

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the virtual meeting held on 1st April 2021

Present: Cllrs Keith Holder (Chair), Keith Hambly, David Richardson-Aitken,
Nicholas Corbett

Also, in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk).

Some of the items were taken out of order from the agenda

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept 12(b) – planning application 2021/0570/LBC which did not appear on the agenda

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Kim Gibson, John McEntee, Amanda Taylor

3. Absent

Cllrs Kim Gibson, John McEntee, Amanda Taylor, Matthew Rice

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Keith Hambly declared an interest in relation to item 11a and 13c

5. Public session

There were two members of the public in attendance. With regard to item 11(a) the Chair of the Playing Fields Committee Field gave a short presentation, also giving Councillors the opportunity to ask questions but none were raised.

9 Co-Option of New Councillor

Simon Farnsworth was in attendance and spoke for a few minutes in regard to joining the Council. The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to elect him as a parish Councillor for Stoke St Michael Parish Council

(a) Signing of Acceptance of Office Form

Cllr Simon Farnsworth signed the acceptance of office form on screen and he was welcomed to the Council.

11 Grants

(a) Discussion and approval of a grant application from Stoke St Michael Community Field.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application of £5000.00, this was proposed by Cllr David Richardson-Aitken and seconded by Cllr Nicholas Corbett

6. County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Alan Townsend and County Councillor Phillip Ham were both in attendance, the reports were sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting and are also attached in appendix B and C.

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 18th February, 11th March and 18th March, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of 18th February, 11th March and 18th March be accepted as a true record and would be signed by the Chair once physical meetings can resume.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

10. To Be Resolved

(a) Proposal to consider paying for Cllr Amanda Taylor to attend a SALC Webinar at a cost of £20.

The Council **RESOLVED** to pay for Cllr Amanda Taylor to attend ad SALC Webinar at a cost of £20 and in future Councillor will write a short report to forward to other Councillors

(b) Proposal from another Parish Council to support their request to Somerset County Council to make vital improvements to the junction of the A37 and the Old Frome Road.

The Council **RESOLVED** to support in principle St Cuthbert's Out Parish Councils request to Somerset County Council to make vital improvements to the junction of the A37 and the old Frome Road

(c) Proposal to reinstate the Staffing Committee for the Clerk's annual appraisal.

The original staffing committee consisting of Cllr Keith Holder, Keith Hambly and Amanda Taylor will be reinstated for one meeting to carry out the Clerks appraisal.

(d) Proposal to plan a way forward to deal with increasing HGV movements throughout the village.

After a long discussion County Councillor Phillip Ham will contact Highways and request implementing a 20mph within the village, and will ask the Traffic Engineers to carry out a site visit in order to see the problem for themselves and whether they can help to resolve the issues.

(e) Proposal to join the Somerset Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) at £3 a month

The Council **RESOVLED** that Stoke St Michael Parish Council should join the Somerset Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) at £3 a month.

(f) Proposal to accept quotes from interested parties in relation to cleaning the Lychgate and the Bus Shelter.

Companies / individuals contacted in relation to cleaning the Lychgate declined to quote, a discussion was held on maybe this could be done on a volunteer basis. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

- (g) Proposal to pass delegation to the Clerk to submit responses to Planning Applications once replies have been received from Councillors. This would be effective until Parish Council Meetings can be held again either virtually or physically.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to allow the Clerk to submit responses to Planning Applications once replies have been received from Councillors. This would only be effective until Parish Council Meetings can be held again either virtually or physically.

12. 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) 2021/0613/PAH** - Erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 6 metres, with a maximum height of 2.9m metres and an eaves height of 2.7 metres. Location – 7 Church Street, Stoke St Michael

The Council recommended approval

- (b) 2021/0570/LBC** – Replacement of glass in 3no. windows to the north elevation with repair to stonework mullions. Location Tanyard House, Fosse Road, Oakhill.

The Council recommended approval

13. Clerk's Report

- (a)** An invitation has been received by One Somerset to Town and Parish Clerks to join regular meetings to discuss the Local Government Reform plus other matters. The invitation has been accepted and meetings will be attended when time permits.
- (b)** All Council documents are now based in the cloud on an outlook address, it is limited to one user, further options can be investigated if required.
- (c)** The Millennium Wood Working Party has now officially become a charity – Stoke St Michael Woodland.

Update – Cllr Keith Hambly will contact Wellers Hedleys Solicitors to create a lease agreement so Stoke St Michael Woodland can lease the land from the Parish Council at a peppercorn rent

14. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 17th March 2021 from the Cash Book

Business Account - £2,259.11

Reserve Account - £31,266.44

Income 2020-2021 - £31,295.77

Expenses 2020-2021 - £22,811.15

Please note these figures do not include the final figures obtained on 1st April 2021

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £0.74

(b) VAT Refund - £1385.62

Payments

- (c) 50% cost of the glass replacement in the Bus Shelter - £113.83
 - (d) Postage £2.64
 - (e) Clerks Salary – February and March - £517.92
 - (f) Zoom Invoice – February and March - £28.78
 - (g) Ionos Invoice – February and March - £24
 - (h) Compost Bin - £57.20
 - (i) Wellers Hedleys - £1560.00
 - (j) Transfer of £10,000 from the Reserve Account to the Current Account
- The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above receipts and payments.

15. Correspondence

See Appendix A

16. Matters to report/items for next agenda

- (a) Cllr Keith Holder formally resigned as Chair of Stoke St Michael Parish Council but will carry on as Parish Councillor. A new chair will be elected at the Annual Council Meeting

17. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 6th May - Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Council Meeting to be held at 7.30pm held via Zoom.

Meeting closed at 9.32pm

Appendix A

List of Correspondence Received

- (a)** SALC Councillor Events in February / Early March -forwarded 19.02.21
- (b)** Consultation for Local Government Reform which opened on 22nd February 2021 and lasts for eight weeks until 19th April – forwarded 23.02.21
- (c)** Public Rights of Way to all Parish, Town and City Councillors in Somerset – forwarded 01.03.21
- (d)** Planning Board Training Slides on Habitat Regulations and Assessments were sent from Mendip District Council – forwarded 01.03.21
- (e)** Parish Town Council Briefing Session – Invitation to the session in March – forwarded 05.03.21
- (f)** Invitation to a briefing on phosphates in the area – forwarded 05.03.21
- (g)** Parish Stakeholder letter from Ros Wyke on behalf of Stronger Somerset – forwarded 08.03.21
- (h)** Local Government Reorganisation event – Sedgemoor and Mendip – invitation to attend a virtual meeting on 7th April.
- (i)** CPRE comment on the planning application 2020/2600/FUL – forwarded 15.03.21
- (j)** Local Government Reorganisation and Claims made by Stronger Somerset – forwarded 16.03.21
- (k)** Letter on the Stronger Somerset 'update' on behalf of Ros Wyke the Leader of Mendip District Council – forwarded 19.03.21
- (l)** Mendip District Parish Briefing and Covid Update – forwarded 23.03.21
- (m)** Invitation to join Stronger Somerset in a webinar to discuss their proposals for the future of Local Government in Somerset – forwarded 23.02.21

Appendix B

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2021

PLANNING

The 17th March Planning Board rejected the repeat application by Gladmans for 63 houses on Anchor Rd, Coleford. The reason was the same as for the previous application, the Harm to the Countryside caused by the Excessive Number of dwellings. Coleford is still working hard on its case against the appeal which Gladman submitted against the refusal of the original application.

The limited consultation on the Emerging Local Plan Part 2 finished on 22nd March. The Planning Inspector is scheduled to publish his draft final report in April.

SCRUTINY BOARD 18-3-21

After limited debate Scrutiny endorsed Mendip's plan for installing electric vehicle charging points in 5 of its car parks. Very few will be of the highest power, and none will be in rural areas.

There was much debate about the performance of Somerset Waste Partnership in these difficult times. There have been particular issues in Shepton – has Stoke suffered from any significant problems?

PURDAH

We are now in the period of Purdah prior to the May elections so we do not expect to see any decisions which could be seen to have political implications.

Phillip Ham / Alan Townsend

Appendix C

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

BRIEFING SHEET FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

APRIL 2021

Future Parish, Town and City Council meetings: The government announced on the 25th March that the Coronavirus regulations allowing for remote Parish, town and City Council meetings would not be extended beyond 6th May 2021. This effectively means that all Council meetings scheduled for the 7th May or later will have to be held in public, face-to-face. No provision is available for remote attendance including mixed hybrid (part attendance) meetings. A legal challenge has been launched by Hertfordshire County Council but this will not be heard until later in April and planning should now be made to either pull forward meetings before 7th May, postpone meetings or determine Covid secure meeting facilities for the Council and Members of the public.

At the same time the Government have launched a consultation on allowing remote or hybrid meetings on a permanent basis via their website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence>

Road Map out of lockdown: From 29 March - Outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households were allowed including gatherings in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts reopened and [organised adult and children's sport, such as grassroots football, returned](#). From 12th April: major parts of the economy are permitted to reopen including non-essential retail, hairdressers and some public buildings like libraries; Outdoor settings like beer gardens, zoos and theme parks; Indoor leisure like swimming pools and gyms; Self-contained holiday accommodation, such as self-catering lets and campsites. Wider social contact rules will continue to apply in all settings - meaning no indoor mixing between different households.

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 1st April the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 19,982 (up from 18,890 on 28th February) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 787 (722). The rate per 100,000 stands at 41.8 for Somerset with Mendip at 26.8, Sedgemoor at 53.6, South Somerset 61.2 and SW&T at 22.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 25% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.7 and 0.9.

It is vitally important to remember, even those who have had a jab, to observe Hands-Face-Space and to Ventilate indoor areas at all times.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. **0300 790 6275**, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programme roll-out: Teams across the wider health and care system have worked round the clock at 13 GP-led community vaccination sites, two hospital hubs, two large vaccination centres (Taunton Racecourse and the Bath and West Showground) plus seven local pharmacy sites. As a result Somerset has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing 309,227 having received at least their first vaccination in the County or 66.7% of the 16+ population. In addition 33,765 have received their second dose. Take up rates across the County of the first dose remains very high: 80+ (98.7%), 75-79 (100%), 70-74 (99.3%), 65-69 (91.6%), 60-64 (96.5%), 55-59 (94.2%) and 50-54 (88.3%).

Somerset Medal: The Somerset Medal is designed to say a heartfelt thank-you to the best of the best that have really gone beyond the call of duty during the Coronavirus pandemic. So many people, from teachers and nurses, police and fire officers, carers, shop workers, volunteer drivers and waste collectors have all gone the extra mile to make sure that every effort was made to support communities. To nominate someone who has really made a difference to your community please submit an email with a maximum of 250 words, providing the nominee's name and location and describing why they deserve the medal to DemocraticServices2@somerset.gov.uk and put 'Somerset Medal nomination' in the subject field. Nominations close on 23 April with the inaugural Somerset Medal award winners unveiled on Somerset Day, 11 May.

One Somerset: The government's public consultation into changing the way local councils work in Somerset ends on the 19th April. The County Council's proposal to replace the county's five existing councils with a simple, single unitary model to end confusion for residents, remove waste and duplication, and free up funding to invest in vital public services is a key part of the consultation. It would also offer more powers for local Town and Parish Councils and one strong voice to lobby for funding and support. For more information and to take part in the consultation visit: www.onesomerset.org.uk

Investing in School (1): Plans are underway for a major £6.2m project to expand Holyrood Academy in Chard to increase student numbers and meet growing demand. The new building will incorporate a purpose-built student/dining area, six classrooms, new office spaces and meeting rooms and a single point of entry into the school. If approved, building is set to start late summer with the new building complete by September 2022. To have your say then email FuturesInfo@Somerset.gov.uk

Investing in Schools (2): The new Somerton primary school will open after Easter following a £7.3m build programme by Somerset County Council. The new school can accommodate up to 420 pupils and 52 early years children, with 14 classrooms, a pre-school, a school hall, a production kitchen, sports pitches and a multi-use games area. The facilities used innovative construction techniques to ensure the school has strong environmental credentials. Plans for the school to open in September 2020 were delayed due to archaeologists uncovering evidence of Roman and Iron Age settlements at the site ahead of construction.

Highways Awards: The multi-million pound project to upgrade Taunton's M5 Junction 25 has won a two prestigious awards at the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transport (CIHT) South West Awards 2021 ceremony. As well as winning the Project of the Year and Collaboration Awards for the £19.2m scheme SCC also picked up the Innovation Award for on traffic modelling for the Toneyway scheme.