

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 11th November in the War Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Keith Hambly (Chair), Amanda Taylor, Kim Gibson, Nicholas Corbett, John McEntee and Simon Farnsworth

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman

(a) Report from the Town and Parish Council Conference held on 7th October

This was discussed under item 9 (h)

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs David Richardson-Aitken and Keith Holder

3. Absent

Cllr Matthew Rice

4. (a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest received.

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5. Public Session to include a presentation by Rob Palmer from Mendip District Council Planning Policy Team in reference to the Village Design Code.

There were four members of the public in attendance

Rob Palmer from Mendip District Council Planning Policy Team gave a presentation on the Village Design Code and how the process would happen. After the presentation members of the public and the Councillors were able to ask questions. The presentation has been uploaded to the website

6. County and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Phillip Ham sent his apologies. District Council Alan Townsend was in attendance and gave a verbal report on how the move to a unitary council is progressing and potential further action with regard to the planning appeal for homes at Anchor Road in Coleford.

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 30th September 2021, previously circulated.

After correcting a spelling mistake, the Council **RESOLVED** the minutes for 30th September 2021 be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

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

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

9. To Be Resolved

(a) Discussion and Proposal on whether to participate in the pilot for a Village Design Code and agree the next steps

Following a discussion Cllr Amanda Taylor proposed that the Parish Council participate in the pilot for a Village Design Code, this was seconded by Cllr John McEntee and was **RESOLVED** by the Council. The next steps will be discussed at the next meeting by setting up a Working Party which will include Councillors and residents. Cllr Keith Hambly will speak to Rob Palmer and ask him to proceed.

(b) Confirmation of the position of the bollards in Mill Lane and who will be key holders.

All the affected residents have been contacted and they have no objection to the proposed solution. Two removable bollards will be placed near the footpath to the south-west of the entrance to Mill Cottage and one at the entrance to Mill Lane by the Church. Residents will each be given a key to allow removal of the bollards. Cllr Keith Hambly will contact Sara Davis from Somerset Traffic Management and ask her to proceed with the installation.

(c) Proposal to appoint the Parish Clerk as Acting Burial Clerk

Anthea Brooks has resigned as the Parish Burial Clerk; the Parish Council would like to thank her for your help over the years. The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the Parish Clerk as Acting Burial Clerk until a replacement can be found.

(d) Proposal on how to deal with the issue with trees on Moonshill Green that have branches overhanging the road and causing a barrier

The Council **RESOLVED** to contact some Tree Surgeons to obtain prices for carrying out the work. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

(e) Proposal for the Parish Council to contribute £36 towards costs of the Clerk studying for the FILCA qualification.

The Council **RESOLVED** to contribute £36 towards costs of the Clerk for the FILCA qualification.

(f) Acceptance of the quote and appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2021/22.

The Council accepted the quote and **RESOLVED** to appoint Probusiness as the Internal Auditor for 2021/22 at a cost of £230.00 + VAT.

(g) Proposal to appoint a Councillor to respond to the consultation into amending the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) 2016 Regulations.

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr John McEntee to respond to the consultation into amending the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) 2016 Regulations. Due to the tight deadline, a draft copy will be sent out via email for comments before submitting the Council's response.

(h) Proposal to respond to the invitation to participate in a working group for a pilot LCN in the Frome area.

Cllr Keith Hambly gave verbal feedback from the Town and Parish Council Conference held on 7th October. There are potentially four pilot LCN's being set up across the county with Frome being one, various topics have been allocated and the Frome will be discussing Youth and Family. Following a discussion, it was decided that Stoke St Michael Parish Council would not participate in the pilot group, although the Parish Clerk will continue to attend on behalf of other Parish Councils.

10. 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) 2020/2565/OTS** Change of use from agricultural to leisure/tourism. Tourist development of up to 8 shepherds huts / glamping pods and associated infrastructure. Land at 367587 147065 Burnt House Lane to Towns End, Stoke St Michael **Update** Application has been withdrawn
- (b) 2021/1147/VRC** Application to vary / remove condition 2 (drawings) of planning approval 2019/2408/HSE (Proposed two storey rear extension, infill of existing porch and re-siting of front door) to replace skylights on west elevation with dormer windows. Glenmead, Stoke Hill, Stoke St Michael **Update** Mendip District Council approved the application.
- (c) 2021/0085/FUL** Demotion of existing barn and erection of dwelling. Fosse Farm, Fosse Road, Oakhill **Update** Application has been withdrawn.
- (d) 2021/1637/APP and 2021/1636/APP** Application to discharge conditions 3 and 5 on Planning Application 2019/3036/REM following outline approval 2018/2573/OTS for the erection of 2 dwellings. Matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. Plot 1, South of Bloomfield, Coalpit Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Mendip District Council approved the applications.

11.Planning Applications being Monitored

- (a) **ENF/2021/0090** Construction of stoned farm tracks across 35 hectares of agricultural farm land to be used for walking, cycling, and bridleways. Cooks Wood Quarry, Bector Lane, Stoke St Michael. The application was withdrawn on 1st March 2021 and an enforcement case was requested due to part of the application was for retrospective planning. The Enforcement Team have confirmed a case has been opened and that discussions are taking place regarding a resubmission.

12.Clerk's Report

- (a) Update on the area around the school being reduced to a 20mph zone. A survey will be carried out to assess where new signs can be located. Please note that this is a 20WLS (20 When Lights Show signs) project, which means it is an advisory limit and is not a permit 20mph Zone or Limit.
- (b) The Parish Council have received notification that the second part of the SALC/SCC grant for Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Grant for £500 has been awarded.
- (c) Update from Cllr Simon Farnsworth from the Quarry Liaison Meeting on 20th October 2021, the report was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting.
Update A copy of the report is attached as appendix A.

13.Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 31st October 2021

Reserve Account - £36,438.92

Current Account - £6,936.06

Quarterly Budget Review and Budget Forecast.

Receipts

- (a) SALC/SCC Grant £1500.00 received 01.10.21
- (b) SALC/SCC Grant £500 received 21.10.21
- (c) Cheque – Burial Fees - £124.00 – paid into the bank 1.11.21
- (d) Bacs payment – Monument fees - £62.00 received 27.10.21
- (e) Bank Interest - £0.35 – received 11.10.21
- (f) Cheque – Burial Fees - £124.00 – received 04.11.2021

Payments

- (g) Village Hall Committee – SALC/SCC Grant £1,000
- (h) Stoke St Michael Playing Field Committee – SALC/SCC Grant - £500
- (i) Stoke St Michael Community Events Group – SALC/SCC Grant - £500
- (j) Ink Cartridge - £18
- (k) Monthly payment to IONOS - £12.00 – paid by DD 19.10.21
- (l) Contribution to FILCA - £36.00

- (m)** Primrose Garden Maintenance - £651.43
- (n)** Clerks Salary – October - £293.76
- (o)** Memorial Wreath – £50
- (p)** Blake Training Ltd – Brushcutter course - £93.00
- (q)** SSM War Memorial Hall – Hall Hire - £96.00

Following the publication of the agenda an invoice for hall hire had been received, the Council **RESOLVED** to accept this extra payment.

The Council **RESOLVED** the above payments and receipts

14. Correspondence

- (a)** Councillor Training Events in October – forwarded 04.10.21
- (b)** Notes and PowerPoints from the Town and Parish Council Conference on 7th October – forwarded 18.10.21
- (c)** Invitation to Rewilding Somerset Event on 19th November – forwarded 18.10.21
- (d)** NALC Consultation on Environmental Permitting Regulations – forwarded 29.10.21
- (e)** Notes from Frome Local Community Network meeting held on 25th October – forwarded 02.11.21

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a)** Budget for 2022/23
- (b)** Terms of reference for the Village Design Code Working Party
- (c)** Millennium Wood Lease
- (d)** Donation towards purchase of a village Christmas Tree

16. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 16th December in the War Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm

Meeting Closed 9.55pm

Appendix A

FOR INFORMATION – Moons Hill Quarry liaison meeting – issues discussed

I attended a virtual meeting on 20th October 2021, concerning Wainwright's quarry. The main points discussed/raised were:

Traffic issues

Wainwright's report that they have been pressing their drivers to control their speeding speeding (for example, through Waterlip). Quarry vehicles have also been fitted with trackers

Support to the local community

A Futures Foundation grant funding initiative was started in 2016. Since then, over £115k has been donated to 131 different causes. To apply for grant funding, simply write to head office. A small committee decides on the allocation of funds. I made the quarry representatives aware of the possibility of our seeking match funding for improvements to the lychgate and Millennium Green.

Three quarry staff carried out litter picking in the village during lockdown.

Complaints received

(1) Blasting noise (early summer). This was subsequently monitored at the site of the complaint, and was found not to approach an agreed limit.

(2) Early morning noise from reversing vehicle alarms (brought to my attention by a parishioner) – Wainwright's are investigating and will report back to me.

(3) Mud on Mendip Road, in the vicinity of the quarry entrance (brought to my attention by a parishioner) – Wainwright's are aware of the issue. Vehicles leaving the site and crossing between east and west sites are the causes. To mitigate the problem, they clean their internal roads, wash vehicle wheels and use a water bowser and sweeper on the public road. In addition, Wainwright's identify agreed travel routes for vehicles leaving the quarry and sweep key points where material might spill out of lorries.

(4) Quarry contractors' vehicles (predominantly Penny's) using Church Street, Tower Hill and Coalpit Lane, on which vehicles over 7.5 tonnes are banned (raised by a fellow councillor). Wainwright's will remind their contractors not to use this route but they advise that Penny's are a customer and not a contractor. Cllr Philip Ham asked for registration numbers of offending vehicles to be passed to him.

Response to climate change and environmental issues

Two new fuel-efficient trucks have been purchased. While they are purchasing some electric vehicles, the large trucks cannot yet be powered this way.

Two water pumps have been replaced, which consume less power.

Ash dieback surveys have been carried out, focusing on high-risk areas such as adjacent to highways.

Meters monitor the quality of discharge water. Environment Agency visits during the last 18 months have shown compliance with required standards.

A quarry boundary hedge alongside Mendip Road has been traditionally laid.

A sustainability co-ordinator has been appointed to develop a sustainability plan for the business.

Quarry operations

Production has returned to pre-pandemic levels and is now 'buoyant.' There has been extensive development, particularly to the site west of Mendip Road. This has involved removal of the 'over burden' to expose the mineral deposits, which are relatively shallow. A bund has been created to hide the over burden tips.

The quarry now employs about 125 people, including 10 apprentices.

The site operates social distancing.

Next meeting

This is provisionally set for 10th March 2022. Please continue to pass any queries or issues to me.

*Cllr Simon Farnsworth
26th October 2021*