

**Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council held at Appley Pavilion on
Tuesday 3rd March 2020**

Parish Councillors present: Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM)
Simon Buttars (SB)
Pat Sweet (PS)
Matt Vellacott (MV)

Others present:- 8 parishioners and 1 member of the public

Item	Action
1. Apologies for Absence District Councillor Dave Mansell, Clive Wall (CW)	
2. Declarations of Interest Nil	
3. Minutes of Last meeting These were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
4. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere CW had contacted the PCSO with reference to the speed of quarry lorries and she had told him that she had spoken to the quarry manager who had agreed to tell the drivers to slow down. A letter has been sent to local farmers about mud on the roads.	
5. Police Report Nothing of note	

<p>6. Land at Appley Cross</p> <p>The Chairman informed the Council that a meeting had been held with the Chairmen of the Rural Community Initiative, Stawley Community Association, and a Councillor from Ashbrittle to determine what could be done to prepare a case for buying the land at Appley Cross which is coming up for auction on the 31st March. After that meeting Somerset West and Taunton District Council had been approached with a view to a combined bid for the land. The result of that approach had initially been positive but on the 3rd March had become less so because of the lack of time before the 31st March in which to prepare a case for the purchase. The discussion was then opened to the floor.</p> <p>Reasons to buy the land were put forward including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being able to eventually put through a footpath between the School and Pavilion • Building a car park for the use of the School • Providing land for affordable housing • Other community use <p>After discussion the Councillors decided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk of buying land at above its agricultural value and then not being able to do anything with the land because of planning and access constraints was too great to justify a bid higher than the £60,000 that had already been offered. • A member of the Council will attend the auction to try and identify the purchaser. • The purchaser, if any, will be approached to determine whether they would wish to sell or grant some land for the required footpath and possibly affordable housing site. 	<p style="text-align: right;">PM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PM</p>
<p>7. The Globe Inn</p> <p>The Globe Inn has closed. It is known that the freeholder is wishing to sell the property. The Chairman briefed the meeting on the steps which would have to be taken by the Council should we wish to activate the “Community Right to Bid”. After discussion with the floor the Councillors decided that it was unlikely that the local community would be able to support a bid for the pub because of the multitude of other events and locations for community events that can be found in Stawley and adjoining parishes. The Chairman was tasked to inform the freeholder of this position.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">PM</p>
<p>8. Appley Pavilion Support</p> <p>The Pavilion Committee has approached the Council asking for financial support to repair the roof of the Cob Hut and maintain the car park. The Council agreed in principle that it would provide 50% of the cost of these items subject to a financial case being submitted at a future meeting when the grant is required.</p>	

<p>9. VE Day – 8th May 2020</p> <p>No further action will be taken by the Parish Council. It was agreed at the December 2019 meeting that the Council could support any event financially when more is known about Pavilion plans.</p>	
<p>10. Broadband Offer</p> <p>The Chairman briefed the meeting on the results of discussions with Technological and Openreach. The former is probably only going to provide a network as far as Bathealton but knows of our interest should they decide to come further south. Discussions with Openreach are ongoing but the initial estimate of cost for Stawley and Ashbrittle was about £280k for connection of 109 properties. Even if all these properties signed up for the connection this would result in a deficit of between £100k and £150k after taking up the available grants. As only 35% of the property owners had registered an interest in being connected to fibre this deficit could be much larger. The Council decided that it would continue to watch and wait for any further schemes to connect rural remote properties to fibre but would not pursue the Openreach offer unless there was considerably more sign up from property owners.</p>	
<p>11. Brookbank</p> <p>The Chairman informed the meeting that the police had visited Brookbank following a number of incidents in Kittisford over the past few months. Any further incidents should be reported to the police.</p>	
<p>12. Employment Local Development Order (LDO) for small scale Industrial space</p> <p>The Council considered the local implications of this LDO should it be accepted by the District Council. It decided that the advantages that might accrue to local people through providing small scale employment opportunities outweighed the risks of over development. The Chairman was asked to make a return to the District Council supporting the initiative.</p>	<p>PM</p>
<p>13. Proposal for Unitary Authority within Somerset</p> <p>After an initial flurry of media coverage and e-mails from the Councils, this possibility has receded. No action will be taken by the Parish Council at this time.</p>	
<p>14. Finance</p> <p>The balance in the account is £8,877.35. A further VAT Refund of £95 has been received.</p> <p>Some salt had been purchased by the Council before the County had put out salt bags.</p>	
<p>15. Planning</p> <p>No recent applications had been made.</p>	

<p>16. Reports from Members</p> <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prices for the refurbishment of the finger posts at the corner by the entrance to Meadowmere and at Appley Cross were still being sought. <p>Footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The footpath from Kittisford up to Appley may be blocked. This will be checked. 	<p>SB</p> <p>PM</p>
<p>17. Correspondence</p> <p>Nil</p>	
<p>18. Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p>	

Meeting closed at 8:30pm

Next meeting: 7th April 2020