

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 9th June 2022 in the War Memorial Hall

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Matthew Rice

3. Absent

No Councillors were absent

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

No declarations of interest were received from Councillors on items on the agenda

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

Three written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests were received. Cllr Nick Corbet in relation to War Memorial Hall matters and is valid for four years. Cllrs Amanda Taylor and Keith Hambly were both in relation to the Community Playing Field and are valid for one year.

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

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5. Public Session

There were six members of the public in attendance. The Chair of the Community Field Committee spoke about the grant application (item 12a) and the reasons for applying. Another resident also spoke about the planning application 2022/1027/HSE (item 9a)

6. County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Alan Townsend was in attendance and had sent his report prior to the meeting, this is attached as appendix A. County Councillor Phillip Ham and Barry Clarke were also in attendance. County Councillor Barry Clarke introduced himself as the new County Councillor. A verbal report was given about the new council and how it was going to be run.

7. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2022, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting, both held on 19th May 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. 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) 2022/1027/HSE Erection of single storey extension to form garden room and first floor extension over existing utility to south elevation including a glazed link and alterations to roof pitch. **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as it is keeping within the local area.

(b) 2022/1020/HSE Erection of single-storey side garden room following demolition of existing workshop/chicken shed structure. Alterations and improvements to existing former stable block including re-roofing and reinstating blocked openings. The Home House, Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Stoke St Michael recommended approval due to the building having no impact on neighbours, the alterations would enhance the property and it is a good use of old buildings which otherwise would fall into disrepair.

(c) 2022/1021/LBC Erection of single-storey side garden room following demolition of existing workshop/chicken shed structure. Alterations and improvements to existing former stable block including re-roofing and reinstating blocked openings. The Home House, Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael. **Update** Stoke St Michael recommended approval due to the building having no impact on neighbours, the alterations would enhance the property and it is a good use of old buildings which otherwise would fall into disrepair.

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

(a) 2022/0639/PAA Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class 3) and for associated operational development. Barn at Limekiln Lane, 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) Grant Application from Stoke St Michael Community Field for £5000

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application for Stoke St Michael Community Field for £5000.

13.To Be Resolved/Discussed

(a) Approval of the Asset List

Following a slight amendment, the Council **RESOLVED** to approval the Asset List.

(b) Approval of the Equal Opportunities Policy

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Equal Opportunities Policy

(c) Proposal to appoint a tree surgeon to assess condition of trees on Parish Council owned land

Following a discussion Cllr Keith Hambly will approach a local tree surgeon to obtain a quote for the works, this will be brought back to the next meeting.

(d) Proposal to consider the purchase of a Wooden Bench to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Following a discussion, two possible locations were considered. The preferred position would be within the Millennium Wood but the bench would need to be fixed into the earth by some means. The idea will be taken to Stoke St Michael Woodland and then brought back to the next meeting.

(e) Proposal to appoint a maintenance contract to clear the Hawthorn tree from the Mead and reduce the hedges along Mill Lane

The decision regarding the Hawthorn Tree on The Mead was deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Amanda Taylor had held discussion with Gordon Gait in regard to reducing the hedge along Mill Lane by the side of Cemetery. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve Gordon Gait to carry out the work for an estimated cost of £90.00

(f) Proposal to ratify the decision for Cllr Amanda Taylor to apply for grants from Wessex Water as discussed at the last meeting. The deadline was 27th May 2022.

The Council **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision for Cllr Amanda Taylor to apply for grants from Wessex Water as the deadline was 27th May 2022.

(g) Discussion on the forthcoming roadworks (Stoke Lane Culvert) and the possible closure of the centre of the village for 6-8 weeks.

The Council discussed the various issues that could occur. Somerset Highways will be contacted with the questions raised and ask for further information. County Councillor Phillip Ham asked to kept informed as the closure will impact surrounding villages.

(h) Discussion on how to remove the burnt-out car from Stoke Lane Quarry as requested by the children of the village.

Further to receiving a letter from the children living in the village requesting the burnt-out car is removed from Stoke Lane Quarry, various ideas were discussed on how to remove it. The environmental agency has been out and said that vehicles would have difficulty accessing the site to remove the car. Various other ideas were discussed and this will be brought back to the next meeting.

(i) Proposal to renew the Parish Council annual subscription to CPRE (The Countryside Charity)

The Council **RESOLVED** to renew the Parish Council annual subscription to the CPRE.

14. Clerk's Report

- (a)** Cllr Nick Corbett has contacted Mendip District Council to inform that that the Parish Council is interested in the scheme to rewild certain areas of Mendip Land.
- (b)** A phone call was received from an enforcement officer at Mendip District regarding report of fly tipping on the Mead and whether the Parish Council had given permission. The Parish Council had not given permission, the Enforcement Officer will be following the matter up.
- (c)** The launch day for the Design Code for Stoke St Michael was well attended and lots of comments were left. The responses from the survey will be collated, please note the deadline is 16th June. **Update** Members of Mendip District Council went away positive from the attendance and responses, once the consultation period has finished, a vision statement will start to be created. The format and structure are still being decided upon.
- (d)** The bollards have now been installed at either end of Mill Lane and all residents who need access have been issued with keys.

15. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 02.06.2022

Reserve Account - £53,779.61

Current Account - £4,041.50

Receipts

(a) Burial Fees – cheque - £203.00

(b) Burial Fees – cheque - £150.00

Payments

(c) J Murtagh Tree Services - £575.00

(d) Clerks Salary – May - £303.84

(e) CPRE Membership – Annual subscription - £36.00

(f) Garden waste removal – annual subscription - £57.20

(g) Primrose Garden Maintenance - £666.52

Transfers

(h) Transfer of £5,000 from the reserve account to the current account – transferred on 24.5.22

(i) Transfer of £5,000 from the reserve account to the current account to cover the possible approval of the grant to Stoke St Michael Community Field

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

(j) Stoke St Michael Community Field - £5,000

(k) Trotman's (overpayment of burial fee) - £15.00

16. Correspondence

(a) Trial launched for communities to rewild Mendip Land – forwarded 24.05.22

(b) Update on Councillor Training Courses – forwarded 24.5.22

(c) Frome Climate and Health Conference being held on 15th July – forwarded 30.05.22

(d) Local Heritage List Consultation – forwarded 01.06.22

(e) Climate and Ecological Emergency – forwarded 02.06.22

17. Matters to report / items for next agenda

(a) Two possible dates have been proposed for an initial meeting with Eastern Mendip Parish Councils, Cllr John McEntee said he would be available to attend either date.

(b) Car Parking at Moonshill is still proving to be an issue, residents will be spoken to again to ask them to stop parking on the grass.

18. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 21st July 2022 in the War Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting Closed 9.15pm

Appendix A

STOKE ST MICHAEL PC REPORT JUNE 2022

Mendip DC Annual Full Council Meeting 23-5-22 – Appointments to Committees were agreed as follows:

Cllr Ham – Scrutiny Board, Substitute member; Audit Committee – Substitute member

Cllr Townsend – Scrutiny, Full member; Planning Board – Substitute; Audit Committee – Full member.

Council passed a resolution to Declare a Cost of Living Emergency. 2 days later the Chancellor announced his support package.

It was resolved that Great Elm Parish Council should close as they had not fielded sufficient candidates at the election to form a quorum.

Audit Committee 1-6-22

It was confirmed that the much delayed accounts for the year ending 31-3-21 will finally be signed off by the external auditors this month. The external audit of the 21/22 account will not start until October and will therefore miss the November target date.

Highways

Stoke Bottom - County Highways have confirmed that maintenance work including drainage repairs, ditching, patching and restoration of verges is scheduled to commence on 8-8-22.

Also in Stoke St Michael, Mendip Rd from the Knatchbull roundabout towards Wainwrights will be closed to allow repair work to the stream culvert under the road. This will of course require a diversion for HGVs which will be welcomed by many.

Planning

Good to attend the Village Design Code presentation on 26th May and to exchange ideas with residents and Mendip planners. To many people the key immediate issues are the future of the Yellowgate Field appeal and HGV traffic in the village.

9-6-22