

**STOGURSEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**DRAFT - MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 13 MARCH 2018**  
**IN THE VICTORY HALL STOGURSEY**  
**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Allan Searle (Chair), Cllr James Brereton, Cllr Geoff Coles, Cllr Jill Dillamore, Cllr Ian Elenor, Cllr Chris Ford, Cllr Sue Goss, Cllr Susan Jones, Gillian Orchard (Clerk), County Councillor Hugh Davies, and 2 members of the public

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

1. Litter. A resident asked who is responsible for the lane between Back Street and High Street as it is very untidy, full of litter and debris and requires weeding. It is part of the highway and in the past the Lengthsman has cleared it, and will be asked to do so again when he returns in April. The waste bin is emptied weekly (Mondays) but it does get a lot of use. The clerk will contact the owner of Acland Hood about the rubbish situation. There are volunteers who are interested in litter picking and has asked for parish council support. The issue of dog fouling was also mentioned again
2. Speeding. A resident asked what is being done. The parish council is continuing to monitor speeding and support the community speed watch team; speeding appears excessive in Shurton as the roads are windier and a shock to pedestrians when confronted by vehicles. Hinkley police are aware and speak to their staff, however it is not always Hinkley personnel.

**189/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr C Morgan attending NNLAG in Essex.

**190/17 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9.1.18**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Elenor, seconded by Cllr Ford and AGREED for signature by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

**191/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

Cllr Seale and Cllr Ford – Agenda 19c. Parish Council financial support for new Village Hall.

**192/17 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:**

1. CCllr Davies reported that the SCC capital budget was approved, however the revenue budget was challenged by the opposition who are unsure where the cuts will be made.
2. Safer Sleep week – the Lullaby Trust are highlighting awareness about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).
3. SCC has created new posts created for Aldermen – the first four recipients have been appointed. They are former councillors in recognition for their service to the people of Somerset,
4. A new user friendly website 'Say I Do' has been set up by SCC, providing useful and essential information for people planning to get married or enter into a civil partnership.
5. Cllr Davies reported that he was asked by Cllr Goss at the last parish council meeting to find out the definitive regulations regarding the flashing lights outside the school, however Cllr Goss contacted M Evans herself to enquire. CCllr Davies was unable to obtain correct information at that time as the school was closed. He asked that in future, all requests for him to take action on behalf of the parish council are to be made in writing. Cllr Goss stated that she contacted the Head and M.Evans at SCC in her role as District Councillor. She was informed that the signs are for guidance and not enforceable; the 20mph advisory signs are only in force when the flashing lights are in operation, and that the timings were not actually as the school had originally requested. The operator has since been asked to change the timings to 08.30am and 3.15pm.

**193/17 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:**

1. Cllr Goss reported that WSC has approved a balanced budget for 2018; there will be a small increase of £5 per annum based on band D council tax.
2. An announcement on the new council is imminent and needs to be made by the end of March in order for new council to be implemented for 2019 election. A special joint meeting of the two councils will be held at the same time next week to discuss issues should the minister approve the new council.
3. There is a warding consultation (details already forwarded to councillors). The boundary commission will look at new boundaries for this area, this ward will change shape and extend to include West Quantoxhead and it is proposed to reduce to 1 district councillor to cover an increase in size and population.
4. Stogursey has been nominated to be a special task area for the new West Somerset Opportunity Area. The Government has looked at education attainment over the UK and the West Somerset area is very low; Stogursey was specially selected because of special circumstances, including its isolated location compared with the rest of the district. The Department of Education has provided extra funding to improve education attainment and aspirations of children and young people.

**194/17 POLICE REPORT**

1. The clerk checked the A&S police website – there were 4 incidents of reported crime in Jan 2018 in Stogursey.

**195/17 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST (By exception)**

1. Item 7- Cover for shelter – David Wright of Somerset Landscapes, has been asked to replace the cover with steel alloy £1527 plus VAT.

**196/17 HINKLEY POINT POWER STATIONS (GENERAL):**

Nothing to report.

**197/17 HINKLEY C COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION (CIM) UPDATE:**

1. **Village Hall.**

a. The Application for planning permission is ongoing. The Village Hall Committee still require to raise more funds.  
b. Parish council support to new Village Hall - Agenda item 19c was brought forward for early discussion.  
Cllr Ford briefly outlined the background relating to the rebuilding of the hall. Following a feasibility study, the preferred option included covering the multi-use sports area and a separate changing facility which cost approximately £2.3m. Applications to the National Lottery and Sport England were unsuccessful – this was deemed too expensive for a village hall. The plans were revisited and a new plan which provides all original preferred options (apart from cover of multi sports area), has an estimate of £1.5m. The hall committee has believed that most of the money would come from the CIM fund, but this did not turn out to be the case and they are now having to make applications to charities and raising funds locally. The CIM fund board has directed them to look to the parish council for a donation to show their commitment to the project and suggested £10k; there are a number of ways the council could raise funds – e.g. take out a loan (via the Public Works Loan Board, who lend money to councils at a low rate). The board will look at parish council accounts prior to any application to see the level of support. At the outset of the project the committee were promised professional help and expertise, however this has not materialised, and obtaining professional advice has cost more money, hence the deficit in funding. Cllr Brereton commented that any loan will be funded from precept – there is not a range of options as we only have one form of income, it will be a levy on local people.

*Cllrs Ford & Searle left the room at 1950*

Cllr Goss took the chair

The CIM fund now request elements of match funding, therefore it may be fair that that the parish council are seen to be backing the application. Ways to do this and to show confidence in the Village Hall was discussed – either obtain a loan (for either all or part of the money), add the expense to the precept, ask community to help fund raise e.g. buy a brick scheme. Cllr Brereton commented that he was not happy with the idea of a loan as the parish council does not have any assets to secure a loan apart from the ability to tax local people. The idea of a buy a brick scheme is feasible, but will need to take into account how this is administered, however a new village hall will be a great asset for local people. The clerk reported that there will be £7.5 - £10k in the account remaining at the end of the FY, after the agreed reserves are taken out. Cllr Elenor proposed that the parish council agree in principle to £10k – and allocate £5k from reserves and raise £5k another way (e.g. fund raising, or add to precept. There is money in reserve, which is for the parish and although other organisations are looking for money, it would be beneficial for members for the parish to contribute to an excellent resource that can be used by everyone. This was seconded by Cllr Jones – **ALL AGREED**.

*Cllrs Ford & Searle returned at 2000*

The clerk clarified that members unanimously agreed to award £10k in principle, £5k from reserves and to raise £5k in other ways. Cllr Ford stated that he feels this is what the CIM fund should be used for and was reluctant to have to ask the PC for funding, he and Cllr Searle thanked the parish council for their consideration and for agreeing to the funds.

**198/17 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY.**

1. It was agreed to re-advertise the vacancy within the parish once more with the intention to co-opt a new councillor at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**199/17 PLANNING:**

1. 3/32/17/015 - Replacement and improvement of sluice and outfall with protection of the rear embankment at Stolford.  
a. Cllr Goss reported that the Planning officers' advice was to approve the application in view of the time scales involved and the planning committee followed this recommendation. Although Cllr Goss asked for a deferment to conduct a site visit to look at the traffic problem, it was approved 7 votes to 3. Cllr Goss realised neither HPB, EDF nor ONR were consulted, considering the emergency road will be impacted, and raised the issue. HPB are reviewing the impact of the application on their activities and is waiting to hear if it may be revisited. Cllr Brereton thanked Cllr Goss for everything she has done on this matter and for her support the application – this issue matters to the people of Stolford.  
b. Cllr Jones reported that a provisional date for a residents meeting in Stolford has been identified for 28.3.18 but they are waiting to see whether Bristol Ports are able to attend before confirmation.

2. 3/32/18/005 – Replacement of Village Hall, car park and surrounding buildings.
3. Cllr Jones asked again about the planning application for a mobile home in Ridgeway Lane. There a number of caravans in the area and it is unknown whether they are being used as accommodation. Cllr Jones proposed, seconded by Cllr Brereton that we write to WS Council and make them aware that caravans and mobile homes are appearing and to ask them to conduct a survey of the area. **Action: Clerk**

#### 200/17 **EMERGENCY PLAN**

1. A focus group met on Wed 7 Mar 18 to review the plan. Cllr Jones has updated telephone numbers on the Flood plan and added pertinent details and numbers. Cllr Jones suggested purchasing empty hessian or polystyrene bags and filling a second bin with sand: blow up flood prevention bags are expensive. Cllr Elenor said that he will follow it up with the flood group before we spend any money. Further consideration / clarification on how and where it will be stored will be made at a future Emergency Plan meeting. **Action: Cllr Elenor**

#### 201/17 **BURGAGE RD PLAY AREA:**

1. Works Update – The work started last year is now complete, we are waiting for the funds from WSC. There is still £16k S106 money available to spend; a previous suggestion was to provide surfacing for the areas around the benches which are eroding; the clerk will make enquiries. Other suggestions included purchasing something specific that the Victory Hall requires as part of the rebuild, e.g. a sound system or projector and screen; or a table tennis top and pool table for the Youth Club – things which will be available and accessible for everyone in the parish. **Action: Clerk**
2. Planned Maintenance Schedule. A walk around the play area to clarify what work to be completed locally and what work can be directed to a contractor was agreed for 1200 on 3.4.18. **Action: Cllrs Ford, Elenor, Dillamore, Coles**

#### 202/17 **MEETING REPORTS:**

1. 15.2.18 – Community Forum. Cllr Brereton forwarded notes to councillors after the meeting. No further comments.
2. 23.2.18 – SSG. The minutes were previously circulated to councillors. No further comments.
3. 21.2.18 – Steart Forum. Cllr Jones reported the discussion was mainly on the action required as the original provision for the newts is inadequate – it has dried out, and cattle are drinking the water. They also discussed the Stolford Flood Defence scheme.
4. 22.2.18 – PCC meeting. Cllr Jones reported the PCC discussed their end of year finance and ways of raising funds to support St Peter's church now that it is listed. An architect has been to look at what needs to be completed.

#### 203/17 **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:**

1. 20.3.18 – WWQ
2. 28.3.18 – A.Coupe SPC Site visit
3. 28.3.18 (tbc) – EA presentation to residents
4. 18.4.18 – Main Site Forum
5. 3.5.18 – Transport Forum

#### 204/17 **CORRESPONDENCE (The Clerk):**

1. A list of correspondence list has been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.
2. Nether Stowey Library. Nether Stowey parish council asked whether neighbouring parish councils, whose residents use their library are willing to commit to a financial contribution to the costs of keeping the library open, if Somerset County Council opts to close it. Councillors feel that although libraries are a valuable asset, and some of our residents use their library when the mobile library is not always available, the amount quoted appears expensive. Councillors decided that at this time, the parish council is unable to financially support the library, but may be willing to reconsider if a cheaper alternative became available.
3. Bus Stop Markings. PCSO Marks emailed to say she was approached by residents who are disturbed by the EDF workers buses stopping outside their home, and asked whether lines could be painted on the road to make the bus stop more prominent. Councillors are reluctant to add further markings to the village which is a conservation area, nor do they wish to remove the facility to park there, as parking spaces are in short supply. In order to consider alternatives, it was suggested to ask EDF to collect workers in a different part of the village. Cllr Goss proposed that we ask Mark Lewis from EDF to meet with the parish council / clerk to discuss an alternative solution. **Action: Clerk**
4. Email from our MP, Ian Liddel-Granger offering to speak to parish councils – Councillors decided not to ask him to speak.
5. West Somerset Advice Bureau (WSAB). WSAB followed up their request for support for their application to the HPC Community Cohesion Fund. Councillors agreed that their work is beneficial and they are especially essential in assisting Universal Credit claimants, and providing housing advice, especially in a vulnerable community where many individuals have a mistrust of people in authority and are unable for various reasons to travel to Bridgwater. Councillors agreed to support the WSAB in principle, but asked for clarification on how the funds will actually be spent. **Action: Clerk**
6. Home Start West Somerset. Councillors agreed to invite the team to the next parish council meeting to speak to council members. **Action: Clerk**

**205/17 ENHANCEMENTS (Cllr Searle):**

1. **Dog bin.** There is still a problem with dog faeces in the parish and owners do not always pick up after their dogs. On the other hand, some dog owners are using the general litter bin which is unhygienic. Cllr Elenor reported that following the installation of a dog bin in Shurton, the situation did improve. To encourage owners to be more responsible, it was agreed to source another dog bin for Burton, add a note in Stogursey news and display posters around the parish asking dog owners to clean up after their dogs. The clerk will also provide costs of purchasing and emptying a dog bin at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
2. **Litter in the Parish.** Cllr Searle was approached by residents who wish to carry out litter picking in the parish and asked for council to support them by providing hi-vis jackets and litter pickers. The members agreed that they are doing a good job and they should be encouraged. It was agreed to purchase jackets and litter pickers. **Action: Clerk**
3. **Shurton Bars Beach.** The clerk had been in touch with EDF (Phil Manning) who suggested a joint clean up in June to coincide with the opening of the campus. Cllr Goss proposed that the clean-up should be carried out earlier, preferably April. The Clerk will contact P.Manning and arrange a meeting. **Action: Clerk**

**206/17 HIGHWAYS (Cllr Searle):**

1. Some pot holes have been filled, but others are appearing. The clerk has contacted P.Owen (Highways) to conduct a survey on the road from the village to the C182 towards Cockwood. **Action: ongoing**
2. BRPA/Allotments entrance – proposed road marking. J Sharp of Highways has responded and agreed that a 'H' marking can be put by the entrance in the next financial year.
3. Cllr Ford reported that the salt bin at the bottom of Churchyard Hill was full of rubbish. As discussed at the emergency planning meeting, a request will be made for it to be moved to the top of the hill, plus additional salt bins will be sourced.  
*Cllr Goss left the meeting at 2100*

**207/17 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – PRoW (Cllr Jones):**

1. Cllr Jones reported that S/Littler has confirmed that the stile in Shurton will be replaced.

**208/17 FINANCE (The Clerk):**

1. **Balances at 28 Feb 18.** Current A/C £2566.55, Deposit A/C £10,155.89, Reserves A/C £67,506.29.
2. **Invoices for payment.** The detail of payments for authorisation at the meeting had been circulated to all members and the following invoices were APPROVED for payment, proposed by Cllr Brereton, seconded by Cllr Elenor and two authorised signatories instructed to sign the cheques.; two payments will be made online.
  - a. **Payments made since the last meeting on 13.2.18**  
Victory Hall £120.00 Hall hire charge for IT training (Stogursey Well)

**b. Payments due**

Payee	Amount	Chq no	Details
G Orchard	£538.56	388	Clerk Salary for Feb 2018 includes £59.20. misc. expenses
HMRC	£127.00	389	Employee tax (Month 12)
G Orchard	£8.99	390	SPC Laptop case
WSC	£25.00	BACS	BRPA Lease annual fee
SALC	£30.00	BACS	Councillor training 7 Mar 18

**209/17 GROUPS AND PANELS:**

1. **Twinning Association.** The AGM was postponed due to the bad weather. It is now on Thu 15.3.18 in the Church Rooms; St Georges Day Dinner is on 21.4.18 in Victory Hall.
2. **Stagecoach AGM.** The AGM went well, there is an increase in the number of passengers using the scheme, and the team are pleased to announce that the fares will not increase.
3. **Stogursey Arts Trust.** The trust is now confirmed as a charity. The Arts Festival will be held 5-9 Sep 18 and there will be a series of events throughout the year.
4. Cllr Jones asked whether there is any further clarification whether or when SWP will collect all types of plastic waste. The clerk will write to SWP to enquire. **Action: Clerk**
5. **Employment Hub** – the first session of the computer course was well attended, and attendees found the course useful. The provider 'positive people' gave positive feedback.
6. Village Hall Committee are seeking a new Treasurer – without a treasurer the victory hall committee will fold.

**210/17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:**

1. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 April 2018 at 6.45 pm (Home Start West Somerset), 7pm (Annual Assembly) followed by the main meeting at 7.30pm in The Victory Hall.  
The meeting ended at 9.20pm.

Signed: ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....