

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 16th December in the War Memorial Hall

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Nicholas Corbett and Keith Holder

3. Absent

No Councillors were absent

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

Cllrs Matthew Rice and Simon Farnsworth declared an interest with regard to item 17a

(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

There were two Members of the Public in attendance. One visitor was the Chair of a Neighbouring Parish Council and he was listening in to see if similar issues are being discussed and whether the Parish Council could work in conjunction when dealing with them.

6. County and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Phillip Ham sent his apologies

District Councillor Alan Townsend was in attendance and gave a verbal report. The issues covered were included the housing development appeal in Coleford.

Coleford Parish Council will not be pursuing any legal challenge to the appeal decision but will be concentrating their efforts on the conditions associated with the application before building can commence. The Local Plan II is due to be adopted by Mendip District Council on 20th December. Elections for Unitary Councillors are taking place at the beginning of May next year with the possibility that Parish Elections take place at the same time.

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 11th November 2021, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 11th November 2021 be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

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

(a) Approval of the lease for the Millennium Wood has been delayed until the Parish Council is in a position to hand over management responsibility to Stoke St Michael Woodland (CIO). This is dependent on a bank account being opened for the CIO.

9. 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) 2021/2518/FUL Change of use of the land from agricultural to dog exercise field (sui generis) to include fencing, parking and access. Manor House Farm, Burnt House Lane to Towns End, Stoke St Michael **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as it will have a low impact on the area, and barely visible from passing traffic and pedestrians. The new layout is an improvement but there is a slight discrepancy between the application form and the site map regarding a footpath.

(b) 2021/2519/LBC Change of use of the land from agricultural to dog exercise field (sui generis) to include fencing, parking and access. Manor House Farm, Burnt House Lane to Towns End, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as it will have a low impact on the area, and barely visible from passing traffic and pedestrians. The new layout is an improvement but there is a slight discrepancy between the application form and the site map regarding a footpath.

10. Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Mendip District Council and others.

(a) 2021/1981/HSE – Erection of single storey detached garage. 1 Field View Cottage, Edford Hill, Holcombe. **Update** Mendip District Council approved the application.

(b) Appeal Ref: APP/Q3305/W/21/3271096 Cooks Farm, Partmans Hill, Stoke St Micheal. Decision – The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of a dwelling and formation of a new access at Cooks Farm, Partmans Hill, Stoke St Michael in accordance with the terms of the application 2020/1862/FUL and the plans submitted with it, subject to conditions.

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.To Be Resolved

- (a) **Proposal to set up a Stoke St Michael Village Design Code Working Group and agree the Terms of Reference**

The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a Stoke St Michael Village Design Code Working Group and the Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Terms of Reference.

- (b) **To discuss and agree the Council's approach in response to the appeal lodged against application 2020/0580/OTS for up to 47 dwellings on land south of Fairbanks Coalpit Lane.**

A document had been created with Skeleton Arguments for Dismissal which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This was discussed together with various options on how to proceed once the type of appeal and relevant dates have been determined. Cllr Keith Hambly will contact a planning consultant to confirm likely costs for assistance with the preparation of the Parish Council's response. District Cllr Alan Townsend offered to assist with the coordination of responses with the Mendip District Council Planning Team where appropriate.

- (c) **Acceptance of a quote for £1950.00 for reducing the trees on Moonshill Road.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for £1950 for reducing the trees on Moonshill Road, this was proposed by Cllr Kim Gibson and seconded by Cllr Amanda Taylor and unanimously agreed. J Murtagh Tree Services will be contacted to carry out the works

- (d) **Proposal to approve the cost of £275.00 for a tree survey to be carried out at the Millennium Wood.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the cost of £275 for a tree survey to be carried out at the Millennium Wood.

- (e) **Proposal to organise a regular regime for tidying and cleaning the Lychgate.**

A weekly rota of Councillors will be created to inspect the condition of the area at the Lychgate and undertake minor tidying and cleaning as necessary.

(f) Update on the parking situation on Moonhill Green and any further steps that might need to be carried out.

Leaflets were dropped round to residents asking if they could stop from parking on Moonhill Green, the problem is still occurring. Residents will be spoken personally about the situation and this will be monitored. If no there is no improvement another leaflet drop will be implemented.

(g) Proposal for the Parish Council to purchase the village Christmas Tree at a cost of £60.

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase the village Christmas Tree at a cost of £60.

(h) Proposal to agree the budget for 2022/23 and the annual precept

The budget was discussed and a draft budget has been circulated prior to the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2022/23 and increase the annual Precept to £25,977.00. This was proposed by Cllr Matthew Rice and seconded by Cllr John McEntee and unanimously agreed.

13. Clerk's Report

- (a)** Due to work commitments Cllr David Richardson-Aitken has resigned as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council would like to thank him for his support over the last couple of years. A vacancy notice is currently being advertised on the Parish Council noticeboard, if no requests for an election are called the Parish Council will co-opt the vacancy.

14. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 9th December 2021

Reserve Account - £36,439.21

Current Account - £4,077.85

Receipts

(a) Burial Fees - £144.00 – pd into the bank 29.11.21

(b) Bank Interest £0.29 – received 09.11.21

Payments

(c) Ionos – November - £12.00 pd by DD 15.11.21

(d) SLCC Membership £42.75

(e) EDF – Final invoice - £14.48

(f) Clerks Salary – November - £293.74

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

15. Correspondence

- (a)** Frome Area LCN Meeting Notes and Agenda for the meeting on 16th December – forwarded 09.12.21

16. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) Somerset County Council / SALC have reopened the applications for Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting the Communities, the deadline is the end of January 2022. If any village organisations are interested in applying, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

Cllrs Matthew Rice and Simon Farnsworth left the meeting at 9.36pm.

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** under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the following item.

(a) Discussion of the possible acquisition of land by the Parish Council.

Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** not to proceed with the matter.

18. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 27th January 2022 in the War Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.45pm