

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 5th September 2019

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

Also, in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk). There were 2 members of the public present.

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Gibson and District Councillors Alan Townsend and Phillip Ham

2 Declarations of Interest

None declared

3 Public Session

No request from members of the public

4 County and District Councillors Reports

Report from Cllr Townsend

HIGHWAYS

Dropped Kerbs – I have been investigating with Charlie Higgins of Highways the possibility of arranging a number of dropped kerbs for disabled access in Holcombe. Does Stoke St Michael have a similar need?

Stoke Bottom – Charlie Higgins advised that he has an agreement with Pennys that they will build up the eroded edges. I am chasing this.

Whitehole Lane – There have been complaints about the increased use by HGVs causing issues with residents, walkers, horse riders, cyclists. I have raised this with Coleford, Leigh and Holcombe Parishes with a view to discussing HGV restriction options with Highways, though we are aware of possible adverse consequences elsewhere. The status quo may in fact be the lesser of the evils with the works at Cookswood not being long term hopefully. Does Stoke St Michael PC have any strong views?

MENDIP

Training – the programme continues apace, with most benefits to new members and providing updates to older ones.

Licensing Board – the meeting on 14th August was briefed on the role of the Safety Advisory Group. These were established following the 66 deaths at Ibrox in 1971 and are a multi-agency advisory group to oversee safety arrangements for events. Mendip for example convened a SAG following the Glastonbury Festival traffic chaos in 2016 and the benefits were evident the following year. Major events subject to Licensing this year have included Glastonbury Festival, NASS at the Bath and West, Godney Gathering, Glastonbury Extravaganza, Mid Somerset Show, Pilton Party. A total of 164 Temporary Event Notices (TENs) have also been issued this year.

Cabinet – a long session on 2nd September. Firstly a presentation from local Fire and Rescue Services about the risks of the proposed options for reductions in stations and appliances.

Frome and Wells would be directly affected. The Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan was cleared to go to a village referendum. A number of options were tabled in support of the Climate and Ecology Emergency, for example reductions in road verge cutting to promote wildflower growth. The road safety implications were pointed out. The elimination of the use of Glyphosate was proposed, though the nearest alternative was estimated to cost the Council some £50k a year more, 1% of Council Tax. The decline of the Shepton Mallet Sunday Market was reviewed – initially some 57 traders had been present but in July 2019 the number was only 10. It was agreed to license its continued operation through a Shepton Community Interest Company similar to Frome.

Upon discussion it was agreed that Cllr Townsend would be contacted regarding the dropped kerbs and Whitehole Lane. A meeting will be requested with Charlie Higgins about the dropped kerbs and the need will be investigated.

Action: Clerk

A meeting was suggested with ward members and colleagues from the surrounding parish councils to discuss the issues caused by HGV's travelling through the lanes and maybe consider a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order). Cllr Townsend will be approached to maybe arrange a meeting.

Action: Cllr Holder

5 **Minutes of Previous Meetings held 4th July 2019**

Minutes from the meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair

6 **Matters arising from previous minutes which do not appear on this Agenda**

Wayleave Payments – No response has been received from emails, will chase by telephone.

Action: Clerk

Wainwrights – Wainwrights were contacted in response to work being carried out at Long Cross Bottom and test boring being carried out on the land north-east of Yellow Marsh Farm. The response stated that works at Long Cross are part of the Tip B scheme for which full planning had been granted. With regard to Yellow Marsh, they had recently drilled and installed a number of piezometers to monitor groundwater condition and levels, which has been done for many years and is part of the monitoring arrangements with the relevant local authorities. In addition, they had taken the opportunity to carry out a further core hole drilling programme to confirm the geological mapping conditions for potential future excavations, this is so they can maximize the extraction of their existing consented reserves. It will also allow them to develop the quarry in the most sustainable manner.

Repair of Bus Stop – Willmots have not yet been contacted about the repair and replacing the pane of glass, this will be chased.

Action: Clerk

7 **Co-option of new Council Members**

Two prospective candidates attended the meeting – Nicholas Corbett and David Richardson Aitken, and were unanimously accepted onto the council. Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms were signed and countersigned by the Clerk, Declaration of Interest Forms were also issued.

8 **Planning Applications**

(a) **2019/1828/HSE** – Replacement of stables with a guest annex and gym, Batch Farm, Limekiln Lane, Stoke St Michael. Unanimously objected due to the building being outside the development limit, will involve demolishing recently built stables and building a new structure, will have a footprint double that of the existing stables and is part of the setting for, a listed building. Whilst discussing this application it was noted that further building had been carried out, Mendip Enforcement team will be contacted for further details.

Action: Clerk

(b) **Diversion of a footpath – SM 18/36** – agreed previously by email as the deadline was 19th August 2019.

(c) **2019/1907/FUL** – Conversion of 2 redundant barns, Lovells Farm, Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael. This was previously agreed two years ago as it was within the DP22 criteria and it was agreed that it still fits and would be a quality conversion. Unanimously approved.

9 **Grants to Village Organisations**

None received

10 **Website – Increase in monthly fee, content, official councillor email addresses and new regulations**

The increase in monthly fee from £18 to £25 was unanimously agreed and effective from September 1st 2019. Proposed by Cllr Wolf and seconded by Cllr Hambly.

There was a discussion about incorporating councillor emails as part of the website or just having a redirect service. Further investigation will be carried out as to ease of setting up and cost.

Action: Cllr McEntee

Content and New Regulations will be deferred to the November meeting due to the clerk attending a training seminar at the end of October in regard to the new regulations that come into effect for public section body websites at the end of September 2019.

11 **Combined Councillor Training with Other Small Council**

Surrounding parish councils will be contact in regard to holding a joint essential training course for new councillors and a refresher course. An essential councillor training course is taking place in Castle Cary on 19th September and new members have asked to join it.

Action: Clerk

12 **Millennium Wood**

(a) Addition of Millennium Woods pages on PC Website, - this was deferred to the November meeting due to the new regulations coming into force as mentioned in item 10.

(b) **Grass Cutting Quote** – Three companies had been approached but only two responded, they were discussed and it was decided for the time being to have a one off cutting of the grass instead of ongoing maintenance as the growing season will shortly be coming to an end. This will be reassessed next year. It was proposed by Cllr Holder to ask Deeper Green to carry out the one off cutting of grass at a cost of £100, this was seconded by Cllr Wolf and unanimously agreed.

(c) **Forest School Event, cost, insurance and risk assessments.** There will be a Forest School Day in the Millennium Wood on Saturday 28th September to promote the area. A local forest school company will be attending and running activities, they have their own insurance and risk assessments for the activities. Public liability insurance will be covered by the Parish Council and general risk assessments will be provided.

Action: Cllr Taylor

(d) **Wildflower Project** – The council was asked whether parish land can be part of the Wildflower project and whether they would like to be involved to create an area of wildflowers. It was agreed in principle to support the project and areas of council land will be provided.

Action: Cllr Holder

(e) **Tree inspection** – Three companies were contacted for quotes and two responded, Cllr Wolf proposed Simon Scotting Tree Consultancy carried out the inspection at a cost of £275, this was seconded by Cllr Holder and unanimously agreed.

(f) **Structure of Millennium Wood Group** – The working groups have requested to set up as an independent group to the parish council so enabling access to grants and more opportunities. This is unable to happen at the moment as the council own the land. One option is to mirror the charity status of the Community Field and Ware Memorial Hall with the Parish Council as custodian trustee. A further option is to consider a Community Interest Company. Further investigations will be carried out to explore these options with progress reported to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Holder

(g) **Reimbursement of hall hire costs for meetings and future meetings** – There is no issue regarding payment as the group is currently a working party as part of the parish council.

13 **Death of Senior Person – response from the Church Wardens**

Cllr Hambly attended a PCC meeting and they were happy to have a book of condolence on show for villagers to write in, and also to fly the union jack at half mast if necessary. A flag and book of condolence will be purchased and given to the church in preparation.

Action: Clerk

14 New Parish Noticeboard

A new parish notice board is required that is wooden, glass fronted and lockable. The Clerk had obtained several brochures of different designs and prices, and gave to the councillors. Cllr Taylor agreed to have a look and bring it back to the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Taylor

15 Storage of Old Documents

Several years' worth of documents have been accumulated and need a new storage place. They are currently being held by Cllr Holder. These will be sorted and some documents will be destroyed and the rest will be moved to Somerset Archives in Taunton.

Action: Cllr Holder and Clerk

16 Mill Lane - update

Incidents are happening on a regular basis with vehicles trying to drive one from one end to the other. A file is being kept about the occurrences. Several ideas were discussed on how to solve the problem but it is a traffic management issue. Somerset Highways have been contacted several times in regard to the problem but no response has been received so an official complaint through the complaint department will be tried.

Action: Cllr Holder

17 Local Plan II - update

The Local Plan held a public examination during July/August which Cllr Holder attended to put a case forward against a development along Coalpit Lane. He felt encouraged that Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council agreed with the council, and that development will only be along Frog Lane. The Inspectors decision will appear in December/January.

18 Improvement Scheme – Proposed Changes to Old Wells to Frome Road and the Beacon Crossroads.

There was a public consultation day at Leigh on Mendip Village Hall and two councillors attended. The general feeling was that they were under-whelmed by the scheme and was in the main several years of old maintenance work. The positive change would be to the junction itself by widening the mouth so easing traffic congestion turning left. There may be a roundabout at a later date but this would be a £500,000 scheme and currently Somerset County Council have no available funds.

19 Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – response to current consultation process.

There are no proposed changes to Shepton Mallet Fire Service, and as this is where the first responders would come from it was felt that no response was required.

20 Proposed Dates of Future Meetings until July 2020

Dates were discussed and will finalised at the next meeting.

21 **Finance**

(a) Current Account Bank Balance as at 5th September 2019 - £34,367.32
Reserve Account Bank Balance as at 5th September 2019 - £50.47

(b) Receipts of cheques for burial fees - £1018.00

(c) Cheques for authorisation: -

Mendip District Council – Local Elections - £97.50

The One Stop Job Stop – Bridge Repair - £1645.00

Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £621.25

Clerks salary and some expenses – July & August - £542.34

Forest School Event - £300

Paul Green – (Gate Borer Hire) - £75.68

John Johnston (Padlock for Gate) - £20.16

Cheques all agreed and signed

(d) Review Bank Mandate – To add the clerk as a signatory, proposed by Cllr Hambly and seconded by Cllr Taylor

Action: Cllr Holder

22 **Correspondence**

The council received a letter from the potential purchaser of the Mill and the upkeep of the Mill Stream, a meeting was arranged with Cllr Hambly where the upkeep and maintenance were discussed.

23 **Matters to report / Items for next agenda**

(a) Two extra planning applications need to be discussed by the Parish Council. A extra meeting will be called for Thursday 26th September.

(b) The next Mendip Parish Forum meeting takes place on Thursday 12th September in the Council Rooms at Mendip District Council offices starting at 6.30pm

24 **Date and time of next meetings – 26th September and 17th October, both starting at 19.30hrs in the War Memorial Hall.**

The meeting concluded at 10.20pm