

**STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on**  
**8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 starting at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs Keith Hambly (Chair), Anna Mearns, John McEntee and Peter Rhodes

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

**1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Amanada Taylor, Simon Collins and Matthew Rice

**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 interests from Councillors on items on the agenda.

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

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). Cllr Amanda Taylor has a written request for dispensation in relation to Stoke St Michael Community Field, Stoke St Michael Community Events and Stoke St Michael Woodland Group for four years (expires January 2028)

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

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate

**5. Public Session**

There were three members of the public in attendance, there were no requests to speak.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports**

Somerset Councillor Phillip Ham sent his apologies. Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and a verbal update on Somerset Council. The main subject covered was the financial situation of Somerset Council and the effects of cuts across the board. Somerset Council will be considering the budget on 20<sup>th</sup> February. A boundary review is currently in progress but Parish boundaries will remain the same, it will only relate to Parliamentary Boundaries.

**7. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January be accepted as a true record, these 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) **2024/0120/FUL** Erection of 38 dwellings, including 30% affordable homes (11 units), with associated infrastructure & works, new access, landscaping, parking and sustainable drainage. Land East of Frog Lane, Stoke St Michael **Recommendation** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended Approval. The site lies within the defined settlement limits for the village and was allocated for residential development in the adopted Mendip Local Plan Part II in preference to alternative sites. The Council are generally pleased with how the development requirements and design principles for the site have been met. Provision for outdoor sport and play should be addressed through a S106 agreement.
- (b) **2023/2484/HSE** Retrospective planning permission for a timber outbuilding / summerhouse in rear garden, ancillary to main house. The Birch, Stoke Crescent, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended refusal on the basis that the building is above the height for permitted development and might set a precedent although the Council support the application for local business use.
- (c) **APP/E3335/W/23/3332581** Appeal in relation to planning application 2023/1487/PIP. Permission in Principle application for Erection of 1no. dwelling house. Land at 366487 146920 Church Street, Stoke St Michael. The appeal is to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements by the parties and, if considered appropriate, a site visit by the Inspector. If you wish to make comments, or modify/withdraw your previous representation, you can do so online at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>. If you do not have access to the internet, you can send your comments to The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN quoting the appeal reference number. Closing date is 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. **Update** Stoke St Michael Parish Council have submitted further comments.
- (d) **2024/0091/PAA** Prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 2no. dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Barn at Blue Cedar Farm, Susannas 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.

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

- (a) **2023/1606/FUL** Change of use of agricultural land for the erection of 2000 Solar array panels and associated equipment. Land at 366731 146471 Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.
- (b) **2023/2232/FUL** Erection of detached dwellinghouse. 31 Moonshill Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.
- (c) **2023/0200/HSE** Rear Extension, 20 St Michaels Close, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

**11. To Be Resolved / Discussed**

**(a) Proposal to agree the Ear Marked Reserves for 2024-2025**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Ear Marked Reserves for 2024-2025

**(b) Proposal to purchase a Community Notice Board either with double doors or top hinge.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase a Community Notice Board for £1315.00 + VAT plus £45 for delivery.

**(c) Proposal to set date for the Annual Parish Meeting, it can be held between the 1<sup>st</sup> March and the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.**

This was deferred to the next meeting due to the low number of Councillors in attendance.

**(d) Proposal to appoint a Parish Council representative to sit on the committee for Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.**

This was deferred to the Annual Council in May due to the low number of Councillors in attendance.

**(e) Proposal to cover the cost of felling to ground level a large conifer tree which has partially died, located behind the church which will cost £2640.00.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to cover the cost of felling to ground level a large conifer tree which has partially died for a cost of £2640 Inc VAT, subject to the church being granted a faculty for the work as the tree is located within the churchyard.

## 12. Clerk / Councillors Report

**(a)** The Auto Speed cameras and associated equipment have arrived, signs have been placed at the main entrances to the village and two cameras has been installed on Coalpit Lane and Long Cross Bottom. The camera will be monitored closely as it may need some adjusting to capture speeding cars but data is starting to be downloaded.

**Update** Cllr Peter Rhodes gave a verbal update on the two Auto Speed Cameras, a presentation will hopefully be produced at the next meeting showing the results obtained so far.

**(b)** Verbal report on the last LCN Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January. **Update** Cllr Keith Hambly gave a verbal report on behalf of Cllr Simon Collins as he was not in attendance. A highways Working Party is taking place in Shepton Mallet on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February.

**(c)** The Parish Council has been contacted by the local PCSO and they have wondered if the Council would like to arrange a “come meet us event.” **Update** “A Come Meet Us” events have been arranged by the local PCSO, they are taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> February, 29<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> April at the Knatchbull Arms between 8pm and 9pm

**(d)** The Parish Council have been contacted by the Mendip CSW Coordinator and have requested the equipment returned as there is no longer a Speed Watch Group within the village, they have also offered assistance with the Auto Speed Cameras. **Update** The Parish Council will arrange for return of the equipment.

## 13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 02.02.2024

Unity Current Account – £22,872.78

Unity Savings Account - £20,000.00

### Quarterly Budget Review October to December 2023

The Quarterly Budget Review was noted by the Councillors

### Approval and signature of the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation; this was signed by the Chair.

**Payments**

- (a) Stoke St Michael War Memorial – Hall Hire - £30.00
- (b) Ionos – Monthly charge for the website - £13.80 – pd DD 31.01.2024
- (c) ICO – Annual subscription - £35.00 – pd by DD 03.03.25
- (d) Clerks Salary and Expenses – January - £365.30
- (e) J Murtagh Tree Services - £780.00 – two invoices

**Transfers**

- (f) Transfer of £20,000 from the current account to the new Savings Account

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

**14. Correspondence**

- (a) Following the resignation of a Parish Councillor, there were no requests for a by-election so the Parish Council are able to co-opt a Parish Councillor.
- (b) Somerset Council Conservative Group Briefing Sheet February 2024 – forwarded 02.02.24
- (c) Minutes from the LCN Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January and the opportunity to join the Sub Committees and the Working Parties – forwarded 02.02.24

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

- (a) Request for a permanent weight restriction within the village
- (b) Abandoned vehicles within the village

**16. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 starting at 7.30pm, Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

**Meeting Closed 9.57pm**