

**STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on**  
**27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 starting at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Peter Rhodes, John McEntee (Chair), Dan White, Amanda Taylor, Keith Hambly, Anna Mearns, Simon Collins, Phil Howard and Matthew Rice

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

**1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence

**3. Absent**

No Councillors were absent

**4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

**(a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda**

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.

**(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests**

Cllr Anna Mearns has a written request for dispensation in relation to the Millennium Wood for four years (expires September 2027). Cllr Keith Hambly has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael Community Field for one year (expires October 2025). Cllr Amanda Taylor has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael Community Field, Stoke St Michael Community Events and Stoke St Michael Woodland Group for four years (expires January 2028)

**(b) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate

**5. Public Session.**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports**

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report.

**7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

**8. Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.**

**(a) 2025/0330/HSE** To reinstate one fireplace, install a wood-burning stove, insert a flue and make minor alterations to an existing chimney. The Mill, Mill Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** Due to the tight deadlines and the request for an extension being refused the recommendation was made by delegation and the recommendation was to approve.

**(b) 2025/0460/HSE** Add a window to the north elevation and a roof-light to the west facing roof (part retrospective). Cooks Farm Cottage, Partmans Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval as there were no objections.

- (c) **2025/0461/LBC** Re-rendering, reinstatement of porch, window replacement and alterations. Fosse House, Fosse Road, Oakhill. **Recommendation** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval.

**9. Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council**

- (a) **2024/2124/HSE** Erection of two-storey side extension and porch. Stoke Lodge, Susannas Lane to Dark Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

**10. To Be Resolved / Discussed**

- (a) **To consider the proposal for the installation of a 40mph speed limit in Withybrook and to seek the Council's approval to allocate funding in the range of £5,000 to £10,000 to implement this measure**

The Council **RESOLVED** not to proceed with the speed limit in Withybrook as further research was required.

Cllr Dan White proposed an amendment to the proposal to carry out a speed survey along the road to obtain data for vehicle use, this was seconded by Cllr Phil White. The Council **RESOLVED** to obtain prices for a speed survey, this will be brought back to the next meeting.

Cllr Peter Rhodes was thanked for his hard work and research.

- (b) **To consider the quote from Somerset Council and approve the cost to empty the litter bins and dog waste bins within the village. Cost for the nine bins in the parish would be £3042 + VAT a year.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approved the costs to empty the litter bins and dog waste bins within the village. This also includes the bins located at Millennium Wood and the Playing Field.

- (c) **To consider providing first aid training and defib training for the residents of the village.**

Cllr Amanda Taylor had provided details of a company who could provide training for groups consisting of 10 – 15 people. It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Financial Regulations and appoint MJK Training to run a training course for CPR and the use of defibrillators. Cllr Amanda Taylor will contact the company and ask for available dates, once these have been confirmed, these will be advertised for residents to book a place.

- (d) **To consider the removal of the litter bin by the pub from the Asset List and to approve the Asset List for the end of the financial year.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to remove the litter bin by the pub from the Asset List and following slight amendment, **RESOVLED** to approve the Asset List for the end of the financial year.

- (e) **To note the hourly rate for the War Memorial Hall will be increasing from the 1<sup>st</sup> April with an additional cost for heating. To consider prepayment of the hall hire until the end of September, if payment is received by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April the current price will be honoured – Amount of prepayment - £120.00**

The Council noted the increase for the hourly rate for hiring the War Memorial Hall from the 1<sup>st</sup> April. The Council **RESOLVED** to cover the costs of the prepayment of the hall hire until the end of September.

## 11. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a) Verbal Report from the emergency plan workshop held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.  
**Update** Cllr Dan White gave a verbal report, the evening was well attended with several councils in attendance. It was a very useful evening and information will be taken back to the working group to help complete the emergency plan.
- (b) Complaints were received on 27<sup>th</sup> February about works being carried out in Yellowgate and the mess being created. A resident created a social media post with the contact details of the developer.
- (c) No quotes or replies to the tenders have been received in relation to replacing the bridge on the Millennium Green. **Update** There were concerns about the current bridge, Councillors will carry out a visual inspection and decide any further actions regarding health and safety.
- (d) Somerset Council have issued the programme for resurfacing, surface dressing and footways, and drainage works. There are no entries for Stoke St Michael.
- (e) A new Senior Bridge Engineer has been appointed to manage the culvert reconstruction. There are still several complications, mostly involving the services and utilities which cross over the top of the culvert. Information received at the beginning of March; an alternative strengthening design is being investigated which will avoid the need to divert the buried utilities / services.
- (f) Update from Cllr Anna Mearns on emergency vehicles being able to travel over the culvert. **Update** Information will be published on the Parish Council Facebook page in relation to the incident and any updates.
- (g) Update from Cllrs Amanda Taylor and Simon Collins on the recent Quarry Liaison Meeting. **Update** Cllr Amanda Taylor gave a verbal report, notes had been sent out prior to the meeting. A new Quarry Manager has been appointed along with a new Transport Manager. The application for the solar panels has been approved – installation is planned for the summer of 2025. Concerns have been raised regarding the application for expanding the quarry, a planned re-submission will hopefully happen within the next month and aiming for a decision late summer.

## 12. Finance

### Bank Balances as at: - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Unity Current Account – £7,039.70

Unity Savings Account – £36,890.67

### Payments

(a) Clerks' salary and expenses February and March £760.84

(b) IONOS – Website Hosting - £13.80 – pd by DD

(c) SSM War Memorial Hall – hall hire - £30

(d) Unity Bank – Monthly bank charges – March - £6.00 – pd by DD

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments, due to the end of the financial year the payments had been entered prior to the meeting and were just awaiting authorisation.

The Council also **RESOLVED** the additional payment below and approved the slight increase as it was more than the budgeted amount.

(e) SLCC – Costs for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Level 4 in Community Governance - £565.18

**13. Correspondence**

**(a)** Invitation to the LCN Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March – forwarded 25.02.25

Cllr Simon Collins gave a verbal update on the LCN Meeting.

**14. Matters to report / items for next agenda**

There were matters to report or items for the next agenda.

**15. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 starting at 8.00pm. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall, this will follow the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting.

**Meeting closed 9.29pm**

DRAFT