

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
Thursday 14th May 2026 starting at 8.00pm

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

Cllr Dan White welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Anna Mearns

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 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 short verbal report.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd April 2026, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd April 2026 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 next meeting, they may be considered.

(a) 2026/0669/FUL Retrospective application for the extension of a solar site. Land at 366731 146471 Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval.

(b) 2026/0825/OUT Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for 4x two storey dwellings with details of access / appearance / landscaping / layout / scale. Land at 365815 146981 Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Due to the application arriving just before the meeting, an extra planning meeting will be held on Thursday 28th May in the War Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

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

(a) 2026/0472/PAA Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3no. dwellinghouses (Class C3) & for associated operational development. Land Near Mendip Farm, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Application has been withdrawn.

- (b) **2026/0314/APP** Application for removal of details reserved by conditions 4 (Surface water drainage scheme during construction) and condition 7 (Waste Management Plan for the construction period must be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for written approval), on planning consent 2024/1441/REM. Land South of Fairbanks, Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council had a split decision.
- (c) **2026/0729/106A** Approval of details of S106 agreement of consent in Schedule 4 of Outline 2020/0580/OTS and RM 2024/1441/REM. Land South of Fairbanks, Coalpit lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

10. Grants

(a) Grant application from the War Memorial Hall for £3,000

The Council agreed in principle the grant application for £3,000 but on the condition that details are updated on the Charity Commission website as they are out of date.

(b) Grant application from the Baby and Toddler Group for £780.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from the Baby and Toddler Group for £780.00.

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) To consider the request for purchasing an additional litter bin and installing it at the bus shelter opposite the Mead.

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase an additional litter bin and install at the bus shelter opposite the Mead. Cost of the bin £61.83 + VAT plus £12.50 + VAT for delivery.

(b) To review the report on the damaged gate leading to the cemetery off Mill Lane and to consider any actions.

The condition of the gate was discussed and Cllr Dan White will inspect it, as he may have a spare gate that could fit the gap.

(c) To consider an application from Stoke St Michael Community Event Group to use the area in and around the Lychgate for Stokefest on Saturday 27th June – full details still to be received.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the application from Stoke St Michael Community Event Group to use area in and around the Lychgate for Stokefest on Saturday 27th June.

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

(a) Stoke St Michael Parish Council have a new website

www.stokestmichaelparishcouncil.gov.uk which is now live. The Councillors and the Parish Clerk also have new emails which will be advertised on the Parish Council Noticeboard. **Update** Councillors have been asked to view the website and to send any amendments / suggestions to the Parish Clerk. The Council also agreed to upload photographs of the Councillors.

(b) A progress report has been created for Mendip Central Community Cars Partnership. Each parish is encouraged to recruit its own volunteer drivers and coordinators, with the partnership providing support, best practice sharing, and a central forum for advice and updates. The group recognised the need for at least five volunteer drivers per parish to ensure adequate coverage, with flexibility based on local demand. **Update** The Council discussed the Mendip Central Community Cars Partnership and decided not to pursue the idea, as it would need to be community-led and there was uncertainty as to whether there was sufficient current demand.

- (c) The Parish Council are waiting for a start date to install the stone bridge on the Millennium Green, once this has been received, a meeting will be arranged to discuss the final details and apply for the licence to work on a watercourse. **Update** The bridge will be installed during August. Cllr Amanda Taylor will apply for the consent from Somerset Council to work on an ordinary watercourse.
- (d) The new accounting system has been installed; the Parish Clerk has full access and the Councillor responsible for finance has viewing access.
- (e) Update from Cllr Anna Mearns on traffic management in the village. **Update** Cllr Anna Mearns was not in attendance so this was deferred to the next meeting.
- (f) Peter Rhodes has resigned as a Parish Councillor; the Council would like to thank him for all his hard work and time he gave to the Council.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 6th May 2026

Unity Current Account – £8,271.51
 Unity Savings Account – £48,929.26

Receipts

- (a) Somerset Council – 1st half of the precept - £15,562.50 – received 07.04.26
- (b) HMRC – VAT Refund for 2025-2026 - £3,416.00 – received 09.04.26
- (c) Dignity Funerals – Burial Fees - £357.00 – received 16.04.26
- (d) Forsey & Sons – Burial Fees - £152.00 – received 05.05.26

Payments

- (e) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges for March 2026 - £7.00 – pd by DD 30.04.26
- (f) War Memorial Hall – Hall Hire – 9th May and 15th May - £72.00
- (g) Clerks Salary and Expenses – April - £446.50
- (h) Do the Numbers Ltd – Internal Audit - £260.00
- (i) Scribe – Set up initial accounts - £358.50 – pd 13.04.26
- (j) Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £811.88
- (k) IONOS – Website Hosting - £13.80 – pd by DD 30.04.2026
- (l) Scribe – Monthly Accounting Fee - £44.40 – pd by DD 01.05.26
- (m) Parish Online – Setting up of the new website and first year hosting - £300.00

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

14. Correspondence

- (a) Update on the enhanced maintenance pilot scheme – new process – forwarded 09.04.26
- (b) Shepton LCN Main Meeting on 27th April 2026 – forwarded 23.04.26
- (c) Somerset Council Briefing Sheet for Parish & Town Councils May 2026 – forwarded 04.05.26

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

(a) The reduction of the Maple Tree at Moonshill has been delayed due to sap. Some species when the sap is rising will bleed sap for weeks therefore any tree surgery must be avoided until the leaves are fully emerged.

(b) Enhancements to the Mead

(c) Cleaning of the Lychgate

16. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 25th June 2026 starting at 7.30pm, to be held at the Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.05pm