

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 8th July 2021

Present: Cllrs Keith Hambly (Chair), John McEntee, David Richardson-Aitken, Simon Farnsworth, Nicholas Corbett, Amanda Taylor and Matthew Rice

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

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

1. Welcome by the Chairman

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Keith Holder and Kim Gibson

3. Absent

Cllrs Keith Holder and Kim Gibson

4. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

5. Public session

There were three members of the public in attendance. Two residents spoke about the various traffic issues on Church Street and Mendip Road, they have requested more signage, zebra crossing, crossing patrols to help with the children walking to school. Information has previously been passed to County Councillor Phillip Ham and requests to speak to Somerset Highways. An update will be obtained for the next meeting.

A community Speed watch Group is in the process of being established in the village

A representative from the Village Hall Committee was in attendance and spoke about the grant application (item 10a). The floor would be replaced and would be finished with a waterproof membrane making it easier to keep clean.

6. County and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Phillip Ham and District Council Alan Townsend sent their apologies due to other commitments. The report is attached at the end of the meeting as Appendix A.

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 6th May 2021, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of 6th May 2021 be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

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

Wilder Churches will appear on a future agenda

11. To Be Resolved**(a) Appointment of representatives to Committees, Working Parties and Outside Bodies**

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the Councillors to the following Committees, Working Parties and Outside Bodies.

Staffing Committee – Cllrs Keith Hambly, Keith Holder and Amanda Taylor

Millennium Wood Working Party – Cllrs Amanda Taylor, Keith Hambly, John McEntee (main contact)

Quarry Liaison – Cllrs Simon Farnsworth and Amanda Taylor

Community Playing Field – Cllrs Keith Hambly and Amanda Taylor

Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall – Cllr Nicholas Corbett

9. Policies**(a) Dates of Future Meetings**

The Council **RESOLVED** future dates of meetings until September 2022. From the document previously selected option 1 was chosen.

(b) Annual Risk Assessment

The Council **RESOLVED** the annual Risk Assessment

(c) Volunteer Policy

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Volunteer Policy

(d) Dispensation Policy and Dispensation Request Form

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the Dispensation Policy and Dispensation Request Form. Cllr Nicholas Corbett requested a dispensation in regard to 10a

10. Grants**(a) Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall - £2284.94**

After a discussion the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of £2,284.94

(b) Stoke St Michael Mother and Baby Group - £432.00

Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant of £432.00

11 To Be Resolved**(b) Councillors Interests/Responsibilities**

Finance – Cllrs Keith Hambly and Matthew Rice

Highways – Cllrs Nicholas Corbett (lead) and David Richardson-Aitken

Footpaths – Cllrs David Richardson-Aitken (lead) and Nicholas Corbett

Climate Change – Cllr Amanda Taylor

Planning Cllrs Simon Farnsworth and Amanda Taylor

(c) Proposal to add an extra clause into the annual insurance to cover a data breach, the cost would be an additional £56.00

Due to the low risk the Council **RESOLVED** not to add the extra clause into the annual insurance to cover a data breach.

(d) Proposal to obtain quotes to carry out repairs/maintenance to the Lychgate and Bridge.

Following a discussion regarding the various maintenance and repair issues with some being quite urgent the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the following quotes for work that needs to be carried out. J Murtagh Tree Services £550.00, Rogers Construction and Maintenance £400.00 and Green Gait £903.00. A Community and Climate and Ecological Emergency Grant will be applied for from Mendip District Council. A working party will be set up by the Parish Council to discuss future ideas for the green and how plans will be communicated within the village

(e) Proposal to accept the quote to remove brambles located at the far end of Mead Close

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £298 from Green Gait to remove brambles located at the far end of Mead Close, they will be contacted to carry out the works.

(f) Discussion To consider the impact of cars parking on the amenity grass in Moonshill Road.

Following a discussion Cllr David Richardson-Aitken will draft leaflet to be dropped to the residents and an update will be discussed at the next meeting.

(g) Proposal to request EDF to remove the charges for Parish Lighting.

The Councils **RESOLVED** to contact EDF to cancel the charges for Parish Lighting. Information has been received from a member of the public that the charges may relate to the floodlight in the churchyard, although it is known that this has not functioned for many years.

(h) Proposal to replace the damaged Village Sign on Fosse Road – the cost would be approximately £250.

The Council **RESOLVED** to replace the damaged Village Sign on Fosse Road for approximately £250 and Somerset County Council will be contacted to carry out the works.

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) **2021/1114/HSE** Erection of two storey rear and single storey side extension. Location – Springdale, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Update** – Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as the extension was in proportion to the size of the site and had been designed purposely and sympathetically. There were concerns about its proximity to neighbours but it had been designed not to directly overlook the affected properties.
- (b) **2020/2600/FUL** – Construction of stoned farm tracks across 35 hectares of agricultural farm land at Cooks Wood Quarry. **Update** – An enforcement file has been set up under ENF/2021/0090 and the planning agent is in discussion with the case officer in regard to a resubmission.
- (c) **2020/0580/OTS** – Outline Planning application for the residential development of up to 47 dwellings. Location Land south of Fairbanks, Coalpit Lane. **Update** – Mendip District Council refused the application
- (d) **2021/0570/LBC** – Replacement of glass in 3 no. windows to the north elevation with repair to stonework mullions – Tanyard House, Fosse Road, Oakhill. **Update** Mendip District Council approved the application.

13. Clerk's Report

- (a) Stoke St Michael Woodland have been contacted by Hi-Line in regard to trimming trees along the line of the cables, but there are still nesting birds so Hi-Line are happy to delay this until later on in the year.
- (b) Had been copied into emails from a resident to the Parish Path Liaison Officer (Alun Stewart) regarding footpaths in and out of Cooks Wood Quarry. He has walked the paths and remove the brambles blocking the paths.
- (c) Received notification that the entrance to the drains which serve the gully's on Fosse Road at Fairy Cove were blocked with debris, this has been reported to Somerset Highways.

- (d) The glass in the Bus Shelter has now been replaced, thank you to Roman Glass for carrying out the work.
- (e) Information has been received regarding The Queens Platinum Jubilee Beacons on 2nd June 2022 and asking whether the Parish Council would like to become involved.

14. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 29th June 2021

Current Account - £3,717.19

Reserve Account - £46,437.49

Quarterly Budget Review Signed by Cllr Keith Hambly

Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

Receipts

(a) Burial Fees - £306.00

(b) Bank Interest - £0.40

Payments

(c) Zoom invoice £14.39

(d) Ionos invoice May and June £24.00

(e) Clerks' salary – May £258.96

(f) SLLC Course Community Engagement & Involvement - £9.00

(g) Roman Glass – replacement of glass in bus shelter - £113.83

(h) WordPress Training - £45.00

(i) Clerk's Back Pay April 2020 to April 2021 - £83.52

(j) Clerk's Back Pay April 2021 to June 2021 - £36.72

(k) Clerk's salary – June £271.20

(l) Transfer from the Reserve Account - £5,000.00

The Council **RESOLVED** the above receipts and payments and also **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments

(m) Refund to Cllr Amanda Taylor for Teak Oil for bench on Millennium Green - £11.10

(n) Bank Interest received - £0.38

(o) Purchase of Ink Cartridge - £30.00

(p) EDF Energy - £161.00

(q) Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall £2284.94

(r) Stoke St Michael Baby and Toddler Group - £432.00

15. Correspondence

(a) Invitation to Neighbouring Parishes/Unitary Authority Meeting on Tuesday 18th May – forwarded 11th May 2021

(b) SALC Councillors Training Events during June and July – forwarded 17th May 2021

(c) Notification of the local poll on the future of Local Government in Somerset – forwarded 17th May 2021

(d) Reaffirming a commitment to continue the local poll – a message from the Stronger Somerset Team – forwarded 26th May 2021

(e) Consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy and Street Trading Policy – Licensing Act 2003 – forwarded 03.06.2021

(f) Two new funds for Mendip! – forwarded 07.06.21

(g) Leaders write to Rt Hon Robert Jenrick and meet to discuss proposals for two unitary authorities – forwarded 15.06.21

- (h) Carbon Literacy Training – forwarded 22.06.2021
- (i) An update on local government reorganisation in Somerset – forwarded 25.06.21

16. Matters to report/items for next agenda

- (a) A report has been received of an overgrown hedge on Tadhill Lane and the appearance of potholes due to vehicles having to drive on the opposite verge to avoid the vegetation. This has been reported to Somerset County Council – reference number 588300.
- (b) Update on traffic issues within the village
- (c) Approval of the Lease for Stoke St Michael Woodland
- (d) Training for the Parish Path Liaison Officer
- (e) Water Butt in the Burial Ground

17. Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business.

- (a) The Annual Salary for the Parish Clerk was reviewed.

18. Date and time of next meeting: -

Planning Meeting – Thursday 22nd July at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 19th August at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Meeting Closed 10.20pm

Appendix A

STOKE ST MICHAEL PC REPORT JULY 2021

CABINET

The meeting scheduled for 5th July was cancelled at an hours notice due to “technical issues”. This was disappointing as we were hoping for a response to the question as to what measures the Council are taking to correct and to seek redress for the Unitary Poll One Somerset leaflet pointing voters to a spoof website described by the Secretary of State as offensive and sexist. The Poll indicated that voters preferred the Stronger Somerset proposal for separate East and West Somerset unitaries. The Leader hailed this as meaning 2 out of 3 people in Somerset supported Stronger Somerset. However with a turnout of some 24% this means only about 1 in 6 on the Electoral Register supported it. The decision of the Secretary of State is expected by 22nd July.

Climate Change – a paper was presented at the 7-6-21 Cabinet to show progress towards the Council’s target of Carbon Neutral by 2030. This indicated that in reality a reduction of some 30% was achievable by Mendip. Even to achieve this would require 31 x 2.5 MW wind turbines. These are 450ft high and as the Mendips are the windiest location they could be spaced every half mile from the Mendip Golf Course to Norton St Philip.

PLANNING

There are currently 7 staff vacancies in this area, including Planning, Conservation and Enforcement. Recruitment is in hand and contract staff are being employed.

Local Plan Part 2 – The Inspector’s final report was due at the end of May, it is now scheduled for the end of July. We do not think this is anything sinister, most likely caused by the Inspector being temporarily redeployed. Adoption by the end of September is still planned. This will have direct relevance to the Gladman appeal in Coleford which starts on 18th August.

COLEFORD ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (RBL)

We are attending a Mendip meeting this evening to pursue our case to have the RBL classified as an Asset of Community Value. If we are successful it will prevent the RBL being sold off without the community having a chance to save it. We are very aware of the loss of the RBL at Stratton.

PH/AT