

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the virtual meeting held on 3rd September 2020

Present: Cllr Keith Holder (Chair), Cllrs., Keith Hambly, Amanda Taylor, Kim Gibson, and John McEntee.

Also, in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk).

1 **Welcome by the Chairman**

2 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Nick Corbett and David Richardson-Aitken

3 **Absent**

Cllrs Nick Corbett and David Richardson-Aitken

4 **Declarations of Interest**

None

5 **Public Session**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

6 **County and District Councillor Reports**

There was no report from Somerset County Council, the District report was forwarded before the meeting, and has been included in Appendix A.

7 **To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 27th February 2020, 13th August 2020 and 23rd July 2020, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 27th February and 23rd July be accepted as a true record and would be signed by the Chair once physical meetings are resumed. The minutes for 13th August be accepted as a true record but with the addition of the following sentence to item 6 (a) “and there was some support for the sustainability of the design project, however” and item 5 – be refused was changed with “were recommended for refusal”

8. **Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

(a) Abandoned cars within the village, this will be chased up with the Enforcement Officer

9 **Polices – to be approved and adopted**

(a) Financial Regulations

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the policy

Cllr Matthew Rice joined the meeting at 7.50pm.

(b) Standing Orders

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the policy.

(c) Social Media Policy

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the policy

(d) Appointment of a Webmaster

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the Parish Clerk as the Webmaster

(e) Data Protection Policy

The Council **RESOLVED** to approved and adopt the policy

(f) List of Dates for Future Meetings 2020-2021**10 To Be Resolved****(a) Response from Tree Surgeons regarding the tree in St Michaels Close.**

Upon consulting two tree Surgeons, the response was the same from both – it is a mature Cherry Tree and there doesn't appear to be any issues with the health of the tree, neither of them could see any structural faults or issues either.

(b) Parish Council Representative on the War Memorial Hall Committee.

Cllr Nick Corbett volunteered before the meeting for the role and the Council **RESOLVED** to confirm his appointment in that role.

(c) To confirm that the Parish Council are Custodian Trustees of the War Memorial Hall and the Community Playing Field

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council are Custodian Trustees of the War Memorial Hall and the Community Playing Field.

(d) Consider the report from MBC Traffic Consultation on the Traffic Plan

An initial draft has been received; it is quite short on detail but the document is still being finalised. This will be put on the next agenda, where hopefully a final document will be discussed.

(e) Lychgate Cleaning

This has been deferred to the next meeting.

(f) Consider the appointment of a Lengthsman for the Parish

Options will be researched and this will be brought back to the next meeting.

11. Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.

(a) 2020/1606/HSE – Make changes to the roof design to form rooms in the roof. From dormer windows as drawings. Form extension to front elevation.

Location – Beacon House, Old Frome Road, Doultling, Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LB

Cllr John McEntee proposed that the Council recommend approval, this was seconded by Cllr Kim Gibson and unanimously agreed.

(b) 2020/1618/HSE – Erection of single storey lean-to-side extension. Location – 1 Steeple View, Stoke St Michael

The Council unanimously agreed to recommend approval.

12. Clerk's Report

(a) Notification from Somerset County Council regarding the faulty gate post leading from Stoke Hill to the Playing Fields. The initial response was that the gate was going to be removed completely but not replaced as it is not necessary for livestock. Upon receiving comments that doing this would cause concern and would be dangerous for pedestrians exiting the pathway, Somerset County Council was contacted again and the response was they thought that might be the consensus, they will have another look at it and see if the gate can be replaced with something they have in stock and to leave it with them.

(b) A request was received from Somerset County Council as to the state of the Grit Bins within the parish, these were checked and reported back

(c) A report was received about the state of road along Green Lane and the increasing size and number of potholes. This was reported to Somerset Highways, reference number 573161.

13. **Finance**

Bank Balances as at: - 6th August 2020

Business Account - £14,881.72

Reserve Account - £29,878.03

Receipts

(a) Interest on the Reserve Account - £0.59

Payments

(b) Postage - £2.60

(c) Primrose Garden Maintenance (June and July) - £1302.86

(d) Clerks Salary - £258.96

(e) Ionos invoice – Web Hosting - £12.00

(f) Replacement cheque for cheque number 599 issued on 27th February 2020, the cheque has gone missing and has not been cashed.

Hall hire for parish council meetings held in the Memorial Hall - £148.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the above payments.

14. **Correspondence**

(a) A copy of a letter from David Fothergill with the Business Plan for One Somerset was forwarded on 31st July 2020.

(b) The Joint Statement from the leaders of the District Councils regarding One Somerset was forwarded on 30th July 2020.

(c) A survey was forwarded from Mendip District Council regarding public transport.

(d) A Press release was forwarded from Somerset County Council stating that Somerset District Council have now agreed to work towards a plan to abolish themselves and create two new unitary authorities across Somerset.

(e) A letter was forwarded from Mendip District Council regarding a project that aspires to reduce the volume of commuter related vehicles in the District, through the creation of an integrated network of multi-user paths that facilitate walking and cycling to work.

(f) Consultation on changes to the current planning system – forwarded 14th August 2020

(g) Consultation on planning for the future white paper – forwarded 14th August 2020

(h) Consultation on transparency and competition (land control) – forwarded 15th August 2020.

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

(a) Traffic issues within the village

(b) Combined Village Speed Watch Group

(c) To consider MBC Traffic Consultancy Report

16. **Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 15th October at 7.30pm, via Zoom

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm

Appendix A

Mendip District Report from Alan Townsend

Our activities in the month have been dominated by the Coleford Planning application for 63 houses off Anchor Rd. Within a week of being notified that the Officer recommendation was to Accept we compiled a 28 page brochure to challenge his conclusions. The main issues were Mendip's wrong interpretation of current planning case law (the Holgate judgement), the harm to the countryside, ignoring Mendip's new Corporate Plan for a Greener Fairer Mendip, and most important to us, highways. The Brochure was hand delivered to all Members of the Planning Board and we explained the issues to them either on the doorstep or on their site visit. Despite our representations,

Somerset Highways would not accept that the fact that their database showing no accidents within 500m of the site over the last 5 years is not a true picture of the dangers of the local highway network. The Brochure gave details of 32 separate accidents.

The decision of the Board to Refuse was tight, 6 versus 5, with 2 abstentions. The reason given was Harm to the Nature and Character of the Countryside, and highways was not mentioned. We hope this gives us a good chance if it goes to appeal as you cannot conceal the fact that over 6 acres of greenfield site would be destroyed, together with 150m of mature hedgerow including a 10m high healthy semi mature Elm tree.

HIGHWAYS

Good to see some marking up for repair after I notified them of potholes and pooling at Stoke Bottom by the Fairy Cave junction.