

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

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

Items were out of order from the agenda

**1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Simon Collins and Matthew Rice

**3. Absent**

No Councillors were absent

**4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

**(a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda** Cllr Amanada Taylor declared declaration of interest in planning application 2024/2124/HSE (item 8b)

**(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 October 2025). 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) **(b) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**

Cllrs John McEntee and Keith Hambly were granted a dispensation regarding the grant application from the Stoke St Michael Woodland Group

**5. Public Session.**

There was one member of the public in attendance, he spoke the budget proposals for 2025-2026.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports**

Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal update on the current Somerset Council finances including the current budget and deficit. Other topics mentioned were devolution of service down to Town and Parish Council from Somerset Council, winter fuel payments and council tax discounts and exemptions.

**7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, previously circulated**

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October as a true record, this was signed and dated by the Chair.

**12.To Be Resolved / Discussed**

- (c) **To consider and review the draft budget for 2025-2026 for any additions or deletions with a recommendation the budget is approved at the Parish Council meeting being held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January.**

Cllr Keith Hambley as the Councillor responsible for Finance talked through the budget and asked for any additions. This will be brought to the next meeting for approval of the budget for 2025-2026 and the precept application.

**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) **2024/2056/HSE** Proposed double garage. Mendip Farmhouse, Mendip Road, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval.

Cllr Amanda Taylor remained in the room and but did comment or vote on the recommendation for the planning application below.

- (b) **2024/2124/HSE** Erection of two-storey side extension and porch. Stoke Lodge, Susannas Lane to Dark Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Recommendation** Stoke St Michael Parish Council recommended approval.

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

- (a) **2024/100/APP** Approval of details reserved by condition 15 (drainage) and 16 (oil interceptor) on planning consent 067818/010 (revised drainage strategy received 27/9/24). Cooks Wood Quarry, Bector Lane, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council granted approval.

**10. Policies**

- (a) **To consider the recommendation to approve the Terms of Reference for the Staffing Committee.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Terms of Reference for the Staffing Committee.

**11. Grants**

- (a) **To consider the grant application from the Stoke St Michael Woodland Group for £2,000.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application from the Stoke St Michael Woodland Group for £2,000.

**12.To Be Resolved / Discussed**

- (a) **To ratify the request to cover the cost replacement pads and battery for the Defibrillator outside the village hall.**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

- (b) **To consider the Parish Council having responsibility for the village defibrillator, adding it to the Asset List, insurance and covering any maintenance costs.** The Council **RESOLVED** to accept responsibility for the village defibrillator, adding it to the Asset List, insurance and covering any maintenance costs.

- (d) **To consider any recommendations regarding the Enhancement Scheme following a meeting with Nathan Turnbull from Keir.**

Following a meeting between Cllrs Simon Collins, Peter Rhodes and Nathan Turnbull from Kier the Council are still unsure of what services will be devolved down from Somerset Council, a list is due to be forwarded with details. There are still lots of questions to be answered before a commitment can be made.

### 13. Clerk / Councillors Report

- (a) Bulbs have been ordered for planting at Moonshill Green and a couple have kindly come forward to help with the planting. **Update** The bulbs have been delivered and given to a couple of residents who have offered to plant the bulbs.
- (b) Following a post on the Parish Council Facebook page asking for volunteers to help create the Emergency Plan, unfortunately no replies were received.
- (c) Confirmation has been received that the measurements for the bridge are all within the drawings, so a tender document will be created and sent out to interested parties.
- (d) Following a request for S106 monies from Somerset Council regarding the development at Yellowgate the request was denied as the site already has outline consent and planning obligations (and conditions) can only be attached to a consent if the application would be unacceptable without them. During the appeal the inspector made specific reference to the highways in his decision letter and was of the view that it was not an issue that could result in a refusal (also noting the absence of any objection from the Highway Authority).
- (e) The national pay award was released at the end of October, this is reflected in the November salary with backpay until the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.
- (f) Tree work in the churchyard is scheduled for the first week of December, this is dependent on the weather.
- (g) Following a meeting with Niall Robertson (Asset Maintenance Officer from Somerset Council) and members of the PCC regarding the ongoing maintenance of the churchyard. A discussion was held about the current repairs such as repointing the wall and repairs to the tomb crypts – Somerset have requested this work is carried out first before they become responsible for the maintenance of the Churchyard. Following an email, they were happy to take this forward on an agreed maintenance / repair plan if the expenditure is a bit too much in one year.
- (h) Update from Cllr Peter Rhodes on the Withybrook Traffic Issues. **Update** Cllr Peter Rhodes has chased Sara Davies from Somerset Council and including photographs of pedestrians and horses using the road. The reduction in the speed limit has been added to the potential works from Somerset Council but no date has been agreed.

### 14. Reports from the Working Parties

- (a) **Update from the Youth Services Working Party** There was nothing to report
- (b) **Update from the Emergency Plan Working Party**  
Cllr Phil Howard had spoken to the local PCSO, local quarry and Somerset Council for advice. A template has been received for a resilience plan which will be sent out to all.

**15.. Finance**

Bank Balances as at: - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Unity Current Account – £6,604.90

Unity Savings Account – £44,589.21

**Receipts**

(a) Burial Fees - £18.00 – chq received

**Payments**

(b) Clerks Salary and expenses October and November £927.54

(c) Stoke St Michael War Memorial – Hall Hire - £30.00

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

(e) SLCC – Annual Membership - £99.00

(f) RBL – Remembrance Wreath - £50

(g) Unity Trust Bank – Bank Charges - £5.40

(h) Ionos – Web Hosting - £13.80 – pd by DD

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

**17. Correspondence**

(a) Free SALC Training Events – forwarded 22.10.24

(b) Publication of Shepton Mallet Neighbourhood Plan – forwarded 30.10.24

(c) Invitation to the Parishes Conference on 13<sup>th</sup> November – forwarded 30.10.24

(d) Early Engagement on the Local Plan for Somerset Council – forwarded 30.10.24

(e) Letter from Cllr Bill Revan's to Somerset Parishes – forwarded 13.11.24

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

An extra ordinary meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the licence for the Auto Speed Cameras.

**19. Date and time of next meeting:** Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January starting at 7.30pm. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

Meeting closed 9.05pm