

STOGURSEY PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018
IN THE VICTORY HALL STOGURSEY
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PRESENT:

Cllr Chris Morgan (Acting 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 3 members of the public (2 members left after Q&A)

Q&A – LEADER OF WEST SOMERSET COUNCIL – CLLR ANTHONY TROLLOPE-BELLEW

Following the announcement that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is minded to approve the proposal to create a new district council, subject to a period of further representation until 19 Jan 18, the Leader of WSC Cllr Trollope-Bellew attended the parish council meeting to answer questions. Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew gave a summary of the background of the proposal and decision to join West Somerset Council (WSC) and Taunton Deane Councils (TDC) into one new council explaining that the financial situation, which include the reduction in business rates received from Hinkley Point meant that joining together is a logical step and will enable potential savings to be made.

Cllr Trollope-Bellew answered questions on a number of subjects to include 'Why not join with Sedgemoor'; 'has budgeting and financing been looked into in great depth' and 'will services improve?' WSC is already working with TDC, there was cross party disagreement against Sedgemoor and councillors considered that geographically (apart from Stogursey) that Taunton is a more natural centre. An independent assessment by local government association has been carried out – TDC are a very sound council and £16.6m put to one site for projects. A joint council will be in a better position to work to eliminate pension shortfall, it may not completely reduce deficit, but will be able to save an additional £500k – there would be a bigger problem if WSC remained alone.

The joint council cannot guarantee an improvement in services, although they but hope to do so, by not joining they may become worse. It is recognised that income from Hinkley Point cannot be relied upon alone and the joint councils are looking at other options to fund the economic development team.

The Leader of WSC was thanked for his time.

PUBLIC FORUM:

1. A resident complained about the state of road between Stogursey and Shurton and asked what is being done. This is a highways matter and Cllr Searle will be asked to contact the Highways agency to express the concerns of the parish council and parishioners. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Searle**
2. Minehead were awarded £500k from the CIM fund towards regenerating the town. A resident asked how this compares to the amount awarded to Stogursey, who he considers are more affected than Minehead. It was suggested that Minehead has a lot of workers which may cause transport and road problems, and they were clearly able to show mitigation toward significant impact, therefore being eligible to apply for funding.
3. We were asked to take into consideration the speeding vehicles through Shurton, which has generated a lot of discussion in the past, but nothing seems to have been done and maybe to consider chicanes which appear to be a successful traffic calming measure in areas of South Somerset. The parish council shares the concern, although Speed Indicator Devices are used and the Speed watch team do what they can, we do not receive much support from SCC. The parish council will lobby HP police and Somerset county council. This issue was also discussed later in the meeting.

147/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Allan Searle (illness).

148/17 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12.12.17

The minutes were AGREED and signed by the acting Chairman

149/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:

Cllr James Brereton and Cllr Susan Jones – Planning 3/32/17/015 - Replacement and improvement of sluice and outfall with protection of the rear embankment at Stolford (minute 156/17)

150/17 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

1. CCllr Davies highlighted the issue of speeding and the opportunity to raise it at the Transport forum, however this should be a police matter. Cllr Morgan stated that SCC responsibility to work with police and communities and change speed limits to make them easier to enforce. After years of lobbying we now have 20mph outside the school and CCllr Davies is pleased that they were finally in place.

2. SCC are still waiting for the Ofsted re-inspection report – the full report is expected in late January 2018.
3. Dry January. Drinkers are encouraged to take a break during January. The campaign by 'Alcohol Concern' is aimed at social drinkers.
4. On 8.12.17, SCC successfully won a prosecution against a utility company who were fined £3000 for three offences relating to unauthorised roadworks.
5. Taunton Park and Ride ended its Saturday service on 30.12.17. Buses of Somerset will continue to operate a service for Musgrove Park hospital from the town centre (bus no 9 every 20 minutes between 7.30am - 8pm; stand F, at Taunton Bus Station).
6. Review of Community Speed Indicator Device (SID) provision. Provision will end on 3.3.18; the cost of contribution from parish councils depending on the number of participating councils could range from £100 - £500 (discussed further at minute 160/17.2)
7. SCC has purchased two new 12 seater minibuses for ATWEST (Minehead slinky service). Cllr Goss asked whether this will mean the slinky bus will be able to return to Stogursey, CCllr Davies will enquire.

151/17 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:

1. Cllr Morgan

Cllr Morgan expressed concern at Nigel Cann's comments (at the EDF Christmas reception) on the 'phantom' fly parking issue in Stogursey. It was suggested that registration numbers should also be forwarded to Nigel Cann.

2. Cllr Goss

1. Cllr Goss reported that the increase of HGVs will start soon, it appears that most of £4m mitigation, will be mainly spent in Bridgwater and suggested we lobby for some to be directed to Stogursey.
2. Laybys have been closed for safety, since they have closed, HGVs and buses do not seem to be parking elsewhere. It is hoped that when the laybys are reinstated, said vehicles will not need to use them.
3. New Council – nothing further to add. We will know in due course whether the application to join together is approved.

152/17 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST (By exception)

1. Item 7- Cover for shelter – David Wright of Somerset Landscapes, the original supplier has provided a quote of £1,586 plus VA to replace the plastic cover - if carried out at same time as the other work in BRPA. If completed separately there is an additional £100 charge. Councillors feel that is it a lot of money to spend at the risk of further damage. The shelter was one of the main items the children requested even though it was damaged, it was agreed to refurbish the shelter this time, but if it is damaged again, it may be removed completely. We are still waiting for a quote for a metal cover, however Cllr Jones proposed, seconded by Cllr Elenor that a quote for a metal cover will be obtained elsewhere, before a decision is made. ALL AGREED **Action: Clerk/Cllr Morgan**

153/17 HINKLEY POINT POWER STATIONS (GENERAL):

1. With relation to increased vehicle movements, Otterhampton Parish Council (OPC) wrote to Patrick Flaherty, CEO Somerset County Council, outlining their disappointment in the decision without consultation and due regard to affected communities. A group (Quantock Cluster) made up of local parish councils who are affected by HP and/or transport routes have been given a slot to put questions forward at the Transport Forum workshop. Cllr Brereton and Cllr Goss will attend and also raise issues. It is not known what mitigation will be available, as it appears most will be directed in Bridgwater, but maybe we can ask for assistance with our flooding issues or increasing frequency of the HPC community bus. OPC has received a response to their letter, which will be forwarded to councillors. **Action: Clerk**

154/17 HINKLEY C COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION (CIM) UPDATE:

1. **Village Hall.** Cllr Ford stated no further new movements to report. An outline image has been produced and sent to Stogursey News for publication

155/17 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY.

1. There has been no response to the request for an election notice, so the council can go ahead and co-opt a new councillor at the next meeting; however there has not been any response so far.
NB. Post meeting minute. The vacancy will need to be filled within 60 days otherwise we will need to re-advertise.

156/17 PLANNING:

1. 3/32/17/015 - Replacement and improvement of sluice and outfall with protection of the rear embankment at Stolford
 - a. Following valid points raised regarding transport plans, Cllr Morgan asked whether this issue be put before the planning committee, if not too late, to address concerns of residents living along access roads. It may be possible to put forward certain potential conditions which will highlight problems to committee members. When equipment is required, it is expected to come in via Steart. A resident close to the site is opposed to the plan he has conducted research and considers that the system is adequate. Residents were offered different possibilities, similar to that

already in situ; however the current proposal is not supported. There are also concerns that when the shingle ridge is removed, whether the bank will be sufficient. It was suggested that we question the fitness of purpose for their proposal as this is not their preferred, but possibly the only version that the EA can afford, Is the best they can do or the best option for the residents. It was agreed that the parish council write with concerns about traffic management and request it go to committee. **Action: Cllr Morgan**

- b. There has not been a response from the EA to Cllr Jones' email requesting another visit to Stolford or a parish council meeting. Cllr Jones will chase the EA. **Action: Cllr Jones**

157/17 BURGAGE RD PLAY AREA:

1. Works Update – The tarmac link path has now been completed by C J Lynch. The edges of the grass verge / bank surrounding the path will need to be finished off with grass seed or turf. To be discussed at the BRPA PMS meeting. The springers are due to be delivered this month and will be fitted in due course, along with the picnic table/benches.
2. Planned Maintenance Schedule. A proposed schedule was previously forwarded for perusal to councillors. It was agreed to hold a meeting at 7pm on Mon 15 Jan 18 at the Youth Club to discuss a plan of action. **Action: Clerk**

158/17 MEETING REPORTS:

Nothing to report

159/17 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

1. 10.1.18 – MSF
2. 24.1.17 - WSFG
3. 1.2.18 – Transport Forum
4. 23.2.18 – SSG
5. 28.2.18 – Stagecoach AGM
6. 3.5.17 – Transport Forum

160/17 CORRESPONDENCE (The Clerk):

1. Somerset Prepared newsletter (by email)
The newsletter highlighted a suggestion to provide a Community Support contact; and the availability of funding for a defibrillator as long as an Emergency plan was in place or being worked on. The current emergency plan requires updating, and may require a sub group. Cllr Brereton agreed to work with Cllr Jones to complete it. This issue will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Once progress starts, details of community support contacts and a funding request can be completed. **Action: Clerk**
2. Termination of current SID programme. Email from Dave Grabham, with estimated costs of scheme if making a financial contribution towards installation costs, depending on take up from other parishes. Councillors agreed that a SID is ineffective as results show that there is not a major issue in our parish, and have decided not to towards a SID scheme. Apart from reminding people of the speed limit in the area, no further action is taken as a result of the SID in the parish and councillors are therefore reluctant to spend public money on an issue that does not affect those who speed. Councillors feel that the police should be lobbied to take a more active role in monitoring speed in the parish. The response received to previous requests at the Transport forum, is that there is a dedicated HP team, however in practice, they are rarely in the parish as they cover a large area. It was agreed that the Parish Council will put more pressure on police to dedicate more time in the parish and to invite HP police team and NDA (Magnox) to attend a future parish council meeting. **Action: Clerk**
3. Stear Marshes – request for parish council support to CIM fund application. They are aiming to erect a multipurpose building, to include an office for training volunteers, to house maps and information leaflets for site, and a noticeboard promoting local businesses for visitors' onward travel. Our support for a structure in the area will result in advertising for Stogursey local businesses. Cllr Elenor proposed that we offer our support, seconded by Cllr Morgan. ALL AGREED. Cllr Jones will ask Steart Marshes to contact the clerk with information for her to produce a letter of support. **Action: Cllr Jones / Clerk**
4. **Received / Sent - general**
 - a. Notification of External Auditor Appointment for 2017/18 Financial Year. A new External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn LLB) has been appointed for a 5 year period commencing financial year 2017/18.
 - b. Somerset Activity Sports Partnership – Request for CIM funding support for Physical Activity in Stogursey. The group (Jane Knowles) will be invited to the next meeting to speak to councillors. **Action: Clerk**
 - c. Toddlers Group - Request for grant – letter sent to J Hill requesting details of attendee numbers at each group.
Clerks & Councils Direct – available to councillors to read on request
 - d. Email – transformation of District Councils – consultation until 19 Jan 18 (discussed above).

161/17 ENHANCEMENTS (Cllr Searle):

- 1. Nothing to report

162/17 HIGHWAYS (Cllr Searle):

- 1. Nothing to report.

163/17 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – PRoW (Cllr Jones):

- 1. Cllr Goss reported that old stiles in Burton /Shurton replaced by Kissing and Bristol gates, which is a vast improvement. However access is difficult at a few of them because slopes are muddy and steep: Cllr Goss has contacted S.Littler and requested steps. She has also reported a broken Bristol gate at “Muddy” Lane aka “Pigtail” Lane which has been tied up to prevent clanging in the wind.
- 2. The Southern Boundary works in the area of the footpath between Benhole Bridge and the Pumping Station Bridge were completed just before Christmas and the temporary PROW protective covering removed. This has caused problems, as the surface which was left in a poor condition as a result of heavy vehicle use, has since become a quagmire and impassable at times. SCC PROW manager has suggested EDF install a medium duty surfacing but HPC are unwilling and propose to continue to use ineffective bark chippings whilst waiting for the ground to dry.

164/17 FINANCE (The Clerk):

- 1. **Balances at 31 Dec 17.** Current A/C £4,102.96, Deposit A/C £18,654.47; Reserves A/C £68,350.71.
- 2. **The following invoices were APPROVED for payment,** proposed by Cllr Morgan, seconded by Cllr Elenor and two authorised signatories instructed to sign the cheques.
 - a. **Payments made since the last meeting on 14.11.17**
J Munro £110.00 378 Clearance of brash/weeds from Castle Street Flood scheme
 - b. **Payments due**
Victory Hall £3000.00 379 Youth Club donation
G Orchard £560.37 380 Clerk Salary for Dec 17 includes £52.37 misc. expenses
HMRC £127.00 381 Employee tax (Month 10)
A Searle £145.00 382 Chairman expenses (Sep – Dec 17)
- 3. **Budget Monitoring Statement 31.12.17.** Councillors had no comments or questions. An inspection of the accounts will be carried out by Cllr Ford later this week.

165/17 GROUPS AND PANELS:

- 1. Employment Hub – will have representatives attending to discuss organising a computer course for beginners. There is an issue with trying to get internet connection in the Greyhound. It is primarily for people seeking employment, but team will enquire whether it will be suitable for all ages. Keep an eye out for the dates. Cllr Dillamore wished to thank the Greyhound Pub for their hospitality and work to support the community
- 2. Twinning Association. The quiz in Church Rooms went well. There was also a successful Wassail – a good turnout and a lot of new faces.
- 3. Arts Festival. Planning has started to discuss this year’s Festival.
- 4. Stogursey Knockout quizzers. Cllr Morgan expressed thanks to the quiz members, who, as a result of their monthly quizzes throughout the year, raised a sum of over £1200 which was sent to Nether Stowey First Responders.

166/17 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:

- 1. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 7.15pm (Public Forum) followed by the main meeting at 7.30pm in The Victory Hall.
The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: