

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
19th October 2023 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Peter Rhodes, Simon Collins, Keith Hambly (Chair), Anna Mearns, Nic Corbett, Amanda Taylor and John McEntee

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

Cllr Matthew Rice

3. Absent

No Councillors were absent

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

Cllr Simon Collins declared an interest on planning application 2023/1814/FUL, agenda item 9(b)

(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). Cllr Anna Mearns has a written request for dispensation in relation to the Millennium Wood for four years (expires September 2027). Cllr Keith Hambly has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael Community Field for one year (expires September 2024).

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

Cllr Amanda Taylor was granted a dispensation in regard to Stoke St Michael Community Field.

5. Public Session

There were three members of the public in attendance. A request was put to the Parish Council to install a Speed Indicator Device along Coalpit Lane due to the speed of traffic. Traffic calming suggestions were also mentioned.

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and give a verbal report. Subjects covered included green grants available for houses, thermal imaging cameras which are available to show heat loss in houses, Somerset accounts and the large projected overspend, the housing allocation within Somerset – a draft proposition will be prepared for the end of the year to address the shortfall in the housing supply within Somerset East (Mendip), advertising on roundabouts which is now allowed but will involve a cost, LCN Meetings and discussions with Somerset in regard to large vehicle movements through the local area.

Somerset Councillor Phillip Ham was in attendance and reiterated that talks are taking place with Somerset Council in regard to the traffic issues with the village, but they are progressing slowly. Social housing was mentioned, as was the handling of sewage and surface water at Cookswood Quarry. There is currently a consultation out to allow Parish Council allowances and the local Parliamentary constituency boundaries have been redrawn putting Stoke St Michael in a new area.

7. To confirm minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September 2023, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September be accepted as a true record and were signed and dated 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) 2023/1708/CLE Mixed use of land for equestrian and residential. Sycamore Farm Stud, Burgess Hill, Stoke St Michael. This is a **Notification** only and in line with Somerset Council's constitution and the adopted scheme of delegation and terms of reference, the decision for this application is delegated to the Planning Officers.
- (b) **2023/1814/FUL** Convert office space (B1) to a holiday let (C1) with internal alterations, installation of carport / terrace and creation of openings to allow for a new door, window and enlargement of windows. 3 Moonshill Barns, Frog Lane, Stoke St Michael.

Cllr Simon Collins was granted a dispensation in order to inform the Council about the above planning application but was unable to take part in the discussion or vote.

Recommendation Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as there was no impact on neighbouring properties and was in line with policy DP22 for the re-use of buildings.

10. Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council

- (a) **2023/1249/APP** Approval of details reserved by condition 15 disposal of sewage and surface water on planning consent 067818/010. Cooks Wood Quarry, Bector Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council refused the application
- (b) **APP/Q3305/W/23/3318782 or 2022/1641/FUL** Conversion of barn to dwellinghouse with a side extension. Field Barn, Limekiln Lane, Midway, Stoke St Michael **Decision** The appeal was dismissed
- (c) **2023/1465/PAA** Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3no. dwelling houses (Class C3) (No operational development). Land North of Mendip Farmhouse, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have refused the application.
- (d) **2023/1308/APP** Approval of details reserved by conditions 5 (Bird Strike), 6 (Reptile Mitigation Strategy), 7 (Surface Water Drainage), 8 (Materials), 10 (Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan) & 11 (Roof Planning Plan) on Planning Permission 2022/2473/FUL. Cooks Farm, Partmans Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed**(f) Discussion on future of the speedwatch group and a possible proposal to purchase a speed indicator device.**

Two residents have come forward to join the speedwatch group but several will be required to operate on a regular basis. A discussion was held on the differences between a Speed Indicator Device and Auto Speed Watch, the latter being favoured. Potential locations were mentioned and these will be sent to Somerset for approval. Holcombe Parish Council will be contacted as one has recently been installed within the village. An update will be presented at the next meeting

Cllr John McEntee joined the meeting at 8.30pm

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

(f) Correspondence has been received asking the Parish Council to introduce 20mph throughout the village, a permanent 7.5 tonne weight limit over the Bridge, restriction of lorry movements throughout the village, a possible one way through the village and to relocate the concrete works out of Holcombe. **Update** This is being discussed with Somerset Council. Costs to implement any scheme are likely to fall to the Parish Council will incur the installation costs.

(e) An update has been received on the repairs to the Culvert. Negotiations are still ongoing with the relevant service providers to establish a mutually beneficial collaborative scheme following services being laid low over the culvert. Somerset Council are hopeful that works can restart in a collaborative scheme with the five main utility companies within the next three months. **Update** Correspondence has been sent asking to clarify points and the new start date. Somerset Councillors Barry Clarke and Phillip Ham are aware of the situation and will keep the Parish Council updated.

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed**(a) Proposal to accept the quote from Primrose Garden Maintenance to cover the next three years.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Primrose Garden Maintenance for the next three years for grass cutting.

(b) Proposal to gift the Tables / Benches to Stoke St Michael Community Field upon delivery so they will not appear on the Asset List.

The Council **RESOLVED** to gift the Table / Benches purchased from Earth Anchors Ltd to Stoke St Michael Community Field and the item will not appear on the Parish Council Asset List.

(c) Discussion on the design and location of the Community Notice Boards

A location has been agreed for a Community Noticeboard and various options were discussed. Quotes will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

(d) Proposal to finalise the format of the presentation evening to show the various ideas for Moonshill and confirm the date.

A presentation evening will be held on Thursday 2nd November at the school Hall from 5pm until 8pm showing the ideas. Leaflets publicising the event will be delivered to all residents in the area.

(e) Proposal to consider prices for repairs or replacement of the Bridge on the Millennium Green

Options were discussed and possible funding may be available. The various options and prices will be brought back to the next meeting and an update on the grant funding.

(g) Discussion on the Draft Budget for 2024-2025

A brief discussion took place and Councillors were asked to consider projects and costing for next year. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

(a) A couple of residents have come forward to help reform the Community Speedwatch Group, details will be passed on. **Update** This was covered under item 11 (f)

(b) The 21-day notice for a temporary 7.5 tonne maximum gross weight restriction has been extended until the end of September.

(c) Update from Cllr Amanda Taylor on the Quarry Liaison Meeting held at the beginning of October. **Update** Cllr Amanda Taylor gave a verbal update on the John Wainwright's new plans and a public consultation will hopefully take place by the end of the year regarding the expansion.

(d) Frome Town Council, Street Parish Council and Taunton Town Council have requested from Somerset Council to introduce the Scheme of allowances

(g) Correspondence has been received concerning abandoned and parked vehicles on the Mead, this is being monitored.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 13th October 2023

Unity Account - £50,165.05

To note the Quarterly Review for July – September

The Council notes the Quarterly Review for July - September

Approval and signature of the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation and it was signed by the Chair.

Payments

(a) Ionos – monthly website hosting - £12.00 – pd by DD 28.09.23

(b) Ionos – monthly website hosting - £12.00 – pd by DD 29.10.23

(c) War Memorial Hall – hall hire £30.00

(d) Clerks Salary September - £340.34

(e) Primrose Garden Maintenance – grass cutting £680.23

(f) Earth Anchors Ltd – bench for the recreational field £1750.80

(g) SALC – Annual Membership - £270.64

(h) Unity Bank Trust – Quarterly Bank Charges - £18.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments.

14. Correspondence

(a) Correspondence has been received from Stonewood Homes regarding the allocated development land at Frog Lane.

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

(a) Community Plan

(b) Lychgate Maintenance Work

16. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 23rd November 2023 starting at 7.30pm,
Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting Closed 10.04pm