

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 4th July 2019

Present: Cllr Holder (Chair), Cllrs. Hambly, Taylor, McEntee, Wolf

Also, in attendance: Vickie Watts (Acting Clerk), Kate Egan (Clerk). There were 5 members of the public present.

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Gibson and District Councillors Alan Townsend and Phillip Ham

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Wolf in relation to item 7.a

3 Public Session

The residents of Meadow Farm attended to discuss the forthcoming planning application (item 7.a). After the previous application (2018/2286/FUL considered by the PC on 18th October 2018) was turned down due to the building being listed, the plans were too big, and too domesticated. They have now addressed the issues and worked with advisors, have reduced the footprint and the appearance will have an agricultural feel with the materials being wood, stone and traditional materials. This will be a family home. Further discussion would take place at agenda 7 later on in the meeting.

4 County and District Councillors Reports

4.1 Somerset County Council The plans have just arrived for the highway improvement schemes for the old Frome to Wells road and the Beacon Cross Roads. County Cllr Ham will be holding a consultation event in the near future to show them to everyone.

Likewise, County Cllr Ham's division has been supplying most of the stone to Hinkley C he is in touch with their Community Fund Organisation for them to come and present to the council what they could apply for. County Cllr Ham also has a small pot of money to help with 'improving lives' and a larger pot which is improving lives to prevent demand. County Cllr Ham is still reading this through and will send further details as soon as possible.

Last Monday County Cllr Ham was presented to HRH. Princess Anne on the opening of an upgraded and changed bridleway near Faulkland.

County Cllr Ham as also received the Ofsted report for Stoke St Michael Primary School which reads 'needs improvement', this is slightly disappointing but needs to go on that journey to improve.

4.2 Mendip District Council Cllr Ham reported that his is now Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, so having scrutinised in the last two months the decisions made prior to the election, they have moved on and set up four working groups – Polices and Strategies, Contracts, Access and Deprivation. Each group will be investigating and drilling into the details to find ways of improvement to service, or cost savings through bench marking and future forecasts.

The local Plan Part 2 hearing is later this month and early August, last week Cllr Ham spoke with a family who are keen to help with the housing site next to the allotments and playing field.

Mendip is in a vacuum at the moment with training and meetings not being attended in numbers that you would expect. Mendip now has 17 Cabinet and Cabinet assistances, compared with a maximum of 9 over the last 8 years.

Cllr Townsend reported that Highways have introduced new drainage at Stoke Bottom at the Fairy Cave junction – that seems to be working well. No response on the request that the eroded edges be made up.

Following complaints by residents Cllr Townsend has been asked by Leigh on Mendip Parish Council to raise with Somerset Highways the issue of much increased use of Whitehole Lane by HGV's. Clearly any restrictions could have implications elsewhere.

Training – there has been a further 4 training sessions in the month but attendance has been patchy.

12th June 2019 – Meeting of the Licensed Board, covering licensing of hypnotists, and mandatory reporting by taxi drivers of health issues.

14th June 2019 – Meeting of Licensing Sub Committees, covering an alcohol licence for a new Co-op at Pilton, which was granted. Also, a Taxi driver had been reported for abusive behaviour but he handed in his licence before action could be taken.

19th June 2019 – The Planning board met for the first time under the new regime with a long agenda including items held over from May because they could not field enough trained Councillors.

26th June 2019 – Formal tour of Glastonbury Festival site for Licensing Board Members. Cllr Townsend raised concerns about the lack of space between tents. Devon and Somerset Rescue advised that this had been risk assessed and concluded that naked flames were very rare as little cooking was done, and modern material was much less flammable.

1st July 2019 – Full Cabinet – It was noted that of the 17 newly appointed Cabinet Members and Assistants only 11 were in attendance. Cllr Townsend has been appointed as a member of the committee established to address the Climate Emergency.

Cllr Townsend also mentioned that a planning application is being prepared by Gladman Developments to build up to 70 houses between Lipyeate Cross and Upper Merrifield. There are many issues to address.

14 **Death of a Senior Person**

Mendip District Council has a procedure for the Death of a Senior Person and each council can adopt it or have their own arrangements. There was a discussion as to whether the parish council could have a formal link with the church, and the church wardens will be contacted.

15 **Damage to Bus Stop**

Wilmotts accepted responsibility and will be contacted asking for the repairs to be carried out.

16 **Asset Register – update**

There was some discussion about the register and SALC will be contacted to clarify a few points, and it will be brought back to the next meeting.

17 **Financial Risk Assessment**

Agreed and signed by the Chair

18 **Finance**

18.a Quarterly Budget review – this was discussed in depth and the allocations will be amended and new versions sent out. Further investigations will be made about the wayleave payments.

18.b Account Balances –

Current Account – Bank Balance as at 7th June 2019 £37,956.85

Reserve Account - £50.47

18.c Cheques for authorisation

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| Mr A Mason (ARM/2019/005) | £67.50 |
| Primrose Garden Maintenance (4752) | £621.25 |
| EDF (Parish Lighting) (5991475) | £139.62 |
| Valley Sawmills (8400) | £380.47 |
| Kate Egan (salary) | £253.66 |
| Vickie Watts (Temp Clerk Salary) | £1232.29 |
| HMRC | £237.49 |
| War Memorial Hall (260619) | £96.00 |
| Primrose Garden Maintenance (4901) | £621.25 |

Cheques signed by Cllr McEntee and Cllr Holder

19 **Correspondence**

19.a – Review of Polling Stations and Polling Places – This is on the noticeboard and the consultation period ends on 16th July 2019

19.b Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – Review of service delivery. Will be discussed at the next meeting; the consultation ends on 22nd September 2019.

19.c Road Closure – Tower Hill from the junction with Mill Lane, northwards for a distance of 30 metres will be closed on 22nd July and the works are expected to last 5 days.

19.d Forest Day at the Millennium Woods, a request has been received for £300 to help fund this day. A proposal form and quote is required from the working party and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

20 **Co-option to Member Vacancies**

Matthew Rice was co-opted as a Parish Councillor, all agreed, a signed declaration of office was received.

21 **Matters to report / items for next agenda**

21.a Reports have been received that Wainwrights may be expanding the quarry, investigation will be carried out and reported back at the next meeting

21.b New Noticeboard is required – quotes will be obtained and presented at the next meeting.

21.c Document Storage

21.d The Local Plan part 2 is being discussed on 1st August and the chair will be in attendance.

22 **Date and time of next meeting 5th September 2019 at 19.30hrs in the War Memorial Hall**

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm