a resolution to be passed under the *Local Government Act 1972 s.137* so that payment could be made next month.

Proposed: Cllr Brooks Seconded: Cllr Uhlhorn agreed unanimously

16/113 PLANNING:

16/113/a Planning Information:

No report given.

16/113/b Parish Planning Committee Feedback on Applications:

16/02569/FUL – conversion to outbuilding to annex for ancillary/domestic rental accommodation – Hillview, 74 West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QL – no observations or objections. This application has been withdrawn.

16/03161/FUL – erection of a two storey extension to dwellinghouse – Hillview, 74 West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QL – No observations or objections.

16/02706/FUL – barn conversion to residential dwelling – Buildings at St Michaels Nursery, Mason Lane, Montacute – No observations or objections

16/03139/TPO – application to carry out tree surgery works to a Wellingtonia tree subject of the SSDC (SSH no. 1) TPO 1998 and notification of intent to carry out tree surgery to Hollies within conservation area – 6 Brocks Mount, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PJ – Information only. No comments required.

(Cllr Uhlhorn left the meeting)

16/03477/LBC – Internal and external alterations to include moving kitchen into new studio and repositioning of roof lantern – 18 North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP – This application is still under consideration and will be reported on next month.

(Cllr Uhlhorn returned to the meeting)

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

Proposed: Cllr Uhlhorn Seconded: Cllr Hart Agreed unanimously

16/113/c Planning Decisions and Reports:

APP/R3325/C/15/3138832 – Westend Stores, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon – The appeal has been withdrawn.

16/114 CORRESPONDENCE:

None declared.

16/115 MEMBERS' & CLERK'S REPORTS:

The Clerk said that a resolution has been passed at SSDC regarding condemning hate crime and SSDC wish all parish councils to make the same commitment. It was agreed to bring it to the next meeting.

16/116 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

None declared.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5th October 2016 at 7pm.