

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
13th February 2025 starting at 7.30pm

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

Items were out of order from the agenda.

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Matthew Rice

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 requests for dispensation as appropriate.

(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 five members of the public in attendance. They asked to speak in relation to application number 2024/1561/FUL which was discussed under item 8(a).

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) 2024/1561/FUL Erection of a self-build whole life dwelling with fully disabled access.

Land at 365154 147005 Kings Road, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval. Although the dwelling would be outside the development area there was a strong case to recommend approval.

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report. Matters mentioned were various consultations currently being run by Somerset Council including the boundary amendment and the call for sites. Somerset Council have been given permission to increase the council tax by 7.5%. Somerset Council are approving the budget next week. Car Parking charges are currently being discussed by Somerset Council to help raise funds. A campaign is being run by Anna Sabine (MP) to improve broadband in rural areas. There has been no update on the repair to the culvert.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2025, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

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

No responses had been received.

10. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) To consider the Parish Council appointing a representative for the Patient Participation Group (PPL) at Oakhill.

It was decided that this was not related to the Parish Council and Keith Hambly would attend as a member of the public and feedback any issues that may arise.

(b) To consider a date and format for the Annual Parish Meeting. The Annual Meeting can be held between 1st March and 1st June.

The Council **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 8th May at 7pm.

(c) To consider the Parish Council covers future costs for the defibrillator and to reimburse any member of the volunteer group currently monitoring the defibrillator following receipt of the invoices.

The Council **RESOLVED** to cover any future costs for the defibrillator and to reimburse any member of the volunteer group currently monitoring the defibrillator following receipt of the invoices.

11. Clerk / Councillors Report

(a) Update on the enhanced maintenance scheme being provided by Kier **Update** No further information has been received, this will be brought back to a future meeting once an update has been received.

(b) Update from Cllr Peter Rhodes on the Withybrook Traffic Issues. **Update** Cllr Peter Rhodes gave a verbal update. Avon and Somerset Police would be supportive of the scheme but with a speed limit reduction of only 40mph. Somerset Council have stated this would need to be funded by the Parish Council, this will be added to the next agenda.

(c) Update from Cllr Simon Collins on whether the Auto Speed Cameras can be moved to a different location within the village. **Update** Cllr Simon Collins gave a verbal update. The system is not designed for the speeds involved at National Limit and above, it is more focused on community areas with zone restrictions in the 20-50 mph range. Traffic surveys were discussed and this will be added to the next agenda.

(d) Update from Cllrs Anna Mearns and Dan White on the status of the repair to the culvert. **Update** Cllr Dan White gave a verbal update. The engineer responsible for the project has now been assigned to other tasks and another engineer will be given responsibility. The bollards have now been locked together to avoid the individual ones falling over or being pushed out of the way.

(e) Following the discussion at the last meeting a letter was sent to Anna Sabine (MP) on 17th January with concerns regarding the planning applications at the quarry. A reply was received on 28th of January saying they cannot take a personal view on specific planning applications but would be happy to write to Somerset Council and raise the concerns.

- (f) A telephone call was received following the recent icy weather informing me that a couple of the grit bins were now empty, because of this all the bins were checked and half were now found to be needing refilling. Somerset Council has been contacted and the bins will be topped up as soon as resources become available. In the meantime, the situation will be monitored in case of more inclement weather.
- (g) Information has been sent out to various stone masons and builders requesting a price for the rebuilding of the bridge on the Millennium Green, the deadline was the end of February so this will be discussed at the next meeting.

12. Reports from the Working Parties

- (a) **Update from the Youth Services Working Party** – Following a discussion at the last meeting, the Playing Field Committee was contacted to ask whether the Parish Council could purchase any equipment to be installed on the Playing Fields for the youth to use. A reply was received thanking the Parish Council and it would be discussed at their next meeting.
- (b) **Update from the Emergency Plan Working Party** – A Training Session will be held on Tuesday 4th March at the War Memorial Hall in the evening. The invitation has been extended to local Parish Councils and several Councillors and Clerks will be attending.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 6th February 2025

Unity Current Account – £7,594.49

Unity Savings Account – £36,890.67

Receipts

(a) Burial Fees - £357.00 receipt of a cheque, pd in on 27.01.25

Payments

(b) Clerks Salary and Expenses for January - £457.99

(c) Ionos – Website Hosting (January) - £13.80 – paid by DD

(d) Stoke St Michael War Memorial – hall hire - £30.00

(e) ICO – annual membership - £47.00 – pd by DD on 03.03.25

(f) Unity Trust Bank – monthly bank charges - £6.00 – pd by DD on 28.02.25

(g) Ionos – Website Hosting (February) - £13.80 – paid by DD

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above receipts and payments.

14. Correspondence

(a) HR Training courses run by SALC – forwarded 14.01.25

(b) Consultation for Local call for sites has been launched by Somerset Council – forwarded 15.01.25

(c) The next LCN Meeting has been changed from 27th January to 3rd March

(d) SALC Councillor Training Events for February and March – forwarded 29.01.25

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

(a) Emptying of the dog waste bins

16. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 27th March 2025 starting at 7.30pm. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.03pm