

## **STOKE ST. MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **To all Members of Stoke St Michael Parish Council**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Stoke St Michael Parish Council for the purpose of transacting the following business

**Kate Egan Clerk to the Council**

### **Agenda for the Meeting of STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL**

**To be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall, Stoke Hill, Stoke St Michael Starting at 7.30pm**

- 1. Welcome by the Chairman.**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Absent**
- 4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
  - (a) To receive declaration 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 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). Cllr Phil Howard has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall for one year (expires May 2027). Cllr Keith Hambly has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael Community Field for one year (expires May 2027).
  - (c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**
- 5. Public Session.** The period designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed 30 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 minutes.
- 6. Somerset Councillor Reports**
- 7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2026, previously circulated.**
- 8. Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the next meeting, they may be considered.**
- 9. Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council.**
  - (a) 2026/1281/HSE** Single storey side extension. Coombe Barn, Frog Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have approved the application.

## **10. Policies**

To review and approve the following policies

- (a) Data Protection
- (b) Dispensation Policy
- (c) Email Contact Privacy

## **11. To Be Resolved / Discussed**

- (a) To reappoint Do the Numbers Ltd as the Internal Auditor for 2026/2027 at a cost of £260.00.
- (b) To note the change of dates for the April Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting in May, these will now be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May.
- (c) To discuss any improvement to Moonshill Green and any ideas that may be considered.
- (d) To consider a resident's request to implement a similar scheme to that at Moonshill at Stoke St Michael Close, including placing stones around the edge of the open space to prevent vehicles parking on the grass.
- (e) To approve the use of up to £2,100 from the Parish Council's earmarked reserve for young people aged 11–18 to fund a community mural project at Stoke St Michael Playing Field, subject to final confirmation of costs, agreement of the mural designs and appropriate arrangements being in place for the participation of young people.
- (f) To consider going out for tender or obtaining quotes for the renewal of the grass cutting contract which is due to finish at the end of March 2027.
- (g) To consider the parking of vehicles on council owned land at The Mead.
- (h) To consider approving a contribution of £150.00 towards the cost of the Parish Clerk attending the National Conference in October.
- (i) To note that the new National Planning Policy Framework was released on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2026.
- (j) To note the UK government has introduced a mandatory National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions across England from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. The new rules remove individual council's powers to set their own delegation criteria, replacing them with uniform matching standards.
- (k) To note the Local Government Services, Pay Agreement for 2026/2027, providing a 3.3% increase in pay rates and allowances from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027, with the increase and backpay to be included in the September salary payment.

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

- (a) Update from Cllr Simon Collins on the issues of reducing the speed limit on the parish boundary with Holcombe, the installation of signs at Withybrook and replacement of the village sign between Stoke St Michael and Holcombe.
- (b) Update from Cllr Simon Collins on the clearance of hedges on Green Lane.
- (c) Update from Cllr Anna Mearns on traffic issues within the village.
- (d) Update on the clearance of overgrown vegetation in Mill Lane – still awaiting a quote
- (e) Update on the works being carried out to replace the bridge on the Millennium Green.

- (f) Following the last meeting, Councillors updated the Clerk on the status of the grit bins within the village, this was forward onto Somerset Council and they have been added to the refilling schedule planned for the Autumn.
- (g) The new gate between the Cemetery and Mill Lane has now been installed.
- (h) The Management Construction Plan for Yellowgate was published on the Parish Council Website. Curo held an informal drop-in session on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August which was well attended and information was shared. A “Meet the Builder” event will be held in the winter once a site manager has been appointed.
- (i) Woodstock Homes are holding an information drop-in session in the War Memorial Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> September between 4pm and 6pm. This is to enable residents to ask questions regarding the potential development of up to 49 houses on Fosse Road.
- (j) Notice has been given that Somerset Council proposes to make various roads within the Parish of Ashwick a 40mph speed. Somerset Council, in consultation with the Police, is introducing a speed limit at Beacon Cross Crossroads from all approaches to improve road safety for all road users. By reducing vehicle speeds, the aim is to lower the risk and severity of collisions, creating a safer environment. Consultation period starts on 16<sup>th</sup> September and will last for 21 days.

### **13.. Finance**

#### **Bank Balances as at: - 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026**

Unity Current Account – £8,226.12

Unity Savings Account – £34,160.22

#### **To note the External Auditor’s Report and Certificate for 2025/2026: -**

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: The smaller authority has confirmed that it has not complied with the governance Assertion in Section 1, Box 10, but it has provided the appointed auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address weaknesses identified.

#### **(a) Receipts**

Burial Fees - £371.00 – received 05.08.26

Total Receipts £371.00

**(b) Payments**

Scribe – August monthly support - £44.40 – paid by DD  
Unity Trust – September bank charges - £7.00 – paid by DD  
Clerks' wages and expenses for August £588.60  
Stoke St Michael War Memorial – Hall Hire - £36.00  
Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £355.20 – paid on 02.08.26  
Ionos – Final invoice for website hosting - £13.80 – paid DD  
Ionos – Annual domain renewal and hosting of emails - £8.36 – paid DD  
Jim Murtagh – Replacement gate at the cemetery - £810.00  
Stoke St Michael War Memorial – Payment of Grant - £3,000  
D Barron – removal of wasp nest from Millennium Green - £100.00

Total Payments £4963.36

**14. Correspondence**

- (a) Briefing sheet for Parish and Town Councils August 2026 – forwarded  
04.08.26
- (b) Briefing Sheet for Parish and Town Council September 2026 – forwarded  
27.08.26

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

**16. Date and time of next meeting:**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 starting at 7.30pm, to be held at the Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.