

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

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

**1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Simon Collins, Phil Howard, and 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 and spoke about the four planning applications that were discussed under item 8.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports**

There were no Somerset Councillors in attendance

**7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Following a slight amendment the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**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)** SCC/4079/2023 Application to vary planning conditions 1, 7, 37 and 38 of Planning Permission ref: IDO/M/24/B dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 1995 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry (Notice of determination of conditions to which an Interim Development Order (IDO) Permission is to be subject relating to IDO-M-24-B- Section 73 Planning. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.

- (b) **SCC/4080/2023** Section 73 Planning Application to vary Planning Conditions 1, 7, 37 and 38 of Planning Permission ref: IDO/M/26/B dated 11th July 1995 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.
- (c) **SCC/4081/2023** Section 73 Planning Application to vary Planning Conditions 2, 8, 49, 50 and 51 of Planning Permission ref: M25/1/76 dated 9th December 2003 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.
- (d) **SCC/4082/2023** Planning Application for the Extension of Stoke Quarry. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.

**Recommendation** The Parish Council were minded with the same opinion from the discussion on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to recommend refusal.

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

- (a) **2024/2056/HSE** Proposed double garage. Mendip Farmhouse, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (b) **2024/1854/APP** Approval of details reserved by condition 8 (construction management plan) 11 (landscape and ecological management plan) and 16 (construction ecological environmental management plan) on consent 2025/1606/FUL. Land at 366731 146471 Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

Cllr Anna Mearns left the meeting 8.05pm

#### 10. Policies

- (a) **To consider and approve the amended Grant Policy for 2024-2025.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the amended Grant Policy for 2024-2025

#### 11. To Be Resolved / Discussed

- (a) **To consider the request from the PCC for the Parish Council to cover costs for tree works within the Churchyard.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the request from the PCC for the Parish Council to cover costs for the tree works within the Churchyard. The work will be carried out by J Murtagh Tree Services at a cost of £2,340.00

Cllr Anna Mearns returned to the meeting 8.10pm

- (b) **To consider and approve the increased burial fees in relation to the Cemetery for 2025.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the increased burial fees in relation to the Cemetery for 2025, these will become effective immediately.
- (c) **To consider the approval of the increase in the Home Working Allowance for the Parish Clerk from £6.50 a month to £13.00 a month from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the increase in the Home Work Allowance for the Parish Clerk from £6.00 a month to £13.00 a month from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

**(d) To ratify the request to cover the cost of replacement pads and battery for the Defibrillator outside the Village Hall.**

The Defibrillator is operational again, but ongoing costs are still being researched. Once idea costs have been passed to the Parish Council, this will be bought back to a future meeting.

**(e) To consider the tender for the rebuilding of the bridge on Millennium Green and approve the wording and times before publishing.**

The Council felt the tender was too complicated so initial enquires will be made to local Stone Masons requesting initial prices by the end of February.

**(f) To consider whether Parish Council creates a Neighbourhood Plan to protect future development within the Parish.**

The Council felt that were currently not geared or had the resources to create a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Peter Rhodes proposed an amendment that when the consultation from Somerset Council for a call for sites opens later in the month, the Council respond and write a letter of concern to Somerset Council.

**(g) To consider and approve the annual budget for 2025-2026.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the annual budget for 2025-2026

**(h) Following approval of the annual budget for 2025-2026, to consider and approval the precept for 2025-2026**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the precept for 2025-2026 at £30,013

**(i) To consider and approved the Projected Use of Reserves (Ear Marked Reserves) for 2025/2026.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approved the Projected Use of Reserves (Ear Marked Reserves) for 2025-2026

## **12. Clerk / Councillors Report**

**(a)** A signed letter has been received from the Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall confirming the Parish Council has responsibility for the Defibrillator situated in the porch of the War Memorial Hall.

**(b)** To note the incident on 22<sup>nd</sup> December when a vehicle hit the concrete bollards protecting the culvert at speed and several requests on social media for the culvert to be fixed.

**(c)** Correspondence has been received from Somerset Council stating the provision charge for emptying of litter and dog waste bins is £6.50 + VAT per bin, per collection. This will be confirmed following the Somerset Council Full Council meeting in January. The charge is for bins on non-council owned land only. Somerset Council will be in touch in the new year to confirm whether this is a service the Parish Council wishes to continue with and arrangements for invoicing etc if it is.

**(d)** Update on the enhanced maintenance scheme being provided by Kier **Update** This was deferred to the next meeting as no further information had been received.

**(e)** Update from Cllr Peter Rhoes on the Withybrook Traffic Issues. **Update** Cllr Peter Rhodes gave a verbal update, he has been in correspondence with Somerset Council and this is an on-going issue.

### 13. Reports from the Working Parties

- (a) Update from the Youth Services Working Party **Update** the Chair of the Playing Field will be contacted as the Council would like to spend the funds on new facilities within the Playing Fields.
- (b) Update from the Emergency Plan Working Party **Update** Somerset Council has been contacted and they have offered free training, this will be opened to neighbouring councils to gauge the interest.

### 14. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

Unity Current Account – £2,749.71

Unity Savings Account – £41,890.67

#### **Approval of the quarterly Bank Reconciliations**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quarterly bank reconciliation, this was signed by Cllr Amanda Taylor

#### **To note the Budget Review as at the end of December 2024**

The Council noted the Budget review as at the end of December 2024

#### **Receipts**

- (a) Bank Interest £301.46 – received 31.12.24

#### **Payments**

- (b) Clerks' salary and expenses – December salary £452.42 including £72.00 for PIALC course
- (c) Stoke St Michael War Memorial – Hall Hire - £40.00
- (d) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges - £6.00 pd by DD 31.12.24
- (e) J Murtagh – tree services within the churchyard - £2640.00 – pd 08.12.2024
- (f) Ionos – Website hosting - £13.80 – pd by DD 31.12.24
- (g) Auto Speed Watch – purchase of two licences - £358.00 – pd 17.12.24

#### **Transfers**

- (h) Transfer of £3,000 from the Savers Account to the Current Account, authorised by the Chair and Vice Chair by email, transferred on 08.12.24.
- (i) Transfer of £5,000 from the Savers Account to the Current Account

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

### 15. Correspondence

- (a) External training events for Councillors (Winter 24/24) – forwarded 11.12.24
- (b) Government publishes revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – forwarded 17.12.24
- (c) Proposed Housing Need Assessment to be undertaken in Cranmore and its neighbouring parishes – forwarded 02.01.25

### 16. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) Councillors were reminded to forward the completed checklist for the Millennium Green at the end of every month.
- (b) Photographs had been received of a large vehicle driving through the bollards over the culvert, the company was contacted and the evidence kept.
- (c) Update on the repair of the culvert
- (d) Council representative for the Patient Participation Group (PPG) at Oakhill Surgery

**17. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 starting at 7.30pm. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

**18. Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.**

**(a) To note the Annual Appraisal of the Parish Clerk**

The Council noted the Annual Appraisal of the Parish Clerk.

Meeting closed 9.08pm