

**STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on**  
**9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 starting at 8.22pm**

Present: Cllrs John McEntee (Chair), Peter Rhodes, Simon Collins, Amanda Taylor, Keith Hambly and Matthew Rice

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

**1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllr Anna Mearns

**3. Absent**

No Councillors were absent

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

Cllr Keith Hambly declared an interest in item 12(b), grant application from the Village Community Field

**(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 five members of the public in attendance. Representative from the Community Events Group and the Village Community Field spoke about their grant application.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports**

Neither Somerset Councillors Philip Ham or Barry Clarke was in attendance.

**7. Co-Option of Parish Councillor**

**(a) Proposal for the co-option of two new Councillors onto the Parish Council**

Cllr Simon Collins proposed Phil Howard to be co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Amanda Taylor and unanimously agreed by a show of hands. Cllr Matthew Rice proposed Dan White to be co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Simon Collins and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

**(b) Signature of the Acceptance of Office Form**

Cllrs Phil Howard and Dan White signed the acceptance of office form and were welcomed to the Parish Council.

**8. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 be accepted as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda.

## 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.

(a) **2024/0583/LBC** application to reinstate fireplace opening, and insert wood-burning stove. The Mill, Mill Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval.

(b) **2024/0599/FUL** Conversion of field barn to a dwelling. Plot south of Batch Farm, Limekiln Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council recommended approval as the dwelling would be in-keeping with the surroundings, there were no immediate neighbours and the dwelling would be hidden from view.

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

(a) **2023/2293/FUL** Erection of stable building and creation of riding arena along with associated muck heap (midden) turnout area and yard. To include change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian. Barn Farm, Tadhil Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

(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. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

(c) **2024/0205/APP** Approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (lighting) and 12 (landscaping) on planning consent 2022/2473/FUL. Meadowbank, Partmans Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

## 12. Grant Applications

(a) **Approval of the Grant Application from the Community Events Group for £175.00**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from the Community Events Group for £175.00

(b) **Approval of the Grant Application for the Village Community Field for £5,500**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from the Village Community Field for £5,500,

(c) **Approval of the Grant Application from the Baby and Toddler Group for £920.00**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from the Baby and Toddler Group for £920.00

## 13. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) **Approval of the Lychgate Cleaning Rota for 2024-2025**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Lychgate Cleaning Rota for 2024-2025

(b) **Proposal to approve the increase in Burial Fees for 2024, these are in line with the Diocese fees**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the increase in Burial Fees for 2024, these will be checked with the Church Wardens before being published.

(c) **Proposal to replace the damaged bus shelter that was hit at the beginning of April, if approved the cost will be covered by insurance.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to replace the damaged bus shelter and will GW Shelter Solutions to remove the damaged shelter and install a new one. This will be passed to the insurance company.

#### 14. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a) Update from Cllr Amanda Taylor on the installation the rocks at Moonshill. **Update** The Parish Council would like to thank Wainwrights and Cookswood for donating the rocks and helping with the installation. The work will be carried hopefully within the next couple of weeks. Residents will be notified of the date and Councillors will be on hand to help with the installation.
- (b) Update from Cllr Amanada Taylor on the bridge replacement / repair on Millennium Green, a report was sent out prior to the meeting. **Update** Following the report quotes will be obtained from structural engineers and plans will start to be compiled. Funding might be available.
- (c) National Grid will be reducing the maple by 1.5m and reduce the willow back to historic pruning points (2m), these trees are located on Millennium Green.
- (d) Verbal update from the LCN Meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. **Update** Cllr Simon Collins gave a verbal update.
- (e) Revd. Anthony Dickson is retiring at the end of May, the Parish Council wish him good luck in his retirement.

#### 15. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024  
 Unity Current Account – £50,364.64  
 Unity Savings Account – £20,123.56

#### **To note the Budget Review ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

The Council noted the budget review ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

#### **Approval and signature of the Bank Reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, this was signed by the Chair.

#### **Receipts**

- (a) Burial Fees - £332.00 – Cheque placed in the bank 15.04.24
- (b) Bank Interest - £123.56 – received 31.03.24
- (c) Receipt of Annual Precept - £28,731.00 – received 29.04.24
- (d) VAT Reclaim £1937.58 – received 10.04.24
- (e) Memorial Fee - £17.00 – received 30.04.24

#### **Payments**

- (f) Clerks' salary and expenses – March and April - £730.60
- (g) SLCC – Councillor training - £25.00
- (h) Do the Numbers Ltd – Internal Auditor - £250.00
- (i) Ionos – website hosting - £13.80
- (j) Primrose Garden Maintenance - £729.05
- (k) Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall - £30.00

#### **Transfers**

- (l) Transfer of the Precept into the Savings account £28,731.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments, receipts and transfer.

**16. Correspondence**

- (a) LCN Community Network Minutes from the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March – forwarded 28.03.24
- (b) Invitation to apply for a role on the Somerset Council's Standards Committee – forwarded 15.04.24
- (c) Training Courses from SALC and Breakthrough Communications – forwarded 18.04.24
- (d) Councillor Training Courses for May and June – forwarded 30.04.24

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

There were no matters to report or items for the next agenda.

**18. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 starting at 7.30pm. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

**Meeting closed 21.57pm**