

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL

These minutes were approved and signed as a correct record at the meeting held on 10 January 2019.

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2018

Present: Cllr. Holder (Chair), Cllrs. Mearns, Taylor, Hayes, Wolf, Gibson, Hambly, Johnston, McEntee and Cllr Alan Townsend.

Plus 2 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Ham.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Public Session

In the public session the Chair and Treasurer of the War Memorial Hall Committee made the following points/comments:

*Uncertainty over who publishes the Lychgate

*Some comments in the last copy of Lychgate which appeared to indicate that the Parish Council were discussing matters on the running of the War Memorial Hall (WMH)

*There needed to be clear statements of where responsibility lies for groups using the WMH particularly where the Parish Council financially supports groups

At this point the Chair re-iterated the role of the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee where responsibility was limited to the narrow definition of holding the deeds on behalf of the charity. Further the Chair of the Parish Council would, in accordance with their Custodian Trustee role, liaise with their solicitors to ensure the WMH received a copy of the deeds. In addition, it was necessary to recognise that the clarity now being brought to the respective roles would require patience and precise use of language during a transition period

*The Chair of the War Memorial Committee stated that where reference was made to the Chair it should be by title and not name

*Mr. O'Sullivan thanked Cllr. Hambly for his work in resolving the issues relating to the stream under the bridge

*Mr. O'Sullivan queried whether there had been any progress on dealing with the erosion caused by the stream at the top of Mendip Road and

was advised that a response from the Highway Authority has not yet been received.

*Mr. O'Sullivan also asked why the Parish Council has supported the planning application relating to the conversion of the old slaughterhouse particularly as the site was outside the development limit of the village. In response it was stated that the Parish Council supports the DP22 policy adopted by the planning authority and that the policy had different criteria to standard planning applications. In particular the policy contains a presumption in favour of conversion of disused buildings even where these lie outside the defined development limit.

The two members of the public left the meeting

4. County & District Councillor Reports

Cllr Townsend advised that a planning application for Halecombe Quarry had been approved. This application centred on the moving of the asphalt plant to enable the quarrying of the high quality stone which lay beneath. There were not expected to be any impacts outside the quarry limits. The MDC Scrutiny Committee had reviewed the budget which indicated a potential overspend of £221K for 2018/19 in a budget total of £16 million. The Committee concluded that this was a manageable amount and not cause for concern. Cllr. Townsend reflected on the Planning Board resolution to refuse permission in relation to the outline planning application for the land south east of Central Stores and suggested it may be appropriate for the Parish Council to formally write to the planning service commenting upon the inadequate traffic report and highway authority response. In respect of the application granted for the slaughterhouse Cllr. Townsend gave examples of areas in other parishes where DP22-based applications were successful outside defined development limits. It was confirmed that the Local Plan Part II had been considered by MDC's Cabinet and that the Parish Council comments relating to the location of future housing development had been adopted and included in the report. This report would be considered by the Council in mid-December prior to forwarding to the planning inspectorate. The Cabinet meeting had also expressed strong support for Citizens Advice. Cllr Townsend said that he had reported fly-tipping on Green Lane which would be removed as soon as practicable. Cllr. Townsend stated that the planning application for the two properties on Coalpit Lane would be considered by the Planning Board at its meeting

on 19th December and the relevant papers would be available 1 week before the meeting.

Cllr. Townsend left the meeting.

5. Minutes of the previous meetings

18 October 2018 – Subject to an amendment to the wording in line 2 of paragraph 4 the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. McEntee **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Mearns
AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

15 November 2018 – Subject to adding a reference to the Highway Authority and traffic report the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. McEntee **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Johnston

It was noted that the minutes published on the web site were those in draft form and not those subject to amendment and agreed at the next Parish council meeting. This meant the public trying to follow the debates on various subjects had to refer to at least two set of minutes. In the interest of good governance and administration the draft minutes would be removed and the amended minutes posted to the website once agreed at the next available meeting.

6. Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

None

7. Grants to Village Organisation.

It was proposed that the Parish Council would consider requests for grant aid from village-based organisations subject to them being properly constituted. The organisations would be advised by Members of the Parish Council of the timescales for submitting requests to meeting the council's budget-setting process.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. Mearns **SECONDED BY:** Cllr. Hayes

8. Community Playing Field - Reg. Charity 304639

Cllr. Holder reported that the meeting to create the new management committee for the charity took place on 22 November. Cllr. Johnston briefed the Members present on the outcome of the meeting, the

election of officers and the progress made so far in updating the Charity registration. There were a number of practical issues that were being worked through including updating the trustee data, opening a bank account, electricity costs and billing, trustee indemnity insurance, public liability insurance and insurance for equipment use.

The progress being made was noted.

The Parish Council discussed its role in the interim and it was suggested that the Parish Council continues its current insurance arrangements for the facility and continues to undertake the weekly equipment checks. The matter of grant aid was deferred to meeting on 10 January 2019.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. Wolf

SECONDED BY: Cllr. Mearns

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

9. War Memorial Hall

There was nothing further to discuss at this point.

The position was noted.

10. Millennium Wood

It was reported that the work undertaken by volunteers had been successful and the next Working Party meeting would be held early in 2019 on a date to be arranged.

The position was noted.

11. Defibrillator

It was noted that there were practical difficulties likely if the defibrillator remained in the ownership of the Parish Council. After some discussion it was agreed to transfer ownership to the War Memorial Hall Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr. Hambly

SECONDED BY: Cllr. Mearns

AGREED UNANIMOUSLY

12. PCSO

The Chair reported that in the absence of information about whether the new PCSO had been invited to meetings he sent an email the previous day to invite contact. An electronic response had been received and he was waiting on a telephone call.

The position was noted.

13. Village Environment

This matter was deferred.

14.Silting of Rivers

Cllr. Hambly updated Members on the current position and stated that he was still waiting a response from the Highway Authority. The next Quarry Liaison Committee was programmed for 20 March 2019.

The position was noted.

15.Pedestrian Road Safety Enhancement Scheme.

At this stage there was nothing further to report.

The position was noted.

16.Repairs to the Bus Shelter

At this stage there was nothing further to report.

The position was noted.

17.Base for replacement bench on Millennium Green.

A new quotation in the sum of £245 was received. Cllr. Holder said he would personally fund this sum in exchange for an agreement that he could place a memorial plaque in honour of his late wife on the bench once in place.

This offer was unanimously agreed.

18.Bridge on Millennium Green

A quotation for repairs had been received for repairs to the bridge in the sum of £1390 or £1150. The lower quote was for a change of design which was not felt to be sympathetic to the original concept.

It was agreed to seek a further two quotes to meet legal requirements.

The position was noted.

19.Lychgate

Councillors reflected on the comments made by members of the public recorded at paragraph 3 above. The confusion amongst residents about authorship and ownership of the Lychgate was noted. Nonetheless it was felt that decisions of the Parish Council should be broadcast as wide as possible to assist residents with an interest in Parish Council affairs but without access to the internet. The discussion centred on how this can be achieved. It was thought that a clear separation between general village news and decisions of the Parish Council was necessary. It was suggested that Parish Council decisions be listed on page 2 of the

Lychgate including the authorship. General village news would be listed on the front page again with authorship clearly shown. Some Councillors volunteered to look at how more clarity could be brought to the publication to avoid any further confusion. **This approach was unanimously agreed.**

20.Finances

In the absence of the Clerk this matter was deferred.

21.Correspondence

In this absence of the Clerk this matter was deferred.

22.Matters to report/Items for the next agenda

In the absence of the Clerk this matter was deferred.

23.Date and time of next meeting.

10th January 2019

(N.B. the agenda will need to be finalised immediately after the New Year Bank Holiday to meet the publication deadlines)

The meeting closed at 21.55 hrs.

Signed

Date.....