

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 19th May 2022 in the War Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs Matthew Rice, Amanda Taylor, Keith Hambly (Chair), Nick Corbett and John McEntee

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

The meeting started at 8.10pm due the previous meeting overrunning by ten minutes

1. Welcome by the Chairman

2. Apologies for absence

All Councillors were present

3. Absent

All Councillors were present

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

Cllr John McEntee declared an interest in regard to item 9 (a).

(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.

Cllr Nick Corbett was granted a dispensation in regard to item 12 (a)

5. Public Session

There were no members of the public in attendance

6. County and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Phillip Ham and District Councillor Alan Townsend sent their apologies.

District Councillor Alan Townsend had sent his report prior to the meeting, this was read out by Cllr Keith Hambly and is attached at the end of the minutes.

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 21st April 2022, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes held on 21st April be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

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

(a) The trees have finally been cut on the Millennium Green around the Lychgate. Thank were given to Cllr Amanda Taylor for continually chasing Hi-Line to remove some branches by the electric wires.

(b) The bollards for Mill Lane have now been purchased but the Council is still waiting to hear the date of installation.

(c) Mendip Road has been marked for more road works; this is for additional drainage on the surface.

Cllr John McEntee left the meeting at 8.30pm

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) **2022/0457/FUL** Erection of permanent rural workers dwelling. Sycamore Farm Stud, Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended refusal due to the size of the building being proposed not meeting certain criteria in Mendip District Council's Policy DP13 such as the size of the proposed dwelling and no evidence of the business accounts for the preceding 3 years.

Cllr John McEntee re-joined the meeting at 8.45pm

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

- (a) **2022/0428/HSE** Replacement of existing outhouse with ancillary accommodation. Sycamore Place, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Mendip District Council approved the application.

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. Grants

- (a) **Application from the War Memorial Hall Committee for £3604.00**

Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to give the War Memorial Hall Committee a grant of £2,500. A further grant award may be considered by the Council in six months.

13. To Be Resolved/Discussed

- (a) **Update on volunteers and Councillor rota for the Village Design Code Launch on 26th May.**

Leaflets have gone out to residents inviting residents to the Village Design Code Launch on 26th May. Parish Councillors will be in attendance and three members of Mendip District Council.

- (b) **Proposal to purchase two new dog bins from Glasdon for the village at a cost of £351.96 plus delivery and installation.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase two new dog waste bins from Glasdon for a cost of £351.96 plus delivery and installation.

- (c) **Councillors Rota for checking the Lychgate and Millennium Green**

The Council agreed the rota for checking the Lychgate and Millennium Green, Councillors have a copy and it will also be placed on the website.

14. Clerk's Report

- (a) The Parish Council has very kindly received a grant from Wainwright Futures Foundation for £375.00. This will be used to purchase two new dog bins which will be emptied by Mendip District Council.

- (b) An email was received from the Environmental Protection Officer regarding water being diverted from the village leat. Following correspondence, they imagined the issue would be too minor for the Environmental Agency but he would deal with the issue.
- (c) An email from received from Doultling Parish Council asking whether Stoke St Michael Parish Council are interested initially as to whether cooperation between eastern Mendip parishes would be advantageous. **Update** The Parish Clerk will contact Doultling Parish Council to make initial enquiries as to when meetings may take place.

15. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 12th May 2022

Reserve Account - £58,779.61

Current Account - £3,197.11

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest £0.46 – received 09.05.22

(b) Grant from Wainwrights - £375.00 – received 06.05.22

Payments

(c) Clerks Salary – April - £303.84

(d) Primrose Garden Maintenance - £666.52

(e) Ionos – website hosting May - £12.00 – pd by DD

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

(f) Probusiness – Internal Audit - £276.00

(g) Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall – grant application - £2,500.00

16. Correspondence

(a) Mendip District Council April Bulletin on Health and Wellbeing – forwarded 26.04.22

17. Matters to report / items for next agenda

(a) Purchase of a memorial bench to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee

(b) Removal of the Hawthorn tree on The Mead

(c) Cllr Amanda Taylor had received notifications from Wessex Water regarding some grant funding. The Council agreed Cllr Amanda Taylor could apply for some funding due to the short deadline, this will be ratified at the next meeting.

(d) Cars are still being parked on the green at Moonhill Close. Residents will be spoken to again to try and elevate the problem.

(e) A letter was received from a child within the village asking for the removal of the burnt-out car from Stoke Lane Quarry.

18. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 9th June 2022 in the War Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 9.45pm

STOKE ST MICHAEL PC REPORT

MAY 2022

Three main items to report for the year:

Unitary – The Secretary of State confirmed that it was the Government’s wish for the 4 Districts and the County Council to be merged into one unitary authority. He was not persuaded that the rival proposal for 2 separate unitaries, East and West Somerset, should proceed. The result of the election held on 5th May was:

LibDem 61

Conservative 36

Greens 5

Labour 5

Independent 3

The Councillors elected for our Mendip Central and East Ward are Philip Ham and Barry Clarke, both Conservative. The first point of interest for us will be to establish Local Community Networks at a working level beneath Full Council. Frome has taken a leading role as a pilot scheme. There are those who consider them to be too Frome – centric and believe a more rural Network would better serve our interests. Meanwhile Cllrs Ham and Townsend will remain as Ward Councillors for Mendip DC until it is dissolved on 31-3-23.

Covid – There has been considerable diversion of resource, firstly to support the Vaccination Centre at Shape Mendip, and secondly the administration of over £60M of central government funded Covid support grants. A long period of hybrid working has not helped working efficiency.

Planning – The new Local Development Plan Part 2 was formally adopted by Mendip’s Full Council in December 2021. It does not show a forward 5 year supply of housing land. As a result sites outside village development limits are vulnerable to speculative applications and we have already seen the approval of such applications in Coleford and by the White Post. There is no plan in place to rectify this shortfall. Mendip also suffer from the banning of developments that could discharge nitrates and phosphates into environmentally sensitive wetlands on the Levels, putting further pressure to develop sites in the north- east of the District.

19-5-22