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| Stoke St Mary Parish Council | | |
| **Date of Meeting:**  Thursday 19th July 2018 7:30 pm  At SSM Village Hall | | **Written by:**  Gemma Coombes (Parish Clerk) |

# Minutes

**Councillor’s Present**

**In attendance**

Gemma Coombes – Parish Clerk

Parishioners x 2

Vic Freir,

Nigel Wright,

Patricia Fallance

William Coombes

Mike Farrell

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

The chairman opens the meeting and thanks people for attending.

1. **Apologies**

Mike Baddeley sends his apologies

Rob Hossell sends his apologies

John Thorne sends his apologies

John Williams sends his apologies

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Nigel Wright declares an interest in the Dust and Noise at Greenway farm on the agenda. William Coombes declares and interest in the A358 and J25 due to land owned at Haydon.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes from the 17th of May 2018 were taken and read. Proposed by Vic Freir Seconded by Patricia Fallance all in favour. Signed by Chairman

1. **Matters Arising**
   1. ***Play park fencing***

Our local contractor has been reminded yet again and is not forthcoming with a quote. We may need to look for another contractor to carry out some of this work.

* 1. **Defibrillator installation**

This is waiting for the qualified electrician and Vic will continue to chase this.

* 1. **Dust and noise from Greenway farm – update**

Environmental health and TDBC have been chased up. It is said he is on the move to Church Farm. John Williams has sent an update to Planning gave them a time frame for applying for planning and there have been a few issues surrounding this and it could have taken another 3 months to get this sorted via planning. There is going to be an environmental person come around to look at dust and there are also some noise detectors coming out to see how large the noise is.

* 1. **Play park inspection**

Have not heard from them yet for a date of the inspection

* 1. **Allotments**

We have one untidy allotment. Parsons have been asked and not done anything yet. William Coombes will have a look to see if it can be topped with the tractor.

* 1. **Sale of Crown Estates in and around parish**

There is a concern that the land bankers will be buying a large amount of land around here and apply to develop it. There is due to be a legislation passed to stop land banks but we don’t know if this legislation will be passed in time. This is just to inform the local residents.

* 1. **Ultrafast broadband**

John Williams said he is talking to Gigaclear who are supposed to come and talk to parishes. We may need to host for several parishes.

* 1. **Chairman award nominations**

Nominations for people who contribute significantly to the parish for 12 months or more. There were 3 nominations:

* Colin the postman who goes the extra mile by checking people are safe.
* Stephanie Crocket for doing work to the garden and the chapel.
* Rob Hossell for his significant contributions regarding the A358 discussions with Highways England

A vote was taken and Rob Hossell received 4 of the 5 votes. This work was performed before Rob joined the Parish Council. While this should be OK, the Chairman will contact SCC to ensure to confirm.

This will be further discussed by email to make the final decision.

* 1. **Storage and disposal of Parish Council Documents**

We need to look through all the paperwork and dispose of it in accordance with the guidance for records documents from the Somerset Heritage Centre. We will meet in August to go through and sort it out.

* 1. **Ruishton & Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan Consultation – 20th Sep**

On Thursday the 20th of September, they plan to show their neighbourhood plan and our position has not changed on not needing a plan of our own. We would like to send a representative of our council, but this is the same date as our normal council meeting. Vote to leave the meeting date as it is and send a representative all in favour of this. Mike Baddeley has been suggested as a good representative.

* 1. **Ward boundaries for Somerset West & Taunton Deane**

The boundaries are all changing and there is not much we can do about it. They are trying to level out the number of residents for the wards and councillors. There will only be 56 councillors. Stoke St Mary has been incorporated into the North Curry ward. This is not ideal, but, while we can send an objection, it needs to be based on logic and not simply that “we do not want to.

* 1. **Taunton Transport Strategy Consultation**

Nothing in the strategy that is directly affecting us and is based around the town centre. Most of this was computer generated and of no interest to us

1. **Finance** 
   1. ***Account balances***
2. Current account - £7,685.34
3. Deposit account - £10,725.87
   1. ***Remittances*** 
      * HMRC VAT Reclaim £329.10
   2. ***Invoices for payment***

Parish clerk read out the invoices and asked if we can seek approval at the end for all. All in favour of doing this. All invoices were Proposed by Vic Freir and Seconded by Mike Farrell. Vote and all in favour

* + - Parish Clerk wages £194.10 plus expenses of £15.00 Total £209.10
    - Parsons Landscapes field cut x2 for June £88.66
    - SALC Affiliation 2018 £123.07

1. **Planning**
   1. ***Current planning applications***

*Chicken barns at Haydon, no objections*

* 1. ***Enforcement Proceedings***

*None*

* 1. ***Other planning matters***

*None*

1. **Highways** 
   1. **Road maintenance (Potholes etc)**

They have filled some of the deeper potholes (>6” deep) and not the others, because they do not meet criteria. Then they come back and fill those when they eventually meet the criteria!!.

* 1. **Grass verges around the village**

They have been cut but they are only doing small cuts due to it being about road safety.

* 1. **Use of Stoke Hill by LGVs**

Closure of road at Greenway lane, the diversion signs were originally incorrect then they were changed after a large lorry went that way at 4am and caused damage to the road on both sides. They asked for a no HGV sign and they said it will take to long.

1. **A358 Proposal**

2nd of July was a meeting and highways have agreed to have a pre-consultation meeting to set the terms of reference, each parish will be represented.

1. **J25 Employment site**

The farm close to J25 has now been purchased and the proposed plans are ongoing.

1. **School**

Ofsted have been in and we are awaiting the official result

1. **Policing**

No information, no police have been seen.

1. **Village Hall**

Is being well used currently.

1. **County and District Councillors reports**
   1. **County councillors report**. – John Thorne

Councillor Thorne sent a report that the Chairman read out. The summary of which is:

* Budget – Finances are the number one topic at the moment in SCC. A report earlier this month projected a £12 million overspend by the end of the year
* Value for Money (VFM) – I sit on the council’s audit committee, which next Thursday has the task of signing-off the council’s accounts for the 2017-18 financial year. I am aware that of the three ratings which the auditors could give, they have given us the worst possible rating, which is termed ‘adverse’. At the same time, we have no control over the demand for people-led services such as adult social care and children’s care
* Broadband – It looks as if Gigaclear is starting to do what it is being paid the best part of £75 million of public money to do – you may be aware of a number of temporary road closures coming up in Corfe, Pitminster, and Churchinford, which will allow them to lay their fibre network. They are starting next month, nearly a year after they said they were going to. HGVs and Stoke Hill – Jo Sharp is going to arrange to meet parish councillors shortly to discuss this issue and I hope to attend also.
* Sheltered housing care – county is changing the way it commissions this care. From October when the current contracts run out, instead of giving the money to housing providers to fund care providers, it is investing in Community Connect, a network of micro providers of care which has been trialled in West Somerset and won an award for its success.

This will mean that care can be delivered to anybody who needs it whether or not they live in sheltered housing. It will enable people to live in their own homes for longer by providing help with things like filling in forms, shopping, etc.

* Planning control service – this is not the same as the Deane council’s planning function. County deal with major schemes such as roads, M5 J25, quarries, and of course we give advice to district councils on highways aspects of planning applications. Currently, I can only describe the service as being in crisis.
* Libraries – A summary of the outcomes of the public consultation on libraries came to my scrutiny committee last week, with the actual recommendations due to come to scrutiny in October before going to cabinet about a week later for final decisions to be taken.
  1. **District Councillors report** – John Williams

No report sent to us from councillor Williams.

1. **Correspondence**

Local Government Boundary Commission

Seafarers UK newsletter and merchant navy day information

1. **Other Village Matters/ Topics for next agenda**

* Newsletter: This fell into disuse due to lack of input, but this is something that is now being looked at being brought back to life, with a proposal that it is issued on an every few months basis. There are questions around how to get this out there. This is about co-ordinating new ways of connecting with people & giving people updates of what is happening. It needs to be made sustainable. In principle we are all in agreement. Proposed by WC and seconded by MF to allow £500 in principle to this project.
* Flag and flagpole to be discussed at next meeting
* There was concern that diverted water could be moved if there was anything done to the drain in the bridleway. This is not happening and is totally unfounded. It is maintained by SCC.
* There is some disruption in Pattons & neighbours have been falling out. This needs to be dealt with by housing
* Finger posts. Vic to contact someone to get a quote on to sort finger posts to go on next agenda
* Refuse collections – Have been missed for 6 weeks consecutively on Stoke Hill, which has been a major issue and when a resident calls, they have been collecting from that person only. There is a large amount of plastics that will not be collected.

1. **NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday 20th September 2018, 7.30pm, STOKE ST MARY VILLAGE **HALL**