

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF STOW LONGA PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT ST.
BOTOLPH'S PARISH CHURCH ON MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2013 AT 8 PM**

Present: Councillors Hayes (Chairman) presiding, Butcher and Young and the Clerk (Mr D Stowell).

001/13 Apologies for absence . Cllrs Allen and Humfries

002/13 Declarations of Interest - none

003/13 Public Open Forum . not required.

004/13 Planning

No new planning applications or LPA decisions had been received

005/13 Minutes of Meeting held 10 December 2012 were approved and signed

006/13 Matters arising from minutes (not on the agenda) - none

007/13 Finance

Quarterly Budget Review and bank reconciliation - The Clerk presented a statement of receipts and payments to 31 December 2012 and the bank reconciliation at that date. After discussion it was resolved that it be accepted as evidence that the accounts are being correctly maintained.

Payments . none due

Parish element of the 2013/14 tax arising from the proposed precept.

The Clerk reported that an increase in the occupancy level of properties would have increased the Tax Base (number of band D equivalent properties) from 64 to 65 but the introduction of the locally administered Council Tax Support will reduce it back to 64. These figures and a proposed grant of £.89 to the Parish Council intended to mitigate the effect of the reduced tax base (in our case nil) are expected to be approved by the District Council's Cabinet on 24 January.

It was noted that with a £3,300 Precept and Tax base 64, the parish element of band D tax will be £51.56 (unchanged from 2012/13).

Confirmation of the budget and precept for 2013/14

It was resolved to make no change to the budget agreed at the November meeting and that, subject to notification being received by the Clerk that Cabinet approved the scheme for calculating the parish element of Council Tax at its meeting on 24 January, the Clerk should immediately notify HDC that the Precept for 2013/14 is £3,300. In the event that the scheme is modified HDC will be advised that the Precept is subject to revision at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

008/13 Speed Limit Proposal

It was noted that the 30 mph speed limit proposal will be implemented by CCC in the current financial year, funded from the CCC 2012/13 Minor Improvement Budget along with the Parish Council's agreed 10% contribution.

009/13 Assets and infrastructure

Health and Safety

Village Green . Cllr Butcher reported that his attention had been drawn to signs of severe subsidence of the ground surrounding the cover of the old village well on the village green. The Clerk was asked to obtain confirmation of ownership, and to contact the responsible authority to arrange an inspection and rectify the problem.

In the event that the Parish Council is confirmed as the owner, he is to seek advice / estimates from relevant experts including the Council's insurers.

010/13 Progress of current projects

Project	Report	Action by
Tree for Peggy & Ray Convine	2/3 trees are to be planted to replace a dead tree on the northern boundary of the churchyard. The work remains to be carried out	M. Hayes
Post box	Royal Mail stated on 20/5/12 that they were still looking into the proposal to move the post box. Messages were sent to them on 21/9/12 & 7/1/13 chasing a reply, but without result. It is intended to repaint the existing wall box, whether or not it remains in use.	Clerk D Baugh
Phone Box	Repainting will continue when the weather is suitable.	S Butcher & others
Village Cross	Awaiting information where examples of Interpretation Boards may be viewed. Funding Application process to be started.	Clerk / QC Clerk
Church alterations to facilitate community use.	On hold	
Repairs to village road surfaces	Faults to be identified and reported to CCC for repair	Members & Clerk

011/13 Correspondence

Sheep worrying . a letter from Chris Corbett (who keeps sheep in the area) regarding attacks on sheep by dogs belonging to a resident of the village was noted. Members were asked to report any dogs roaming loose to him or the police.

012/13 Any Other Business

Highway problem, Spaldwick Road

County Highways to be asked to investigate whether the gullies down the hill from Stow Longa village towards Spaldwick can be re-engineered to minimise the bumps which motorists try to avoid and also to reduce the amount of water that bypasses them.

013/13 Next Meeting

February 18 (Reserve) or March 18

The reserve date will only be used in the case of urgent business which cannot wait until the next full meeting.

In the absence of any further business the meeting closed at 8.34 pm