**Stowey Sutton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at**

7.30pm on Wednesday 1st February 2017, The Link, Bishop Sutton

[www.stoweysuttonpc.org](http://www.stoweysuttonpc.org)

PRESENT: Councillors K Betton (Chairman), H Clewett (Vice Chair), E Balmforth, R Brent, R Brewer, E Daly, P Gleave, L Kingston, J Knibbs, and District Councillor V Pritchard

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE J Howell (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor C Brookes and B Braidley, and accepted.

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were none.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting dated 4th January 2017 were approved.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

1. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Liz Kingston to her first meeting as a Councillor.

The Clerk reported that Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA) would deliver a two-hour training session to the whole Parish Council at a cost of £200 and proposed the evening of Wednesday 22nd March 2017 to start at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church. The session will cover ‘Being a Good Councillor’ and will be tailored to cover the requirements of both new and existing members. This course represents good value compared to the standard cost of £60 per councillor.

RESOLVED

The cost of training will be added to the March Parish Council Meeting agenda for consideration. The Clerk will write to Cllrs C Brookes and B Braidley to update them on the date and time proposed.

1. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

A report was provided from Cllr Gleave following a meeting at Chew Valley School around assets of community value. This Community Right allows defined community groups, including Parish Councils, to ask the Council to register certain assets as being of “community value”. This is designed to give communities more opportunities to take control of the assets and facilities important to them and if an asset is listed and then comes up for sale, the new right could give communities a total of 6 months to put together a bid to buy it. Discussion took place around barriers to such proposals including the generation of the capital required and negotiating any offer because the owner is not obliged to sell the asset to the community group. The demands required of volunteer support to staff or run such assets was also discussed. Councillor Gleave also highlighted that the registration of any such asset would have to be balanced against the impact on the relationship with the owner. Assets of most value to the community are the village shop (containing the post office) and the pub. With the increase in residents due to development it was hoped that both would remain viable businesses and therefore not be at risk of closure. In conclusion, the Parish Council are interested in the scheme but at present have no plans to take any further action.

1. A. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

 B. RESULTS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

1. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

The District Councillor V Pritchard provided a report to the Parish Council. The budget has been presented to the scrutiny panels and considered by Council’s cabinet. On some of the wider issues affecting the District, Bath Community Academy will be closing as of next year. The preferred site for the new Park and Ride has been identified (as site B) on the East of Bath. This site is not in the Councils ownership and negotiations have been underway for a year with the owners but Site F has been identified as a fall-back site. Both offer the potential for connection to rail. The Council are gradually completing their manifesto commitments. The Council are looking to generate another 7,000 jobs and the park and ride will release some of the pressure. Work on the new Park and Ride will commence within the life of the current administration.

The District Councillor also reported back on the investigation into diverting the footpath at Little Hayes which links from Stowey to the A368. This has previously been reported as being overgrown at the January Parish Council Meeting and had been cut back by Bath Ramblers and repairs made to the existing stiles. The Rights of Way Officer had informed the Parish Council that the footpath was not strictly under their responsibility and future maintenance would have to be met by the Parish Council themselves.

The diversion would join the A368 at the Stowey crossroads thereby avoiding walking along a busy main road and providing a safer walking route. The District Councillor has established that a diversion would be acceptable to the Council, that the Council would not be obliged by law to notify the landowner but would do so as a courtesy. In any case the proposed diversion would likely be welcomed as it is a shorter route across the land. This item will be set as an agenda item for the March Parish Council Meeting to determine whether the Parish Council wish to pursue such course of action. The cost would be £3-4,000 but would enable the overgrown section cleared by Bath Ramblers to be adopted by B&NES Council. District Councillor reported that there may be the ability to fund this through membership allowance.

RESOLVED
That the request to divert the footpath at Little Hayes will be considered as an agenda item for the March meeting.

1. HEDGEROWS, ROADS, PAVEMENTS AND DITCHES / DRAINS

A Councillor raised the road sign for Bonhill Way has gone missing and this has come to notice as a resident on Bonhill Road has been bombarded with people attempting to deliver parcels for Bonhill Way.

A pothole on Ham Lane near the telecoms manhole is now in excess of half a metre across.  A second pothole on Ham Lane at the junction with the main road right in the centre of the road is also causing issues for road users turning right.

A broken drain was reported which is a double drain at the top of Sutton Hill Road opposite Whitecross. The drain is completely blocked and sewerage was reported to be running down the hill. The drainage is a long standing issue and has been a problem for 8-9 years resulting in this stretch of road never drying out and being trecherous in the bad weather.

RESOLVED
That the Clerk will request B&NES Highways reinstate the sign for Bonhill Way and request the drainage on Ham Lane be investigated and pot holes be addressed.

1. FOOTPATHS

An update on the activity of the Bath Ramblers to clear the overgrown footpath at Little Hayes was provided.

1. FINANCES

The Parish Council were asked to consider whether they would support the Clerk to undertake the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training at a cost of £250 to register which would be split equally with Cameley Parish Council.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council will pay £125 to the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) for the Clerk to register for CiLCA.

The following cheques were approved and signed:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **February 2017 PCM** |   |
| Clerk Wages | £278.71 |
| Clerk Expenses | £3.79 |
| Cleaner Wages | £210.55 |
| Filers Coaches (5 weeks surgery bus Jan 17) | £125.00 |
| HMRC (Tax on salaries) | £69.60 |
| New Leaf (Millen Garden and V Hall) | £125.00 |
| Oak Accountancy (Payroll 30 Sept-31 Dec 16) | £76.80 |
| Stowey House Farm (disinfectant) | £16.90 |
| SLCC (CiLCA Registration 50% of fee) | £125.00 |
|   |   |
| **Total payments to approve at February PCM** | **£1,031.35** |

The details of the current financial situation were reported and after payment of authorised cheques:

Current Account: £789.12

Reserve Account: £64,133.05

RESOLVED:

That £1,000 would be transferred from the Reserve Account to the Current Account.

1. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is on **Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 7.30pm at The Link, Bishop Sutton.**

A Surgery is also held from 7.15pm onwards where members of the public are welcome to attend and speak to their Councillors in the Baptist Church.

The meeting was concluded at 8.12pm.

Signed: ............................................................... Date: ...........................................