

**STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 starting at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Peter Rhodes, Keith Hambly (Chair), Anna Mearns, Amanda Taylor, Matthew Rice 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**

Cllrs Simon Collins and Nick Corbett

**3. Absent**

No Councillors were absent.

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

There was no declaration of interest 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). 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.**

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

**5. Public Session**

There were two members of the public in attendance. There was a brief conversation regarding the public consultation from Stonewood Homes held that afternoon.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports**

Both Somerset Councillors Barry Clarke and Philip Ham sent their apologies. A very short report was sent and this was read out to the Councillors. The report highlighted the financial difficulties that Somerset Council is facing.

**7. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 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) 2023/1897/CLE** Erection of 2no timber garden building, 1 free standing metal shed, construction of ornamental pond and double gate access to the rear of the property with siting of oil tank in the car park. The Mill, Mill Lane, 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) **2023/2138/PAA** Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Plot North of Somers Farm, Burnt House Lane, 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
- (c) **2023/1593/HSE** Conversion of outhouse to ancillary accommodation with alterations. Shelving Close, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael **Recommendation** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval as the application only contained minor modifications to that previously supported.

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

- (a) **2023/1814/FUL** Convert office space (B1) 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.  
**Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.

#### **11. To Be Resolved / Discussed**

- (k) **Discussion and possible proposal as to whether purchase the Auto Speed Watch Camera.**

Following a discussion, it was decided to confirm some final details regarding the installation before purchasing a camera. A neighbouring Council will also be contacted to see how they are operating a similar camera. The answers will be obtained and this will be brought back to the next meeting.

A member of the public arrived late and the Public Session was reopened to allow them to speak in relation to the concerns of vehicles speeding up and down Church Street.

- (a) **Discussion and possible Proposal to approve the quote and design for a Community Noticeboard**

Following a discussion, it was decided to go with a different design, further quotes will be obtained and brought back to the next meeting.

- (b) **Following with public consultation on 2<sup>nd</sup> November a discussion and possible proposal for the border at Moonshill.**

Following the public consultation on 2<sup>nd</sup> November the consensus was to install boulders along the boundary. Planting of bulbs, spring flowers and trees was also considered. A local company will be contacted as to the availability of boulders and this will be brought back to the next meeting.

- (c) **Discussion on the maintenance work that is required around the Lychgate and the Millennium Green**

Following the written report dated June 2021 the remaining work was agreed to be repairs to the walls, repair or replacement of the bridge and replacing the tiles on the Lychgate. The wall is being repaired see item 11 (d), repairs to the bridge is currently on hold see item 11 (e) and quotes will be obtained for replacing the tiles on the Lychgate.

**(d) Proposal to approve the quote for repairing the wall by the Lychgate due to damage**

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Fowler and Loxton to repair the damaged wall opposite the KnatchBull Arms for a cost of £390.00. It was also **RESOLVED** to appoint Fowler and Loxton to replace the missing stone in the wall behind the Lychgate, there might be a small increase in the cost.

**(e) Discussion on the replacement bridge over the river on the Millennium Green.**

Rough quotes had been obtained for a replacement bridge and they both stated a structural engineers report would be required first and possibly plans to be drawn up. Cllr Amanda Taylor has a local contact and ask.

**(f) Proposal to contribute £500 a year for the next two years to enable the Parish Clerk to study for the Level 4 section of the Community Governance qualification.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to contribute £500 a year for the next two years to enable the Parish Clerk to study for the Level 4 section of the Community Governance qualification.

**(g) Proposal for the Parish Council to submit an Expression of Interest for the Community Review Project**

The Council **RESOLVED** not to submit an Expression of Interest for the Community Review Project.

**(h) Discussion and any possible proposal following the letter received from Somerset Council regarding Asset and Service Devolution**

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to reply to the letter stating unfortunately Stoke St Michael Parish Council were unable to run any of the services being offered as none of them would be viable for a small Parish Council.

**(i) Proposal to transfer an amount of money to a Reserve Account to receive interest.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to open a Savings Account with Unity Trust Bank keeping most of the money in the Savings Account earning interest with the minimal in the Current Account.

**(j) Proposal to approve the Annual Budget for 2024-2025 and the Precept to be applied for from Somerset Council**

This was deferred to the next meeting due to the current financial situation with Somerset Council.

## **12. Clerk / Councillors Report**

- (a)** Update from Cllr Simon Collins on the LCN Meetings. **Update** Cllr Simon Collins was not in attendance but Cllr Keith Hambly gave a brief verbal update. Devolution of services from Somerset Council may be a topic for the next LCN Meeting to be held in January.
- (b)** Following monitoring of vehicles being parked at the bottom of the Mead, research has been carried out and the Parish Council owns the grassy area at the bottom of the Mead and the strip between the 5 Mead Close and the stream. There is a restrictive covenant on the land to ensure it remains as public open space.
- (c)** John Wainwright held an open session on 15<sup>th</sup> November to present the new future plans for the Quarry.
- (d)** The new hedge has been laid along the side of the cemetery, brush has been left in piles, this will be removed.

- (e) Complaints have been received regarding the faded painted lines outside the school. According to Somerset Council's website they are not responsible for that area.

### 13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Unity Account - £47,081.04

#### Payments

- (a) Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall – Hall Hire for Parish Council Meeting - £30.00
- (b) Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall – Hall Hire for Public Consultation - £40.00, please note this will be reclaimed.
- (c) Stoke St Michael Primary School – Hall Hire - £30.00
- (d) Clerks Salary and Expenses – October - £340.34
- (e) Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £680.23
- (f) Ionos – Web Hosting - £12.00 – pd by DD
- (g) Remembrance Wreath - £50.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and also **RESOLVED** to approve the additional payments listed below.

- (h) SLCC Annual Membership - £75.57
- (i) Cllr Anna Mearns – printing of leaflets for a public consultation - £12.00

### 14. Correspondence

- (a) Shepton LCN Meeting Minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> October, the next meeting is Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January – forwarded 08.11.23
- (b) Quarry Liaison Committee Minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> October, next meeting is 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### 15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- (a) Update on Footpaths

**16. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 starting at 7.30pm, Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.44pm