

STOKE ST MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes from the meeting held at Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall on
24th July 2025 starting at 7.30pm

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

Also, in Attendance – Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

Cllr John McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Simon Collins, Amanda Taylor

3. Absent

Cllr Matthew Rice

4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

There were no declarations of interest 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 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.

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5. Public Session.

There were four members of the public in attendance all wishing to speak in relation to the planning applications at Moons Hill Quarry – item 8a – d.

6. Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Barry Clark was in attendance and gave a verbal update which included the recent survey on the ward boundary changes which will come in to effect in 2027 and the backlog of planning applications with Somerset Council and the temporary procedures being implemented from 28th July 2025.

7. To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th June 2025, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th June as a true record, these were signed 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) SCC/4079/2023 Application to vary planning conditions 1, 7, 37 and 38 of Planning Permission ref: IDO/M/24/B dated 11th July 1995 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry (Notice of determination of conditions to which an Interim Development Order (IDO) Permission is to be subject relating to IDO-M-24-B- Section 73 Planning. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.

(b) SCC/4080/2023 Section 73 Planning Application to vary Planning Conditions 1, 7, 37 and 38 of Planning Permission ref: IDO/M/26/B dated 11th July 1995 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.

(c) SCC/4081/2023 Section 73 Planning Application to vary Planning Conditions 2, 8, 49, 50 and 51 of Planning Permission ref: M25/1/76 dated 9th December 2003 to amend the working plans, restoration requirements and end dates to facilitate the Extension of Stoke Quarry. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.

(d) SCC/4082/2023 Planning Application for the Extension of Stoke Quarry. Moons Hill Quarry, Stoke St Michael.

The Council continues to recommend refusal.

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

(a) 2025/0977/HSE Erection of two storey rear extension and detached garage. 13 Moonshill Road, Stoke St Michael. **Decision** Somerset Council have granted approval.

10. To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) To discuss approaching companies for quotes to repair the roof on the Lychgate as tiles need replacing. If prices have already been obtained by Cllr Amanda Taylor, these could be considered.

Cllr Amanada Taylor was not in attendance so this was deferred to the next meeting.

(b) Discussion and any actions for the repairs to the culvert being carried out in September and the concerns about pedestrian safety.

Cllr Peter Rhodes gave a verbal update on his conversation with Sara Davies (Traffic Engineer at Somerset Council). Highways are not responsible for bridges or footpaths. Funds are available for pedestrian safety in rural areas. Information and applications are obtained through Somerset Councillors. Somerset Councillor Barry Clarke will arrange a meeting with Cllrs Peter Rhodes and Anna Mearns.

11. Clerk / Councillors Report

(a) Update from Cllr Phil Howard on the Emergency Plan Working Group

Cllr Phil Howard gave a verbal update – draft copies were circulated prior to the meeting. Templates were based on the model document issued during the training session; a questionnaire was also handed out to Councillors. The Working Party will review the document and agree a communication plan.

(b) Update on the LCN Meeting held on 7th July, Highways LCN Meeting and the Health and Wellbeing meeting on 15th July.

Cllr Anna Mearns gave a verbal update on the various meetings. The LCN is working well, members of the LCN have a strong voice, and are receiving connections to people within Somerset Council. The next meeting is the LCN Working Party for Highways and is being held on Thursday 21st August where they will be discussing Beacon Crossroads.

(c) Following a request from developers and Somerset Council for the naming of the addresses for the properties on the south side of Frog Lane, the developers suggested Whitstone Park. Following a poll on Facebook and a board at Stoke Fest the Parish Council have put forward Fosse Meadow and Harridge View.

(d) Update from Cllr Peter Rhodes on alternative suggestions for speed reduction at Withybrook.

Cllr Peter Rhodes gave a verbal update on alternative suggestions for speed reduction at Withybrook. Following a conversation with Sara Davies (Traffic Engineer), Somerset Council would fund the cost of white lines and hatching but it would not be at least for a couple of years as they currently have a backlog of Highway issues.

12. Finance

Bank Balances as at: - 17th July 2025

Unity Current Account – £5,904.37

Unity Savings Account – £62,503.79

Approval of the quarterly bank reconciliation.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the quarterly bank reconciliation, this was signed by Cllr Dan White.

To note the quarterly budget review – April to June

The Council **NOTED** the quarterly budget review for April to June 2025.

Payments

(a) Clerks' wages and expenses for June and July - £773.84

(b) Primrose Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting - £772.12

(c) Alun Stewart – refund for petrol - £15.72

(d) Ionos – Website Hosting (July) - £13.80 – pd by DD

(e) Unity Trust Bank – monthly charges (June) – pd by DD 30.06.25

(f) Unity Trust Bank – monthly charges (July) – pd by DD 31.07.25

(g) PKF Littlejohn – External Audit - £252.00

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

13. Correspondence

(a) Conservative Group Briefing sheet for Parish and Town Councils, July 2025 – forwarded 02.07.25

(b) LCN Meeting – Monday 7th July in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet.

(c) Parish Preparedness survey – forwarded to the Emergency Plan Working Group – 16th July

14. Matters to report / items for next agenda

- Additional waste bin for Moonshill Close
- Update on the bridge repairs
- National Pay Award
- Conclusion of the External Audit
- Maintenance of Footpaths

15. Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 11th September 2025 starting at 7.30pm, to be held at the. Stoke St Michael War Memorial Hall.

- 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** that 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) The Parish Council as the Custodian Trustees of the War Memorial Hall to note the proposed updated constitution for the War Memorial Hall and submit any views.** Comments will be forwarded to the War Memorial Hall Committee.

Meeting closed 9.33pm