

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held on 1st September 2022 in the War Memorial Hall

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

All Councillors were present

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

Cllr Nick Corbett has a written request for dispensation in relation to War Memorial Hall Matters for four years (expires June 2026) and Cllrs Amanda Taylor and Keith Hambly have written requests for dispensation in relation to the Community Playing Field for one year (expires June 2023)

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

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate

5. Public Session

There were ten members of the public in attendance. The main points raised concerned the inconsiderate parking along Church Street blocking the pavements so residents are having to walk in the road and preventing access to Mill Lane by the side of the church. This was discussed further under item 12 (k)

6. County and District Councillor Reports

District Alan Townsend was in attendance, a written report had been sent prior to the meeting. (Appendix A). County Councillor Phillip Ham sent his apologies, County Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and sent report prior to the meeting (Appendix B).

7. Co-option of Parish Councillor

Cllr Keith Hambly proposed Anna Mearns to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor and seconded by Cllr John McEntee, this was seconded and unanimously agreed

(a) Signature of acceptance of office form

Cllr Anna Mearns signed the acceptance of office form and was welcomed to the Parish Council

8. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July 2022, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st July be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair

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

(a) Although the Parish Council gave permission for the Duck Race to be held on the Millennium Green, unfortunately the event was cancelled.

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.

(c) **2022/1618/FUL** Formation of new overflow car park with associated access and landscaping. Duke of Cumberland Inn, Edford Hill, Holcombe **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval. Whilst sympathetic to concerns raised by local residents, on balance it was felt that the proposed car park will help alleviate the parking difficulties and improve safety for road users and pedestrians.

(a) **2022/1608/FUL** Conversion and change of use of redundant rural building into a new dwelling, with internal and external alterations, including landscaping and boundary treatment. Hyatts Hill Farm, Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as it is in keeping with the original building and is consistent with Policy DP22.

(b) **2022/1641/FUL** Conversion of Barn to dwellinghouse with a side extension. Field Barn, Limekiln Lane, Midway, Stoke St Michael **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommends refusal as the side extension is not in keeping with the character of the main building and against conditions within Policy DP22.

(c) **2022/1606/FUL** The Erection of a Temporary Rural Worker Dwelling, Stables (Part Retrospective) and a new Horse Menage. Land at Fosse Road, Stoke St Michael **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended refusal as there was insufficient justification for the proposed temporary dwelling close to Fosse Road in a very rural setting.

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

No responses regarding planning applications from Mendip District Council have been received since the last meeting.

12.To Be Resolved/Discussed

(k) Discussion and any possible proposals in regard to issues arising from cars parking on Church Street.

This was discussed at length and several suggestions were put forward. Cllr Keith Hambly will contact the Somerset Traffic Management Team to arrange a meeting with Councillors and residents to discuss the options. Cllr Anna Mearns will then follow this through once a date has been set.

- (a) Proposal for the Parish Council to contribute costs to the Parish Clerk attending the National Conference at the beginning of November - £112.96**
The Council **RESOLVED** to contribute £112.96 towards costs for the Parish Clerk to attend the National Conference in November.
- (b) Proposal for the Parish Council to covers costs towards members of the Stoke St Michael Woodland to attend a strimming course**
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- (c) Discuss and a possible proposal on whether Mark Reynolds from Context Planning attends the appeal hearing for Yellowgate, the cost would be in the region of £2,600 and £3,100 plus VAT.**
The Council **RESOLVED** to invite Mark Reynolds from Context Planning to attend the appeal hearing and speak on behalf of the Parish Council at a cost of between £2,600 and £3,100 plus VAT. A date of 8th November has appeared on the Planning Inspector Website but this has yet to be confirmed.
- (d) Proposal on whether to ask Mark Baker from Mark Baker Consulting Limited whether he would be available to attend the appeal hearing in regard to the Highways Report written in November 2020.**
The Council decided not to ask Mark Baker from Mark Baker Consulting Ltd to attend the appeal hearing. Cllr Keith Hambly will discuss with Mark Reynolds how to ensure the salient points from the report can be covered at the hearing.
- (e) Proposal for the Parish Council to close the bank account with Lloyds Bank and move to Unity Trust Bank.**
The Council **RESOLVED** to close the bank account with Lloyds Bank and move it to Unity Trust Bank.
- (f) Proposal to approve the words to be etched onto the bench approved for purchase at the previous meeting**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the words “Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 1952 – 2022. Come sit with me, let the world be”. The order will be placed but there is about a 2 – 3 month wait.
- (g) Proposal to approve the Burial Fees and Rules for the Parish Cemetery**
Following a brief discussion this was deferred to the next meeting.
- (h) Proposal to approve the Risk Assessment for the Public Areas of land owned by the Parish Council**
Following some slight amendments, the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Risk Assessment for the Public Areas of land owned by the Parish Council.
- (i) Discussion and completion of the survey forwarded from the Rural Parishes Liaison Meeting on 11th August**
The survey was discussed and it was felt that all the matters are crucial to the Parish, they are all headline matters and all have the same importance and are discussed on a regular basis.

(j) Approval of quote and proposal for appointment of Internal Auditor for this financial year

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Do the Numbers Ltd as the internal auditor for 2022/2023 at a cost of £250.00

13. Clerk's Report

- (a)** Cllr Nick Corbett will be speaking to organisations within the village in regard to areas in the village to be rewilded. A response is still waiting to be received from Mendip District Council in regard to joining the re-wilding scheme. **Update** The areas being considered are generally not owned or managed by the Parish Council
- (b)** Correspondence has been received regarding blocked footpaths on the Cooks wood Development, these were forwarded to Somerset County Council, the Parish Council Parish Path Liaison Officer and the Councillor responsible for footpaths.
- (c)** Temporary Closure of Stoke Hill. Stoke Hill from the junction with Church Street, westwards for a distance of 254 metres. The works are expected to commence on 5th September 2022 and last until 16th September 2022 between the hours of 00:00 – 23:59 for a total of 12 days.
- (d)** Update from Cllr Keith Hambly on the feedback from the Drop-in sessions for the Design Code on 24th and 25th September. **Update** The drop-in sessions were well attended and a lot of feedback was received. The questionnaire is still open online. The draft code will be produced before the end of September
- (e)** Wainwrights have been contacted as to whether they will be able to install the dog waste bins adjacent to footpaths through their property. Once they have been sited Mendip District Council will be informed so that they can be added to the route for emptying.

14. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 25th August 2022 from the Cash Book

Reserve Account - £48,780.52

Current Account - £1261.67

Bank Balance as at Bank – 1st September 2022

Reserve Account - £52,548.89

Current Account - £1,249.67

The External Auditor Report and Certificate for 2021/2022 has been received with the following matters – The external auditor report was not published on the authority's website by the dates specified and the Asset List did not include assets purchased during the year.

Receipts

- (a) Bank Interest - £1.62 – received 11.08.22
- (b) Youth Club - £3766.75 – received 18.08.22. This is the remaining funds and will be available for community grants for projects involving people between the age of 11 and 18

Transfer

- (c) Transfer of £10,000.00 from the Reserve Account to the Current Account

Payments

- (d) Parish Clerk – Purchase of ink and paper - £35.97
- (e) Parish Clerk – Costs towards attending the National Conference - £112.96
- (f) Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall – hall hire - £180.00 (two invoices)
- (g) Gordon Gait – removal of a tree from The Mead - £90.00
- (h) Primrose Garden Maintenance – grass cutting - £1333.04 (two invoices)
- (i) Parish Clerk – July Salary - £254.44
- (j) Parish Clerk – August Salary - £254.44
- (k) Parish Clerk – HMRC for July - £49.40
- (l) Parish Clerk – HMRC for August - £49.40
- (m) Context Planning – Written statement for appeal - £3960.00
- (n) Ionons – monthly webhosting - £12.00 – pd by DD
- (o) Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall – Hall Hire - £130.00 – this was a duplicate entry as it has been included in 14 (f)
- (p) PKF Littlejohn – Auditing fees - £240.00
- (q) SALC – Annual Membership - £260.24

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

15. Correspondence

- (a) Frome LCN Mapping Villages report – forwarded 29.07.22
- (b) Mendip District Council Health and Wellbeing Bulletin – August 2022 – forwarded 09.08.22
- (c) Invitation to the Mendip Parish Forum being held on 8th September – forwarded 10.08.22
- (d) Invitation to a Somerset Unitary Team Meeting on Tuesday 27th September at 7pm at Wells Town Hall – forwarded 22.08.22
- (e) Mendip Rural Parishes Liaison Group – survey on wishes and needs from the new Somerset County Council – forwarded 22.08.22

16. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) The grit bins within the village have been checked for grit bin, Somerset Highways will be notified of those that require filling.

17. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 22nd September (Planning) and Thursday 13th October 2022 in the War Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 9.57pm

Appendix A

STOKE ST MICHAEL PC BRIEF SEPTEMBER 2022

PLANNING

Yellow Gate Field. It was good to meet the planning consultant on site with KH and AT. He was very switched on and fully conversant with the issues. PH and AT formally submitted their Ward Member objections to the Planning Inspectorate. The appeal for the Leigh development is to be heard on 5 th October.

Saxonvale, Frome – The Planning Board on 17 th August approved the application by the Mayday Saxonvale team for an alternative plan to that already approved by the Board as proposed by Mendip, as site owners. The Mayday plan offers less houses but more affordable starter units, and more employment and leisure space including a lido. It is hoped the two parties can get together at last to produce a joint optimal solution.

Village Design Code – The review presentation by Mendip confirmed one thing we all knew, Highways is the key issue.

HIGHWAYS

Good to see the drainage and patching work completed along Stoke Bottom after months of chasing. We need a proper storm to test it out!

1-9-22

Appendix B

1 Buses are back at 70% of pre-Covid levels and slowly improving. This however is giving bus companies an excuse to cut back more services particularly as the group showing lowest recovery rates are bus pass holders. There are ways of making your views felt to those operators and to the Portfolio holders in the administration with various publicity in circulation.

2 There is a new Lord Lieutenant for Somerset - if you think this is important! He is Mohammed Saddiq currently Operations Director of Wessex Water.

3. News on the LCNs is now promised for the autumn; a bit of a slip from the original programme date of June!