

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
13th June starting at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Peter Rhodes, Simon Collins, John McEntee (Chair), Phil Howard, Amanda Taylor, Dan White, Anna Mearns 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 Keith Hambly

3. Absent

No Councillors were absent

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

There were no declarations of interest received 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 dispensations as appropriate

5. Public Session.

There were two members of the public in attendance. A short report was given in regard to planning application 2024/0807/FUL, item 9(a), questions were raised by Councillors which were answered.

Tash Scully from Somerset Youth Work Alliance spoke about youth support within the area. Questions were raised from Councillors on how to understand the youth within the villages and how to spend the money allocated. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Matthew Rice arrived at 7.32pm

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Philip Ham sent his apologies.

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report on the redundancies within Somerset Council, upcoming General Elections and registering for postal votes, calling for sites for new houses within Somerset, Highways, chairman community awards.

7. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 9th May 2024 and the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th May, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 9th May 2024 and the Parish Council meeting held on 9th May as a true record, they were signed and dated by the Chair.

8. To note Stoke St Michael Parish Council is not eligible for adopting the General Power of Competence as two thirds of the Councillors were not elected at the elections held in 2022, although there is a qualified Clerk.

The Council noted that Stoke St Michael Parish Council is not eligible for adopting the General Power of Competence as two thirds of the Councillors were not elected at the elections held in 2022, although there is a qualified Clerk.

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) 2024/0807/FUL Erection of ground mounted domestic PV Solar Panels. Plot north of Somers Farm, Burnt House Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council had no reason to object and recommended approval.

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

(a) 2023/1708/CLE Mixed use of equestrian and residential purposes. Sycamore Farm Stud, Burges Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have said the development is not lawful

(b) 2024/0583/LBC Application to reinstate original fireplace opening and insert wood-burning stove. The Mill, Mill Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.

(c) 2024/0576/FUL Installation of a slurry lagoon with capacity for the holding. Stoke Farm, Kings Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset have granted approval.

(d) APP/E3335/W/23/3332581 Land to the East of Church Street, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** The appeal has been dismissed.

(e) 2021/2519/LBC Change of use of the land from agricultural to dog exercise field (sui generis) to include fencing, parking and access. Manor House, Burnt House Lane to Towns End, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** The application has been withdrawn.

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) Proposal to create a Working Party to create an Emergency Plan for the village. Cllr Phil Howard will compose a draft plan and bring it to the next meeting.

(b) The Parish Council have received a written request following the formal closure of the churchyard at St Michael and All Angels Church in February 2024 to take on responsibility for the maintenance and care of the Churchyard. Following this formal request the proposal is to create a short-term working party to look at the implications of the Parish Council taking on the responsibility for the maintenance and reporting back to the next meeting where the formal response can be debated as the Parish Council have a three-month deadline in which to reply otherwise it automatically becomes the Parish Councils responsibility.

An alternative proposal was put forward for the Parish Council to not take on responsibility of the maintenance for the Churchyard and defer the authority to Somerset Council, this was also seconded. The Council **RESOLVED** to not take on responsibility of the maintenance for the Churchyard and defer the authority to Somerset Council.

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a) A new bus shelter has been ordered, installation will hopefully be in the middle of June, there will be a slight disruption as temporary traffic lights will be in place. **Update**
The date of installation will be published on social media warning residents.
- (b) The rocks have finally been installed around Moonshill, a huge thank you to Wainwrights and Cookswood for their help both in donating the rocks and giving up their time to place them. Also thank you to Cllr Amanda Taylor for co-ordinating it all and other Councillors who helped.
- (c) Thank you to everyone who installed the new Community Noticeboard, keys will be held at the shop.
- (d) Curo held a public consultation on Monday 3rd June regarding the potential housing development of Coalpit Lane. Responses can be sent direct to Curo. A meeting will be held to discuss the planning application once it is received.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 5th June 2024

Unity Current Account – £18,145.22

Unity Savings Account – £48,854.56

Receipts

- (a) Burial Fees - £142.00 paid by cheque
- (b) Insurance Claim from Aviva - £5285.00 – received 20.05.24
- (c) Burial Fees - £72.00 received by bacs 23.05.24

Payments

- (d) Ionos – Website Hosting - £13.80 – paid by DD 30.05.24
- (e) Ionas – Website Hosting - £13.80 – paid by DD 30.06.24
- (f) Renewal of Garden Waste Bin - £68.00 – to be refunded to the Clerk
- (g) Clerks' salary and expenses – £365.30
- (h) Primrose Garden Maintenance - £729.05

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

14. Correspondence

- (a) Councillor Training Courses – forwarded 14.05.24
- (b) Shepton Highways and Traffic Group, possible agenda and Somerset Highways Programme for the year – forwarded 17.05.24
- (c) Minutes from the LCN held on 28th April – forwarded 24.05.24

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

Cllr Simon Collins gave a verbal update on the latest LCN Meeting. Somerset Councillor Philip Ham has remained as Chair, Somerset Councillor Tony Robins is now Vice Chair. The meeting consisted of achievements over the last year including setting up Highways and Flooding Working Parties, priorities for the coming year, Community Review Plans that some Councils are undertaking and the frequency of meetings for the next year.

16. Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Council **RESOVLED** the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(a) Discussion on the possible acquisition of land by the Parish Council

The Council will request clarification and this will be brought back to the next meeting.

17. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 18th July 2024 starting at 7.30pm. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.06pm