

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
18th July starting at 7.30pm

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Cllr John McEntee as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

All Councillors were present

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.

Cllr John McEntee requested a dispensation in relation to item 10(a) which was granted.

5. Public Session.

There was one member of the public in attendance and they spoke about the grant application from the War Memorial Hall Committee – item 10(a).

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Philip Ham sent his apologies.

Somerset Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal update covering the current contract with Somerset Council and the waste disposal company which has resulted in increased costs and could set a precedent. Redundancies to Somerset Council staff have been offered and accepted, the management structure is also being reorganised. Flooding workshops have been organised to help alleviate flooding in the local areas. There are no further updates on repairs to the culvert in the village and the planning application for Yellow gate is due within the next month or so.

7. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th June, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th June as a true record, they were signed and dated by the Chair.

8. 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) 2024/1169/HSE Erection of two storey side extension. Fair View, Stoke Hill, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** The Parish Council had no objections and recommended approval.

Cllr Simon Collins arrived at 7.48pm

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

(a) **2023/2345/LBC** Installation of mains gas – Fosse House, Fosse Road, Oakhill.

Decision Somerset Council have granted approval.

10. Grants

(a) **Grant Application from Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall for £3,000**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall for £3,000.

11. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) **Proposal to create a working group to discuss ideas for Youth Services within the village**

The Council **RESOLVED** to create a working group to discuss ideas for Youth Services within the village. Terms of reference will be brought to the next meeting for approval. Members of the Working Party are Cllrs Anna Mearns, Matthew Rice, John McEntee and Dan White.

(b) **Proposal to purchase some bulbs for planting at Moonshill Green**

The Council **RESOLVED** Cllr Amanda Taylor could purchase some bulbs to plant at Moonshill Green and approved a budget of £300.00

(c) **Proposal to approve the dead conifer tree from behind the church at a cost of £2640.00. Permission has been received from the Archdeacon.**

Although the Parish Council have passed responsibility for maintenance of the Churchyard to Somerset Council, the Council **RESOLVED** to approve the removal of the dead conifer tree in principle as it had been requested earlier on in the year. Cllrs Simon Collins and John McEntee will obtain further quotes and this will be brought back to the next meeting.

(d) **Proposal to accept the drawings and approve the quote for Structural Calculations on the bridge at £320 + VAT**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quote from And Design (Bath) Limited to carry out a structural engineering survey on the Millennium Bridge at a cost of £320 + VAT. A local architect has very kindly offered to provide the drawings pro-bono. A land drainage report may also be required but this is being investigated.

12. Clerk / Councillors Report

(a) Following an online meeting with the Head of Operations from Somerset Council, the contract with the current supplier ceases at the end of May 2025 and services will be brought in-house or devolved down to Councils. The services currently provided are emptying of litter bins, dog waste bins, litter picking, hedge trimming on the Highways, removal of graffiti, street cleaning etc. If the services are bought in-house to Somerset Council, charges will be passed to the Councils, prices have continually been requested so that they can be included within the budget for next year but as yet no information is forthcoming. **Update** Some information has been received on the size of grass being cut in metre squared, further information has been requested in the form of maps.

(b) Letters were sent by recorded delivery to the PCC, The Diocese of Bath & Wells and Somerset Council informing them of the Parish Council's decision to pass the responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard to the principal council which is Somerset Council.

- (c) Update from Cllr Phil Howard on the Emergency Plan **Update** Cllr Phil Howard gave a verbal report on emergency plans and role playing a scenario. This will be brought back to the next meeting to create a working party.
- (d) Due to the works on the culvert, Somerset Council have refused a permit to allow temporary traffic lights for the replacement of the bus shelter. Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke has been asked to query this as the reason it will cause severe traffic disruption, yet the road is quiet due to the lack of lorries.

13. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 10th July 2024

Unity Current Account – £17,117.07

Unity Savings Account – £49,098.60

Approval and signature of the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation; it was signed by Cllr Amanda Taylor.

To note the Quarterly Budget Review

The Council **NOTED** the Quarterly Budget Review

Receipts

(a) Burial Fees - £18.00 – received 26.06.2024

(b) Bank Interest - £244.04 – received 30.06.2024

Payments

(c) SALC – Training - £56.00

(d) Clerks Salary for June and expenses - £374.45

(e) Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £729.05

(f) Unity Trust Bank – Quarterly Bank Charges - £18.00 – pd by DD

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

(g) Ionos – website hosting – pd by DD

(h) Parish Path Liaison Officer – expenses - £89.36

(i) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges - £18.00 – pd by DD

14. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note

15. Matters to report / items for next agenda

Cllr Anna Mearns gave a verbal report on the consultation held by Wainrights regarding the installation of solar panels to the South West of Moons Hill Quarry that was held on Monday 15th July.

A public meeting will be held followed by an extraordinary meeting to discuss the planning application on Yellowgate. Once the application has been received, the Clerk will confer with the Chair to arrange a date and location, this will be advertised in the normal way.

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 **RESOLVED** under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to submit an offer by informal tender.

17. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 5th September 2024 starting at 7.30pm.
Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.19pm