

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 9th January 2020

Present: Cllr Keith Holder (Chair), Cllrs. David Richardson-Aitken, Nicholas Corbett, Keith Hambly, John McEntee, Amanda Taylor, Matthew Rice.

Also, in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk). MDC Cllr Alan Townsend. There were 4 members of the public present.

It was noted prior to the commencement of the formal proceedings that Cllr Sebastian Wolf had resigned.

1 Apologies for Absence

County Councillor Phillip Ham, Cllrs Kim Gibson

2 Absent

Cllr Kim Gibson

3 Declarations of Interest

None

4 Public Session

A resident spoke in relation to items 8a and 8b on the agenda. Questions were raised and answers given. The responses from the applicant would be considered as part of the debate on these items.

5 County and District Councillors Reports

District Report for November

The main issue raised for the possible unification of the District and County Councils as there was a public announcement this week. There are a number of options to be considered. The current one favoured by the County Council is to become a unitary Council. This was raised 12 years ago and a public referendum was held, however there is a suggestion that a referendum may not happen this time. Mendip District Council already has some shared services with its neighbouring Councils and would not gain anything from the unification. The strong feeling among Councillors is there will not be a lot to gain but the Councils may have to follow the County's decision if it is supported by government. There could be a public consultation over the next few months.

Mendip District Council are holding a drop-in session for Climate Emergency on 15th February between 10am and 4pm, this will be held at Mendip District Council offices.

The final report for the Local Plan II has yet to be released, although District Councillors have been called to a meeting next week, more news may be released then.

6 Minutes of Meeting held on 28th November 2019

Proposal by Cllr John McEntee that they were accurate and should be agreed, this was seconded by Cllr Keith Hambly. Minutes from the meeting were signed by the Chair

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

No Matters raised.

8 Note the responses in respect of the following planning applications

a) 2019/2920/LBC – Demolition of small open barn, refurbishment and conversion of stone barn for use as a studio, Refurbishment of attached outbuilding and covered way including re-roofing, repairs to walls and provision of a gardener's toilet in one of the bays and replacement of metal posts supporting covered way. Location - Manor House Farm, Burnt House Lane to Towns End, Stoke St Michael

A brief discussion was held and Cllr Amanda Taylor proposed that the Council recommend approval, this was seconded by Cllr Nicholas Corbett and unanimously agreed

b) 2019/2919/HSE – Demolition of barn, conversion of barn to studio, re-roofing and repairs to walls, replacement of metal posts to attached outbuilding and covered way. Location – Manor House Farm, Burnt House Lane to Towns End, Stoke St Michael.

A brief discussion was held and Cllr Amanda Taylor proposed that the Council recommend approval, this was seconded by Cllr Nicholas Corbett and unanimously agreed

c) 2019/2931/FUL - Change of use from agricultural to residential curtilage Class Use (C3), Location – Bloomfield, Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael

A lengthy discussion took place as it could set a precedent. Cllr Keith Hambly proposed that the Council recommend objection on the basis of change of use outside the development area, this was seconded by Cllr John McEntee and unanimously agreed.

d) 2019/0652/OTS – Appeal Proposal for Outline Planning Permission for a single storey dwelling with all matters reserved apart from access. Location – Fair View, Stoke Hill, Stoke St Michael.

Appeal Reference – **APP/Q3305/W/19/3242457**

This is to note that the appeal has been lodged against this application and Cllr John McEntee proposed that the Council are happy with the original comments made on the original application and don't wish to make any further comments, this was seconded by Cllr Keith Hambly and unanimously agreed.

e) Removal of caravans from Barn Farm, Tadhil Lane – Update on whether the caravans have been removed.

Cllr Alan Townsend informed the Council that the caravans have been removed, the enforcement officer will be notified.

f) Update of Knatchbull Arms signage - The applicant has now updated the colour scheme and revised the signage so that the 'Welcome' sign above the door has been removed.

g) **2019/3036/REM** – Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2018/2573/OTS for the erection of 2no. dwellings and associated access. Matters of access/appearance/landscaping/layout/scale to be determined. Location – Land at Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael

A brief discussion took place and it was proposed by Cllr Amanda Taylor that the Council recommend approval as there were no grounds for objection. Cllr John McEntee seconded the proposal and everyone unanimously agreed.

9 **Grants to Village Organisations**

There were no current requests

10 **Proposed Road Closure at Stoke Hill and Fosse Road**

Highways have been contacted as there is concern at the proposed alternative route and the impact it would have on the village and environment. This road closure and in particular the diversion routes causes issues for coaches collecting pupils for surrounding schools and students for colleges and also lorries delivering and collecting products to Stowells Concrete in Holcombe. An alternative plan route will be requested together with submitting a formal objection to Somerset County Council Highways.

11 **Quotes on repairing the Notice Board**

Cllr Amanda Taylor will chase and this has been deferred to the next meeting.

12 **Briefing Notes on new website, cost, emails, timescales, domain names**

A selection of domain names were presented to the Council, Cllr Keith Hambly proposed the new domain name is www.stokestmichaelpc.org, this was seconded by Cllr Matthew Rice and all agreed. Several web hosting packages were presented to the Council and it was proposed by Cllr John McEntee that the Council adopt a Wordpress Hosting Package run by IONOS, this was seconded by Cllr Keith Hambly. The new website will be up and running as soon as possible.

Fae Clements will be sent a letter thanking her for all her help in developing and input in the past.

The current domain name will be kept for the time being and if anyone would like to run the website, please contact the council. Grants may be available to help with the costs.

13 **Implementation of Councillor Email System –**

These are included in the new web hosting package; the new contact details will be made public once they are up and running.

14 **Mill Lane – Update from Somerset County Council**

There were more problems over the festive period and the traffic division at Somerset County Council were notified. A meeting is being held at the end of the month with a representative from Somerset County Council, a local resident will be attending with Cllrs Keith Holder and Cllrs Keith Hambly. The outcome will be presented at the next meeting.

15 **Millennium Wood –**

(a) **Activity Day 19th January 2020**

This is taking place on Sunday 19th January between 12 noon and 3pm. Help with tasks that need carrying out, equipment will be provided and refreshments will be on sale.

(b) **Management Structure and Potential Fee Expenditure in relation to the creation of a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

Information was circulated to the Councillors on the lease, application and fee structure. Two companies were contacted – Firm A and Firm B. Firm A quoted up to £2.8k plus VAT and Firm B quoted £4.5K plus VAT.

Cllr Keith Holder proposed that £2.8K plus VAT is earmarked and that Firm A is contacted to prepare the paperwork, this was seconded by Cllr Keith Hambly and unanimously agreed.

A meeting will be arranged with the Millennium Wood Working Party to confirm their continuing interest in pursuing a CIO.

16 **Finance**

a) **Account Balances –**

Current Account as at 30th December 2019 £27,878.61

Reserve Account as at 30th December 2019 £50.43

b) **Budget 2020/2021**

The budget for 2020/2021 was discussed and Cllr Keith Holder proposed that the Council accept it, this was seconded by Cllr Amanda Taylor and unanimously agreed.

c) **Agreement of Annual Precept**

It was proposed that the precept be increased to £24,500.00 and this was all agreed.

d) **Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2019/2020**

Cllr Keith Holder proposed the ProBusiness be appointed as the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2019/2020, this was seconded by Cllr Keith Hambly and unanimously agreed.

e) **Payments and Receipts: -**

Memorial Hall Grant Payment - £1950.00

SLCC Membership - £63.00

Fae Clements – November and December – £50.00

Clerks Salary – December 2019 - £258.96

Reimbursement of tools and equipment for Millennium Wood – £615.09

EDF Electricity Bill - £126.63

All agreed and signed by Cllr John McEntee and Cllr Keith Holder

19 Correspondence

- a) Speedwatch Email
- b) Minutes from Quarry Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2019
- c) Good Councillors Guide to Transport Planning – forwarded 13.12.2019
- d) Legal News – forwarded 13.12.2019
- e) Mendip Parish Bulletin – forwarded 13.12.2019
- f) Public Path Diversion Order – forwarded 16.12.2019
- g) Road Closure along Tower Hill from the Junction with Mill Lane Northwards to the junction with Millennium Close for a distance of 55 meters. Becomes effective 13th January 2020 and the works are expected to last 5 days.

20 Matters to report/Items for next agenda

- a) Co-option of new Parish Councillor
- b) Additional signatures required on the bank account
- c) Quotes for repairing the Parish Noticeboard
- d) Road Closure on Stoke Hill and Fosse Road
- e) Mill Lane – Meeting with Somerset County Council
- f) Update of the CIO by the Millennium Wood Working Party

21 Date and time of next meeting: 27th February at 19.30 hrs. in the War Memorial Hall

The meeting concluded at 10.00pm